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ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA.

EIGHTH EDITION.

THE
ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA,
OR
DICTIONARY
OF
ARTS, SCIENCES, AND GENERAL LITERATURE.
EIGHTH EDITION.

WITH EXTENSIVE IMPROVEMENTS AND ADDITIONS;
AND NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS.

INDEX.

ADAM AND CHARLES BLACK, EDINBURGH.

MDCCCLX.

[The Proprietors of this Work give notice that they reserve the right of Translating it.]

NEILL AND CO., PRINTERS, EDINBURGH.

GENERAL INDEX.

THE following Index contains a full and complete enumeration of the different subjects treated of in the Twenty-one volumes of this Work. It is intended not merely to facilitate reference to the various Articles and Treatises, but to serve the far more important purpose of bringing into one view the varied and scattered information not indicated by respective heads or titles. This is rendered the more desirable, as the plan of the *ENCYCLOPÆDIA* includes so many general treatises and systems, embracing an immense number of subordinate and collateral topics to which the general title affords no clue. The names printed in capital letters indicate the subjects to which separate articles are assigned, and the first reference is to the volume and page where each article occurs. Immediately following this are the references to the same subject occurring throughout the entire Work, either of a general nature, or specifying the particular light in which it is regarded. These references are generally arranged according to their importance, or the fulness of information they afford; occasionally, however, it was thought expedient to follow the order of sequence in the volumes. The entries in the Index not distinguished by capital letters do not form separate articles, but indicate particular subjects occurring under other general heads; they include, for example, all the genera mentioned in the different articles on Natural History, English names of animals and plants, authors and books referred to, names of places, &c.

It was only in this way that the Index could be rendered an adequate representative of the contents of the Work; and while it necessarily gave to

it a great degree of extension, it obviously affords valuable facilities for finding information on any particular subject. A reader, for instance, desirous of learning as much as possible about Scotland and Scottish affairs, will not only find, under the head SCOTLAND, a general view of the history and statistics of the country, but be referred by the Index to many other parts of the Work (such as BRITAIN, FISHERIES, ROADS, &c.), where a great variety of additional particulars are supplied. Again, as the Sciences are discussed in the Encyclopædia under their general names, the principal details embraced by them are given under such heads as, ANATOMY, CHEMISTRY, ENTOMOLOGY, METAPHYSICS, METEOROLOGY, &c. By consulting the Index, therefore, the student will be saved the trouble of looking through a long treatise in search of information upon particular points; and those, again, who are in quest of information which they were not aware was to be found under such heads, may, in the same way, be enabled to extend their knowledge. The Indexes which follow certain articles (such as those on Natural History, &c.), are here incorporated under one continuous alphabetical arrangement.

It is necessary to observe, that, with the proper character of an Index, that of a Table of Contents is not here combined. For example, under the head SCOTLAND in the Index, no reference is made to the contents of the article so headed in the ENCYCLOPÆDIA; it being presumed that a person making researches about Scotland will commence ascertaining its contents by turning over the pages of that article. But the Index points out other details referring to Scotland which occur under the various heads of AGRICULTURE, BANKS, COAL, FISHERIES, IRON, LIBRARIES, and so forth.

When an article in the Index contains many references to countries and towns, the names of the latter are frequently arranged alphabetically, in the manner exemplified in AGRICULTURE, ARMY, EDUCATION, &c. The adoption of this plan will save time and trouble to persons consulting the Index. The reference to maps is always given last; but it was thought unnecessary to refer to the plates generally, as the subjects of them are always sufficiently indicated in the articles which they are meant to illustrate.

In such a work as the *ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA*, a summary and digest of its contents like the present is more than usually necessary. Its extent has rendered the compilation a task of much labour. In such an immense number of references, most of them expressed in figures, it is scarcely to be expected that no inaccuracies will occur, but great care has been taken to avoid them, and to render the Index a faithful and complete representation and exponent of the contents of the entire Work. It must be obvious that, in a publication of such extent and variety of subjects, embracing, as it does, the whole field of human knowledge, everything calculated to give ready access to its stores of information, with increased ease of consultation, is of the utmost importance to the practical usefulness of the Work.

JAMES DUNCAN.

OLD MANSE, DENHOLM, *April* 1861.

GENERAL INDEX.

A—ABA

A, the first letter of the alphabet, II 1—
a numeral letter, 2—as an abbreviation,
17—as an article, X 750
AA, several rivers so named, II 2
AACHEN, or Aix-la-Chapelle, II 2, 431.
AAGARD (Christian), Danish poet, II 2.
Aahmes, Egyptian kings, VIII 460, 465
AALBORG, a Danish see, II 2—city, ib ;
VII 748, population, 745
—his works on bees, IX 2.
AALLEN, in Wurtemberg, II 2—city, ib—
mines of, XXI 938.
Aali Pasha, XXI 376
AALSMEER, town in North Holland, II 3.
AALTEN, town in the Netherlands, II 3
AAM, Dutch liquid measure, II 3
AAR, river in Switzerland, II 3, IV 670,
XIX 144, XX 408, 888—rivers in Ger-
many so named, II 3
AARAU, city in Switzerland, II 3
AARGAU, Swiss canton, II 3; XX 882
AARHUUS, in Denmark, II 3—a bailiwick,
ib—a city, ib—population, VII 745
AARLANDERVELD, town in the Nether-
lands, II 3.
AARON, Jewish high priest, II 3, XVIII
513—a physician, II 4—Carate Jew,
ib—martyr, ib.
—(Ben Asser), II 4.
—(Pietro), II 4.
—(Al Raschid), II 4, 18 See
Harun al Raschid
AARSSENS (Francis), II 4
AAS, village in the Lower Pyrenees, II 4.
AASAR, town in Palestine, II 4.
AASI, river, II 4; XVII 1.
AATYI, town in Syria, II 4.
AB, a Hebrew month, II 4—a Syriac
month, ib.
ABA, II 5 See Aba.
—or Albon, king of Hungary, II 5
ABA HANFAH, or Hanfa, II 4—mountain
in Armenia, ib.
ABARDE, a tribe of Arabs, II 5, 219.
Abaca See Manila hemp.
ABACNUM, town in Sicily, II 5.
ABACINARE, a kind of punishment, II 5
Abaciscus, in architecture, II 5; III 507
ABACK, a sea term, II 5
ABACOT, an ancient cap of state, II 5.
ABACTORS, II 5.
ABACUS, ancient cupboard, II 5—in
architecture, ib ; III 507—arithmetical
instrument, II 5—various applications
of the term, 9.
ABADDON, II 9.
ABADEN, a Persian town, II 9.
ABADIN, in mythology, II 9
ABAE, a town of Phocis, II 9.
ABAFF, a sea term, II 9
ABASSIDES, in heraldry, II 9.
ABAKA (Khan), Mogul emperor, II 9.
ABAKANSK, mountains in Siberia, II 9—
town in Siberia, ib.
ABALLABA, ancient Roman castle, II 9.
ABALUS, island, II 9.
ABANA, river, II 9; XX 903
ABANCAZ, a district in Peru, II 10.
ABANDONMENT, in marine insurance, II
10, XII 422.
ABANO, a town in Italy, II 10.
ABANTERS, a people of ancient Greece, II
10
ABANTIAS, a name of Euboea, II 10; IX
364.

ABA—ABB

ABAPTISTON, in surgery, II 10.
ABARAN, a town in Spain, II 10—a Per-
sian town, ib
ABARIM, mountains in Palestine, II 10
ABARIS, an ancient sage, II 10, VIII
187
ABARTICULATION, in anatomy, II 10.
ABAS, a Persian weight, II 10—in my-
thology, ib
Abasians, a Caucasian tribe, VI 342—
language of, XIII 216
ABASSI, a Persian coin, II 11.
Abassides, a dynasty of Saracen princes,
II 755, XX 911.
ABATAMENTUM, in law, II 11.
ABATE, II 11
—a term in law, II 11.
ABATMENT, in heraldry, II 11—in com-
merce, ib
ABATI (Niccolo), II 11.
ABATIS or Abathas, II 11; IX 798
ABATON, a building in Rhodes, II 11.
ABATOR, in law, II 11.
ABATOS, island in the Nile, II 11.
ABATTOIR, II 11—in Edinburgh, VIII
405—Glasgow, X 654—Paris, XVII
283.
ABA-UJVAR, a palatinate of Hungary, II
12
ABAUZIT (Firmin), II 12.
ABAVO, in botany, II 12
ABB, a term among clothiers, II 12—a
town in Arabia, ib
ABBA, a town near Carthage, II 12—a
Syriac and Chaldean term, ib.
ABBADIE (James), II 12.
ABBAS-BEN-ABDUL-MOTALLEH, Mahomet's
uncle, II 13.
—(Schah), kings of Persia, II 18;
XVII 439,
—Pasha, VIII 495
—Mirza, XVII 442
ABBAS-ANAD, Persian town, II 13.
—(Italy), his knowledge of surgery,
XX 815.
Abbasces, Egypt subjugated by, VIII
476, 484.
ABBAASA, II 13.
ABBASSIDES, a race of caliphs, II 13.
ABBE, title of, II 13.
ABBESE, II 13
ABBEVILLE, in France, II 13; XX 412.
—in United States II 13.
ABBEY, II 13.
ABBEYBOYLE, an Irish town, II 14; V.
260.
Abbey Craig, near Stirling, VI 750,
XX 703.
ABBEYFEALE, a village in Limerick, II 14
ABBEYHOLM, town in Cumberland, II 14.
ABBEYLEIX, an Irish town, II 14.
ABBEYE GRASSO, town in Italy, II 14.
ABBITBREE, in British North America,
II 14.
ABDON, or Abbo Cernuus, II 14
—or Abbo Fioracensis, II 14.
ABDOT, II 14; XV 407.
—(CHARLES), Lord Colchester, II 18
—chosen speaker of the House of
Commons, V 592—his resignation, 622
—(GEORGE), archbishop of Canter-
bury, II 15; XX 837.
—(John), his work on the insects of
Georgia, IX 8.
—(ROBERT), II 16; XX 837

ABB—ABE

ABBOTSBURY, in Dorsetshire, II 17
ABBOTSFORD, residence of Sir Walter
Scott, II 17; XIX 822, 823.
ABBOTS-LANGLEY, a village in Herts, II
17
ABBREVIATION, II 17—abbreviations in
common use, 21—in botany, V 176—
arithmetical, III 583, n—characters of,
VI 419—in ancient codices, VIII 42
See Stenography
ABBREVIATORS, college in Rome, II 21
ABB'S, St, promontory, II 21.
ABCHASIA, in Asiatic Russia, II 21
ABCHERON, or Apsheron, II 22, IV 381.
ABDALLA, father of Mahomet, II 22
Abdallah, a Wahaby chief, III 365-6.
—caliph, II 597, III 368
—head of the Almoravides, II 602
ABDALLATIF, physician and traveller, II
22; XIV 456.
ABDALMALEK, caliph, II 23.
—II 23 See Avenzoar.
ABDALOMTUS of Sidon, II 23.
ABDALIS, eastern fanatics, II 23.
Abd-el-Kadir, X 218, 221, 231—his re-
sistance to the French at Algiers, II
574; his surrender to the French, 576—
his residence at Broussa, V 631.
Abd-el-Azyz, III 364.
Abdelmoumen, II 601.
ABDERA, a town in Thrace, II 23
ABDERAIDMAN, Moorish sovereigns of
Spain, II 24; XX 461—Abderahman
III, II 24; XX 462.
ABDEST, II 24
ABDIAS of Babylon, II 24.
ABDIICATION, II 24
Abdoltatph, his anatomical observations,
II 755.
ABDOMEN, in anatomy, II 24—regions of
the, III 1—muscles of the, 38—wounds
of the, XIV 431—in insects, IX 38—
in mollusks, XV 324. See the zoologi-
cal articles.
Abdominal viscera, diseases of, in domes-
tic animals, XXI 565
ABDOMINALES, an order of fishes, II 24;
XII 285, 286—their fins and pelvis,
III 90, 91.
ABDON, II 24.
ABDUCTION, in law, II 24—in logic, 25.
ABDUCTOR, II 25, III 38, 39.
Abdul Medjud, Sultan, XXI 374, 376,
379.
—Hamid, Sultan, XXI 370, 376.
ABENDGOO, II 25.
ABEL, son of Adam and Eve, II 25—as
a prefix, ib
—(CARL FREDERICK), II 25.
—(Dr Clarke) on the orang-outang,
XIV 138, 139.
—(NIELS HENRI), II 25; I 822—
his discoveries in elliptic functions, ib.
—(THOMAS), II 25, 42.
ABELARD, Peter, II 25—his works, II 27.
ABELLIANS, sect of heretics, II 27, 25.
ABELLA, town of Campania, II 27; IV.
322.
ABELLINUM, town in Italy, II 27; IV.
322.
ABELLIO, II 27.
Abenan, range of mountains, II 42.
ABENBERG, town in Bavaria, II 27.
ABEN-BITAR, Spanish physician, II 27.
ABENCERRAGE, Spanish family, II 27.

ABE—ABI

ABEN-EZRA (Abraham), Spanish rabbi,
II 27.
ABENHEIM, in Hesse Darmstadt, II 27
ABENMELECH (Solomon), a Spanish rabbi,
II 27.
ABENSBERG, in Bavaria, II 27.
ABENSPERG, in Bavaria, II 27.
ABERAVON, in Glamorganshire, II 27;
X 642.
ABERBROTHICK, II 27. See Arbroath.
ABERCONWAY, II 27. See Conway.
ABERCROMBIE (Dr John), II 28—on the
difference between dreaming and in-
sanity, VIII 176—on insanity, XIV.
526—weight of his brain, VIII 264—
on the amount of fluids within the
cranium, XVII 638.
ABERCROMBY (the Hon. Alexander), II
28.
—(Sir RALPH), II 28—his expedition
to Holland, V. 568, 573; X. 114—and
to Egypt, V. 583; VIII 489, X. 120—
his death and character, V. 584
—(General), his operations in India,
V 541, XI 497, 498.
ABERDARE, in South Wales, II 29.
ABERDEEN (Old), II 29—university, XXI
478, XIX 763—docks of, VIII 75—
King's College, XXI 478—library,
XIII 403.
—(New), II 30—Marischal College,
XXI 480—College library, XIII 403.
ABERDEENSHIRE, II 32—cattle of, 341
—fisheries, IX 647—vitified forts,
791—green-sand and chalk-fints found
in, XIX 793—system of farming in,
XIX 798—agricultural statistics, 798-
798—population, 799
ABERDOW, town in Fifeshire, II 34—
parish in Aberdeenshire, 34
Aberdowry, town in Merionethshire, XIV.
543.
ABERFELDIE, village in Perthshire, II 34.
ABERFFRAU, in Anglesey, II 34.
ABERFORD, in Yorkshire, II 34.
ABERFOYLE, II 34.
ABERGAVENNY, in Monmouthshire, II 34.
ABERNETHY (Rev. John), II 34.
—(JOHN), surgeon, II 34; XX 820.
—town in Perthshire, II 35
ABERRATION of light, II 35, IV. 21—
discovery of, I 685, IV 21; III 804
—a proof of the earth's motion in its
orbit, I 687.
—of the planets, II 38,
—in optics, II 39.
—spherical, of lenses, XIV 771;
XVI 571—mirrors, 574.
ABERYSTWYTH, in Cardiganshire, II 39
VI 234
ABESTA, II 39.
Abethell (Mr), on the stability of floating
bodies, XX 156.
ABETTOR, in law, II 39.
ABEX, a country of Africa, II 39.
ABEYANCE, in law, II 40
ABGAR, kings of Edessa, II 40—alleged
message of one of them to Jesus, XII
761.
ABEILLUS (John), II 40. See Prester
John.
ABHEBBA, lake, II 40.
Abhoters, V 431.
ABIA, a town of Mesenbia, II 40.
ABIAD (Bahr el), II 40, 214; V. 689;

ABI—ABR

- VIII 425; XVI 269, 270, 271; XVII 607; XX 51—its probable sources, XVI 271.
- ABIANUS, a river in Scythia, II 40.
- ABIATHAR, a Jewish high-priest, II 40.
- ABIB, a Jewish month, II 40.
- Abich, on rocks, XV 181, 183.
- Abichite, mineral, XV 103.
- ABIES, the fir-tree, II 40. See Fir.
- Abietness, natural order of plants, V 209.
- ABIGAIL, II 40.
- ABIHU, a son of Aaron, II 40.
- ABILA, a Syrian city, II 40.
- ABILDGAARD (Nicolas), II 41.
- ABIMELECH, kings of Gerar, II 41.
- son of Gideon, II 41.
- ABINGDON, town in Berkshire, II 41.
- ABINTESTATE, in law, II 41.
- ABIPONIAN, a tribe of American Indians, II 41—language of, XIII 224.
- ABIRAM, a seditious Reubenite, II 41.
- ABISEAI, son of Zeruiah, II 41.
- ABJURATION, II 41—of heresy, *ib*—oath of, XVIII 497.
- ABLACTATION, a method of ingrafting, II 41.
- ABLAKEET, a town in the government of Orel, II 41.
- ABLAQUATION, in gardening, II 41.
- ABLATIVE, in grammar, II 42; X 749.
- ABSOLUTE, II 42.
- ABLAUVIUS, II 42.
- ABLAY, in Tartary, II 42.
- ABLE (Thomas), II 42.
- ABLECTI, Roman soldiers, II 42.
- ABLEGIMIA, in antiquity, II 42.
- Abliuents. See Diluents.
- ABLUTION, II 42.
- ABNER, the cousin of Saul, II 42.
- ABNOBA, mountains in Germany, II 42.
- ABNORMAL, II 42.
- ABO, a district and city in Finland, II 43; IX 585—peace concluded at, XX 857.
- ABOARD, the inside of a ship, II 43.
- ABOLITION, II 43—of slavery, XXI 441—Slavery Abolition Act, V 600; XX 322. See Slavery and Slave Trade.
- ABOLITIONIST, II 43; XX 322.
- ABOLLEA, in antiquity, II 44.
- ABOMEX, capital of Dahomey, II 44; VII 620.
- ABON, a town and river of Albion, II 44.
- ABONI-TRICHOS, a town of Paphlagonia, II 44.
- ABOO, a mountain in India, II 44—height of, XVII 644.
- Sepoy insurrection at, XVI 311.
- Abou-Keer, Egyptian lake, VIII 429.
- Abou-Seer, in Egypt, VIII 497—pyramids of, 501.
- ABORIGINES, II 44.
- ABORREAS, a branch of the Euphrates, II 44.
- ABORTION, II 44; XIV 428—sanctioned by Aristotle, III 569—among Mohammedans, XV 304—practised by the aborigines of New Holland, IV 259.
- ABORTIVE VELLUM, II 45.
- Abou-duck'tu, bird, XVI 740.
- ABOUKEIR, a town in Egypt, II 45—battle of, V 564; VIII 489; X 109; XVI 185—Napoleon on the consequences of, VIII 489.
- ABOULEFEDA, Arabian historian, II 45—his description of Hamah, XI 197.
- ABOUT (M.), on the government of modern Greece, XI 18.
- ABOUTTE, a town in Egypt, II 46.
- ABRAHAM (Isaac), rabbi, II 46.
- ABRACADABRA, II 46.
- ABRADATAS, king of Susa, II 46.
- ABRAHAM, II 46; XII 786; XVII 192—his communication with God, I 466—revelations probably made to, not intended for all the people, 474—slavery in the time of, XX 318—in Syria, 910.
- (BEN CHARLA), rabbi, II 47.
- (NICHOLAS), a Jesuit, II 47.
- (USQUE), Portuguese Jew.
- plains of, near Quebec, XVIII 736—Montcalm defeated by Wolfe on, XXI 434.

ABR—ABU

- ABRAHAMITES, monks, II 47.
- ABRAHOS, islets on the coast of Brazil, II 47.
- ABRANCHIA, order of annelids, XI 300—*Abbranchia setigera*, *ib*—*A. setigera*, 302.
- ABRANTES, a town of Portugal, II 47.
- ABRASAX, II 47.
- ABRASION, II 47.
- ABRAUM, a kind of red clay, II 48.
- ABRAVANNUS, in Galloway, II 48.
- ABRAXAS, an antique stone, II 48; IV 486.
- genus of insects, IX 216.
- see Abrasax.
- ABRAZITE, mineral, II 48; XV 77.
- ABRESCH (Frederic Louis), II 48.
- ABRIDGMENT, in literature, II 48.
- ABROGATION, II 48.
- ABROTOMUM, a town in Africa, II 48.
- ABRUD-BANYA, an Austrian town, II 48.
- ABRUS, a genus of plants, II 48.
- ABRUZZO, a province of Naples, II 48; XX 236, 255—climate of, 247.
- ABSALOM, a son of David, II 49—his tomb, II 50.
- Archbishop of Lund, II 50.
- ABSCISS, in surgery, II 50; XX 815, 816, 819—modern treatment of, 827—in animals, XXI 558.
- ABSCISSE, in conics, II 50; VII 252, 258.
- ABSCONDA, II 50.
- ABSENTEE, II 50.
- ABSENTHIATED, II 50.
- ABSOLUTE, II 50—philosophy of the, XIV 610.
- government, II 50. See Despotism.
- Equations, in astronomy, II 50.
- number, in algebra, II 50.
- ABSOLUTION, II 50.
- ABSORBENT, II 51.
- medicines, II 51.
- vessels, in anatomy, II 51, 803.
- See Lymphatics.
- substances—sulphuric acid, VII 105; whinstone, oatmeal, 108.
- ABSORPTION, function of, II 51—by roots of plants, V 100—by leaves, 103.
- of light, Brewster's experiments on, I 914—polarization of light by, XVI 647—by uncrystallized bodies, 665—by doubly refracting crystals, 666.
- ABSORPTIONS of the earth, II 51.
- ABSORUS, island in the Adriatic, II 51.
- ABSTEMI, in Church history, II 51.
- ABSTENTION, in law, II 51.
- ABSTERGENT medicines, II 51—dew as an abstergent, VII 765.
- ABSTINENCE, II 51; XVII 658—the young least capable of, III 180—remarkable instances of, *ib*; VIII 22, 23.
- ABSTINENTS, a set of heretics, II 52.
- ABSTRACT, II 52—ideas, mathematics, numbers, terms, *ib*.
- in literature, II 52.
- ABSTRACTION, in metaphysics, II 52; XIV 590—essential to the geometer and metaphysician, I 6.
- ABSURDUM (*reductio ad*), II 52.
- ABSYRTUS, in mythology, II 52.
- ABTHANES, an ancient title of honour in Scotland, II 52.
- ABU-ARISH, town and district in Arabia, II 53.
- ABUSKEER, Caliph, II 53; III 362—the Aleoran arranged by, II 455.
- Abu-el-Mansur, Caliph, VIII 478.
- Abufera, lake in Spain, XX 488.
- ABUKESO, II 53.
- ABULAHOR, a Turkish town, II 53.
- Abul-Casin Mansour. See Firdus.
- ABUL-CASSIM, II 53.
- ABULFARAGIUS (Gregory), II 53.
- ABUL FARAJ ALI, an Arabian poet, II 53.
- ABULFAZI, eastern historian, II 53.
- Abulfeda, XI 197. See Aboulfeda.
- ABULGAZI (Bayazid), a khan of the Tartars, II 53.
- Abul-Hassan, his dial, VII 775.
- ABU-MANSUR, Arabian astronomer, II 53.
- ABUNA, II 54, 57.

ABU—ACA

- ABUNDANT NUMBER, II 54.
- ABUNDANTIA, a heathen divinity, II 54.
- ABURX, II 54. See Avebury.
- ABUS, ancient name of the Humber, II 54.
- ABUSAID (Ebn Aljaptu), Sultan, II 54.
- Abushahr, Abuschehr. See Bushire.
- ABUSUMBOL, a town of Nubia, II 54.
- ABU-TEMAN, an Arabian poet, II 54.
- Abydenns on the deluge, VII 713.
- ABYDOS, a city on the Hellespont, II 54—coins of, XVI 375.
- a town of Egypt, II 54; VIII 505—tablet of, 505.
- ABYLA, II 54.
- ABYSS, II 54—in heraldry, *ib*.
- ABYSSINIA, II 55, 225—Bruce's travels in, V 689—coffee supposed to be originally a native of, XVII 628—height of mountains in, 644.
- Abyssinian alphabet, II 615—months, VI 673—people, II 220; IX 352.
- ABYSSINIAN, a Christian sect, II 58.
- ACA, a town of Phoenicia, II 58. See Acre.
- ACACIA, in botany, II 58; V 190—false acacia, XVII 758—as a timber tree, XXI 278.
- in materia medica, II 58.
- among antiquaries, II 58.
- ACACIANS, sect of heretics, II 58.
- ACACIUS (Luscus), II 58.
- Saint, II 58—other persons so named, *ib*.
- ACAD, II 59.
- Academical degrees, XXI 447. See Universities.
- ACADEMICOS, or Academists, II 59; XVII 788.
- ACADEMUS, II 59; XVII 788.
- ACADEMY, II 59—first establishment of academies in Italy, England, and France, I 615—their influence in promoting the fine arts, III 718—inadequate support hitherto given to them in this country, *ib*—in ancient Athens, IV 171, XVII 788—of painting, XVII 67, 68, 76, 78, 80, *et seq*—of arts, at Copenhagen, VII 347—at Petersburg, XVII 492—Royal Scottish, VIII 397—Edinburgh Academy, 400—Royal Irish, 225—Royal Academy of Music, London, XIII 675—Royal Military, at Woolwich, XXI 926—Academies forming the University of France, XXI 491.
- Royal, London, XIII 675—its exhibitions, IX 458.
- French. See French.
- Acadian iron mines, XII 542.
- ACADIA, a name of Nova Scotia, II 71—ceded to England, XXI 494.
- ACENA, a Grecian measure, II 71.
- ACENITUS, genus of insects, IX 138.
- Acaphes, mollusks, XV 321.
- zoophytes, XXI 995—*A. vera*, 999—orders and families of, 1000.
- ACAMANTIS, an ancient name of Cyprus, II 71.
- Acamapitzin, Mexican king, XIV 700.
- ACAMAS, son of Theseus, II 71.
- ACANTHA, in botany and zoology, II 71.
- Acanthaceæ, nat order of plants, V 202.
- Acanthia, genus of insects, IX 163.
- Acanthias, genus of fishes, XII 324.
- Acanthicus, genus of fishes, XII 264.
- Acanthocephala, zoophytes, XXI 980, 977, 978.
- Acanthocephalus, genus of entozoa, XXI 978.
- Acanthodinus, genus of insects, IX 146.
- Acanthodinus, genus of fishes, XII 309.
- Acanthoderma, genus of fossil fishes, XII 338.
- Acanthodes, genus of fossil fishes, XII 334; XVII 125.
- Acanthodii, fossil fishes, XVII 123.
- Acantholabrus, genus of fishes, XII 267.
- Acanthomera, genus of insects, IX 130.
- Acanthometres, zoophytes, XXI 1007.
- Acanthonemus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 345.
- Acanthopus, genus of reptiles, XIX 71.

ACA—ACC

- Acanthopleurus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 338.
- Acanthopoda, tribe of insects, IX 116.
- Acanthopsia, genus of fossil fishes, XII 346.
- Acanthoptera, genus of insects, IX 145.
- Acanthopteri, fishes, XII 272—fossil, XVII 127.
- Acanthopterous fishes, XII 272.
- ACANTHOPTERYGIOUS FISHES, II 71.
- Acanthopus, genus of insects, IX 200.
- Acanthoscelus, genus of insects, IX 85.
- Acanthospongia, fossil sponges, XVII 92.
- Acanthurus, genus of fishes, XII 304—of fossil fishes, 344.
- ACANTHUS, in architecture, II 71—plant, V 203.
- Acanus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 343.
- ACAPULCO, in Mexico, II 71; XIV 723.
- ACARIDES, tribe of Arachnides, III 387.
- ACARNANIA, in Greece, II 72—coins of, XVI 370.
- ACARON, a town of Palestine, II 72.
- ACARUS, genus of Arachnides, III 388—*A. Scabiei*, XII 668.
- ACASTUS, son of Pelas, II 72.
- ACATALBOTIO verses, II 72.
- ACBAR, XI 479; III 746—Sindh conquered by, XX 308.
- ACCA (Saint), II 72.
- ACCEPTARE, in law, II 72.
- ACCAPITUM, a term in ancient law, II 72.
- ACCEDAS AD CURIAM, II 72.
- ACCELERATION, in natural philosophy, II 72—in astronomy, 74—of falling bodies, 72—law of, discovered by Galileo, III 801—of the fixed stars, planets, and of bodies on inclined planes, II 74—of the moon, I 814; II 74—accelerated motions, VIII 344—accelerating forces, 348—law of, in fluids, XIX 195.
- ACCIDENTES, II 74.
- ACCIDENTES, a kind of gladiators, II 74.
- ACCENSUS, II 74.
- ACCENSION, II 74.
- ACCENT, II 74—Hebrew and Greek, 75—in music, 76. See Music.
- Accentor, genus of birds, XVI 756.
- ACCEPTANCE, in commerce, II 76.
- ACCEPTER, II 76; IX 428, *n*.
- ACCEPTILATION, II 76.
- ACCESSION, in law, II 76.
- ACCESSORY, II 76—nerves, *ib*—in pictures, *ib*.
- ACCOLIUTOLI (Donato), II 76.
- ACCORD, in grammar, II 76—in heraldy, *ib*—in logic, 77.
- Accidents on railways, XVIII 705.
- ACCIDENTAL effects, II 77—colours, *ib*—point, *ib*.
- ACQUITER, hawk, II 77. See Hawk.
- Acquiptes, birds of prey, XVI 726.
- ACQUISUS, II 77.
- ACCIUS (Lucius), Latin tragic poet, II 77.—a poet of the sixteenth century, II 77.
- ACCLAMATION, II 77—medals, 73.
- Acclimation, Mr Knight's theory of, XI 702.
- ACCLIVITY, II 78.
- ACCOLA, II 78.
- ACCOLADE, in chivalry, II 78.
- ACCOLLE, II 79.
- ACCOLIT (Benedict), II 79.
- (FRANCIS), II 79. See P. Aretino.
- ACCOMAC, a county in Virginia, II 79.
- ACCOMMODATION, II 79—paper, *ib*; IX 429.
- ACCOMPANIMENT, in music, II 79; XV 740—in painting, etc., II 79.
- ACCOMPLICE, II 79.
- ACCOMPLISHMENT, II 79.
- ACCORD, in painting, II 79.
- ACCORDION, musical instrument, II 79, XV 708.
- ACORSO (Francis), lawyer, II 79.
- (MARIANGELO), critic, II 79.
- ACCOUNT, II 80.
- ACCOUNTS, Chamber of, II 80.
- ACCOUNT-current, V 29, 30.
- sale, V 21.
- ACCOUNTANT, II 80.
- GENERAL, II 80.

ACC—ACH

ACCRETION, II. 80.
 ACCROCHE, in heraldry, II. 80.
 ACCUBATION, II. 80.
 ACCUBITOR, II. 80.
 ACCUMULATION, II. 80.
 ACCURSED, II. 80.
 ACCUSATION, II. 80.
 ACCUSATIVE CASE, II. 81; X. 748.
 ACELDAMA, II. 81.
 ACENTETUM, rock crystal, II. 81.
 ACENTRONURA, genus of fishes, XII. 315.
 ACEPHALA, a class of mollusca, II. 81; XV. 322.
 ACEPHALI, various sects so named, II. 81.
 ACEPHALOUS, II. 81—mollusca, XV. 322.
 ACEPHALUS, obsolete name of the tape-worm, II. 81.
 ACER, the maple tree, II. 81; V. 186. See Maple Tree.
 ACERACEAE, nat. order of plants, V. 186.
 ACERB, II. 81.
 ACERENZA, town of Naples, II. 81.
 ACERINA, genus of fishes, II. 81; XII. 276.
 ACERNO, town of Italy, II. 81.
 ACEROTHERIUM, fossil rhinoceros, XVII. 169.
 ACERRA, II. 81.
 — a town in Italy, II. 81.
 ACERVULARIA, fossil corals, XVII. 97.
 ACESAS, II. 81.
 ACESCENT, II. 81.
 ACESINES, an Indian river, II. 81.
 ACESIUS, bishop, II. 82.
 ACESTES, II. 82.
 ACESTOR, II. 82.
 ACESTRA, genus of fishes, XII. 263.
 ACETABULUM, an ancient measure, II. 82—in anatomy, ib.; III. 12, 34—in botany, II. 82—genus of zoophytes, XXI. 1009.
 ACETAL, II. 82.
 ACETARY, II. 82.
 ACETATES, II. 82—acetate of copper and lead, use of, in voltaic electricity, XXI. 633.
 Acetic acid, VI. 510, IX. 758—its power of preserving articles of food, 767—from peat, XVII. 359.
 ACETOMETER, II. 82.
 Acetone, VI. 512.
 ACETOSA, sorrel, II. 82.
 ACETOSELLA, a species of plant, II. 82; V. 91.
 ACHEA, a town in Rhodes, II. 82.
 Achean League, IX. 497; XIX. 312—coins of, XVI. 371—army of, III. 628.
 ACHEANS, II. 82.
 ACHEMENES, II. 82.
 Achenium, a kind of fruit, V. 134, 187.
 ACHÆUS, II. 82.
 ACHAYA, II. 82—coins of, XVI. 371.
 Achæus Presbyteri, II. 83.
 ACHIAICUS, II. 83.
 ACHIAUS, king of Scotland, II. 83.
 ACHALALACTIL, kind of king-fisher, II. 83.
 ACHAN, II. 83.
 ACHANE, II. 83.
 ACHARACA, a town in Lydia, II. 83.
 ACHARD (Carl Franz), Prussian chemist, II. 83—on the force of adhesion, 140—on the influence of electricity on putrefaction and fermentation, VIII. 597—on capillary attraction, XII. 95—his pyrometer, XVIII. 703—his electric break, XXI. 644.—(C. F.), on bibliography, IV. 705, 718.
 ACHARNÆ, II. 83.
 Acharnæ, genus of fishes, XII. 268.
 ACHAT, in law, II. 83.
 ACHATES, II. 83—a river in Sicily, ib.
 Achatina, genus of mollusks, XV. 373.
 ACHAZIB, a town of Galilee, II. 83.
 ACHER, in Sumatra, II. 83, 84; XX. 805, 806.
 Achæne, people of Sumatra, XX. 805.
 ACHÆLOUS, II. 84; XI. 11.
 Achæna. See Achenium.
 ACHENWALL (Gottfried), II. 84; XX. 549.
 ACHER, a river of Baden, II. 85.
 ACHER, a city of Baden, II. 85.
 ACHERER, star, II. 85; IV. 79.
 ACHERON, II. 85.

ACH—ACM

ACHERSET, an ancient corn-measure, II. 85.
 ACHERUSIA PALUS, II. 85; XX. 239.
 ACHERY (Jean-Luc d'), II. 85.
 Acheus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 190.
 ACHIAS, II. 85.
 ACHIAS, a genus of dipterous insects, II. 85.
 ACHICOLUM, II. 85.
 Achill island, XIV. 370.
 ACHILLA, II. 85.
 ACHILLEA, genus of plants, II. 85.
 ACHILLES, II. 85—character of, XVIII. 100—Tendo Achilles, II. 85.—revolt of, in Egypt, VIII. 473.—(TATUUS), II. 85. See Tattus.
 ACHILLEUS CURSUS, II. 85.
 ACHILLES (Alexr.), II. 85—his anatomical discoveries, 756.
 ACHROTTE, a drug, II. 86. See Anotta.
 ACHIROPOSTOS, II. 86.
 Achirus, genus of fishes, XII. 272.
 ACHLYS, in Pagan mythology, II. 86.
 ACHMET, an Arabian author, II. 86.—I, II, III, emperors of the Turks, II. 86; XXI. 369, 370.—(GEDUC), a Turkish general, II. 86.
 Achmetia, city in Media, VIII. 370.
 ACHMETIA, a town of Upper Egypt, II. 86.
 ACHMITE, mineral, II. 86. See Acmite.
 ACHOR, II. 86.
 ACHRAS, genus of plants, II. 86; V. 199.
 ACHRAY, lake in Perthshire, II. 86; XVII. 454, 456; XIX. 794.
 Achroite, mineral, XV. 89.
 ACHROMATIC, II. 86—telescopes, ib.; XVI. 534, 581; XIII. 452; XXI. 120—list of the most considerable hitherto constructed, 122—doublets, XIV. 775—spheres, 772—microscopes, 775, 777, 778—fluid object-glasses, VI. 14, n. 2—fringes in achromatic object-glasses, XVI. 621—triple and multiple object-glasses, XXI. 120.
 ACHTEL, a German measure, II. 84.
 Achthere, genus of entozoa, XXI. 982.
 ACHTTERKA, a city of Russia, II. 94.
 ACHYR, a town and castle of the Ukraine, II. 94.
 ACHYROTHERA, in botany, II. 94.
 Aciula, genus of mollusks, XV. 375.
 ACICULUS, II. 94.
 Acioulde, family of mollusks, XV. 375.
 Acioulte, mineral, XV. 120.
 Acioulus (Valens), critic, II. 94.—a fountain, II. 94.
 Acidifiable metals, VI. 493.
 ACIDIMY, II. 94.
 ACIDOTON, a species of Adelia, II. 94.
 ACIDS, II. 94; VI. 507–514—organic, 515; volatile, 510, 517; fatty, 517—in substances used for food, IX. 758—mineral acids, XV. 64—their alimentary qualities, VIII. 24—specific gravity of, XII. 89—as poisons, XIV. 435; XVIII. 129—as alteratives, XIX. 611.
 ACIDULE, II. 94.
 ACIDULATED, II. 94.
 ACIDULOUS, II. 94.
 ACILITUS GLABRIO (Marcus), Roman Consul, II. 94.
 Aclius, genus of insects, IX. 101.
 ACINACES, II. 94.
 ACINODENDRUM, a species of Melastoma, II. 95.
 ACINOS, a species of Thymus, II. 95.
 ACINUS, II. 95.
 ACIPENSER, sturgeon, II. 95; XII. 317—genus of fossil fishes, XII. 338; XVII. 128.
 Acipenseridae, family of fossil fishes, XII. 338—species, 351.
 ACT REALLE, a city of Catania, II. 95.
 ACT, in mythology, II. 95.—river, II. 95—its source, 192.
 ACKERMANN (John C. Gottheb), II. 95.
 Ackland (William), his collodion pictures on glass, XVII. 547.
 ACKNOWLEDGMENT, II. 95—money, ib.
 ACKLES, a Roman weapon, II. 95.
 ACLOWA, a species of Columba, II. 95.
 Aclasia, genus of arachnids, III. 869.
 ACME, II. 95.

ACM—ACR

ACMELLA, a species of plant, II. 95.
 Acmite, mineral, XV. 82.
 ACNIDA, II. 95.
 ACNUA, a Roman land measure, II. 95.
 ACNEMETÆ, II. 95.
 ACNETES, II. 95.
 Acolhuans, XIV. 699.
 ACOLUTHI, II. 95.
 Acolutte (Mr) on a flight of ants at Breslaw, III. 265.
 ACOLYTHIA, II. 95.
 ACOMINATUS (Nicetas), II. 96.
 Aconcagua, river and province in Chile, VI. 543, 547.—mountain, XVII. 592; XXI. 603, 604—height of, 644.
 ACOCROBA, plant, II. 96.
 ACONTI, II. 96.
 ACONTIUM, genus of plants, II. 96; V. 180, 89—poisonous properties of, XIV. 439; XVII. 702—fable concerning, VI. 386.
 ACONTIAS, a snake, II. 96; XIX. 41.
 ACONTIUM, a Greek dart, II. 96.
 ACONTIUS OF Cea, II. 96.—(JAMES), II. 96.
 ACORA, in Guinea, XI. 89.
 ACORACEAE, natural order of plants, V. 214.
 ACORIS, an Egyptian king, II. 96.
 ACORN, II. 96; V. 134, 135, 113; XVII. 768.
 ACORUS, a genus of plants and corals, II. 96.
 ACOSTA, (Joseph d'), II. 96.—(URIEL d'), II. 97.
 ACOSTAN, island, II. 97.
 Acotyledonæ, a division of plants, V. 218.
 Acotyledonous plants, V. 76, 84, 141, 180—germination of, 165—number known, 224—number of fossil species, V. 233—number described, XVII. 626.
 A'Court (Sir William), V. 631.
 ACOSMATOR, II. 97.
 ACOSTIC, II. 97—disciples, ib.—ducts, ib.—vessels, ib.
 ACOUSTICS, II. 97—theory of vibrations, I. 728—progress of, I. 891—principles on which music is founded, 728—different degrees of sensibility in the organs of seeing and of hearing, ib.—echo, VIII. 373—acoustic figures, I. 891—Chladni's experiments on, ib.; 892—recent writers on, 893—speaking-trumpet, XXI. 360—hearing-trumpet, ib. See Organ, Trumpet, Harmonics, Music, Temperament, Hearing, Echo.
 ACOS, a town in France, II. 112.
 ACQUAPENDENTE, a town in Italy, II. 112.—Fabricius of, IX. 464.
 ACQUARA, a Neapolitan town, II. 113.
 ACQUARIA, a town in Italy, II. 113.
 ACQUAVIVA, a Neapolitan town, II. 113.
 ACQUI, a province and town in Italy, II. 113.
 Acquisitiveness, XVII. 562.
 ACRA, a country of Africa, II. 113—one of the hills on which Jerusalem stood, ib.; XII. 786, 787.—JAPYDIA, a promontory in the kingdom of Naples, II. 113.
 ACRA, genus of insects, IX. 207.
 ACRAGAS, a town in Sicily, II. 113. See Agrigentum.
 Acramphibrya, class of plants, V. 179.
 ACRASTA, II. 113.
 ACRA, a town in Palestine, II. 113; XVII. 182—taken by Saladin, VIII. 431—retaken by the Crusaders, ib.; XVII. 197; by the Mamelukes, ib.—taken by Ibrahim Pasha in 1831, VIII. 494—Bonaparte's siege of, V. 568; X. 112; XVII. 198—attacked by the British in 1840, V. 668.—a land-measure, II. 114.
 Acreage of the principal crops in Scotland, XIX. 796, 797.
 ACRA-FIGET, II. 115.
 ACRIERIA, II. 115.
 ACRIOPHAGI, or locust-eaters, II. 115.
 ACRIUS, II. 115.
 Acritia, a division of annulose animals, IX. 60.

ACR—ACT

ACRITAS, a promontory of Messenia, II. 115.
 ACROAMA, II. 115.
 ACROAMATIC, II. 115.
 ACROAMATICO, II. 115.
 ACROATIC, one class of Aristotle's lectures, II. 115.
 ACROBATES, ancient rope-dancers, II. 115.
 ACROBATICA, II. 115.
 Acrobrya, class of plants, V. 180, 216.
 Acrocera, genus of insects, IX. 236.
 ACROCERAUNIA, II. 116.
 ACROCHERISMUS, II. 116.
 Acrochordus, genus of reptiles, XIX. 63.
 Acrocidaris, fossil echinodæa, XVII. 100.
 Acrocinus, genus of insects, IX. 145.
 ACROCORINTHUS, II. 116.
 ACRODUS, genus of fossil fishes, II. 116; XII. 341; XVII. 118.
 ACROGASTER, genus of fossil fishes, II. 116; XII. 343.
 ACROGENS, plants, II. 116; V. 80, 84, 180, 216—reign of, in geological times, 234.
 ACROGNATHUS, genus of fossil fishes, II. 116; XII. 347.
 Acroleine, in chemistry, VI. 510.
 ACROLEPIS, genus of fossil fishes, II. 116; XII. 335, XVII. 125.
 ACROLITE, II. 116.
 ACROMION, in anatomy, II. 116.
 ACROMONOGRAMMATICUM, II. 116.
 ACRON, a physician, II. 116.
 ACROICAT, II. 116.
 ACROPOLIS of Athens, II. 116; III. 466; IV. 159, 165—its geological composition, XII. 11—sculptures of Phidias on, XVII. 507.
 ACROPOLITA (George), Byzantine historian, II. 116.
 Acropoma, genus of fishes, XII. 279.
 ACROSALENIA, fossil echinodæa, XVII. 100.
 ACROSPIRE, II. 116.
 ACROSPHRED, in malt-making, II. 116; V. 322.
 ACROSTIC, in poetry, II. 116.
 ACROSTICHUM, genus of ferns, II. 116.
 ACROSTOLIUM, II. 116.
 ACROTALUTIC, II. 116.
 ACROTENUS, genus of fossil fishes, II. 116; XII. 338.
 Acroterium, in architecture, III. 507.
 Acrydium, genus of insects, IX. 159.
 ACT, II. 116—of faith, ib.; XII. 390—in dramatic poetry, II. 117—among lawyers, ib.
 ACTA Consistorii, Diurna, Eruditorum, Populi, Senatus, II. 117.
 ACTÆ, II. 118.
 ACTÆA, a plant, II. 118.
 ACTÆON, II. 118.—genus of mollusks, XV. 369.
 Acteonellæ, fossil mollusks, XVII. 111.
 Acteonina, fossil mollusks, XVII. 103, 111.
 ACTIAN games, II. 118.
 Actian, bay of, IV. 743.
 ACTINA, genus of zoophytes, II. 118; XXI. 985.
 Actinaria, zoophytes, XXI. 1004.
 Actinidia, zoophytes, XXI. 1004.
 ACTINODACTYL, genus of fossil fishes, II. 118.
 ACTINOCAMAX, II. 118.
 ACTINOCERAS, fossil cephalopods, II. 118; XVII. 112.
 ACTINOCRINITES, a genus of fossil crinodæa, II. 118; XVII. 88.
 Actinoida, fossils, XVII. 96—P. G. Gosse's arrangement of living species, XXI. 1004, n. 2.
 Actinolite, XV. 81.
 ACTINOMETER, II. 118; VI. 781; XIV. 638.
 Actinometry, XIV. 638.
 Actinophry, genus of zoophytes, XXI. 1007.
 Actinote, XV. 81.
 Actro, in Roman antiquities, II. 118.
 ACTON, II. 118—in commerce, mechanics, &c., ib. See Dynamics.
 ACTIONARY, II. 119.
 ACTUM, II. 119—era of, VI. 672—battile of, VIII. 471; XIX. 323.
 ACTUS, II. 120.

ACT-ADA

- ACTIVE, II 119—verbs, *ib*; X 772.
 ACTON, a village in Middlesex, II 120.
 — (Sir John) XX 260, 261.
 ACTOR, in the drama, II 120—rank of actors in Greece, VIII 137, 142—in Rome, 142—their fate in England during the civil wars, 160-1—effect of the monopoly of the London theatres on, 168—Fynes' book on, IV 713—the disrepute in which they are held, XX 75—emoluments of, XXI 168. See Theatre.
 — ancient proper name, II 120.
 ACTORA, genus of insects, IX 254.
 ACTORIUM TABULÆ, II 120.
 ACTRESSES, their first introduction on the English stage, VIII 161; XXI 170—their character in the reign of Charles II 162—chief actresses of the English stage, XXI 174, 175. See Theatre.
 ACTS OF PARLIAMENT, II 117; IV 723; XVII 300.
 — of the Apostles, II 118, XIII 718.
 — of Pilate, II 118.
 ACTUABLE NAVES, II 120.
 ACTUARIUS, a Greek physician, II 120; XIV 455—his knowledge of surgery, XX 814.
 — an officer so named, II 120.
 ACTUARY, II 120.
 ACTUS, an ancient measure of length, II 120.
 ACUANITES, another name for the Manichees, II 120.
 ACUBA japonica, shrub, V 171, XI 748.
 ACULEATA, section of the hymenoptera, IX 193.
 ACULEATE, II 120.
 ACULEI, II 120.
 ACULER, II 120.
 ACUMINA, II 120.
 ACTUNA (Christopher d') a Spanish Jesuit, II 120.
 ACUPUNCTURE, II 120.
 ACUTE, II 120—angle, *ib*—harmonics, II 10.
 ACTUATOR, II 120.
 AD, Latin preposition, II 120—ad bestias—ad hominem—ad ludos—ad metalla—ad valorem, 121.
 Adacna, genus of mollusks, XV 349.
 ADAGE, II 121.
 ADAGIO, in music, II 121.
 ADAIR, town in Ireland, II 121.
 — two counties in U.S., II 121.
 ADAL, region between Abyssinia and the Red Sea, II 121.
 ADALBERT (Saint), II 121.
 Adalia, Turkish town, XIX 648.
 ADALDES, II 121.
 ADAM, II 121; I 449, 453—his original state, XXI 197—connection between his sin and that of all mankind, 202, 203—his peculiar position in Paradise, 205—his representative character, 206.
 — of Bremen, II 124.
 — (Dr Alex.), Rector of High School, Edin., II 124—his misapprehension respecting a Roman codicil, VI 738—on catapulta, &c., 332—annadvertisons on his grammar, XX 783.
 — (Edouard), his improvement of stills, VIII 49.
 — (Melchior), II 125.
 — (Robert), architect, II 125—his architectural works, III 456.
 — (William), Baron of Exchequer, II 126.
 ADAM'S Apple and Bridge, II 127.
 — Peak, II 127; VI 390—height of, XVII 646.
 ADAMANT, II 128. See Diamond.
 Adamantine spar, VII 420; XV 87.
 Adama, African country, II 214, 299; XIX 565—Dr Barth's visit to, X 478.
 ADAMI FORUM, II 128.
 ADAMO EARTH, II 128.
 ADAMITES, ancient heretics, II 128.
 ADAMS, a township in Massachusetts, II 128—name of six counties in U.S., *ib*.
 — (Daniel), V 553.
 — (Francis), his translation of the medical works of Paulus Ægineta, XX 814, *s. l.*

ADA-ADD

- ADAMS (JOHN), II 128; XXI 424, 435; *et seq.*, 755—his letters of Novanglus XVI 198.
 — (John), Mutineer of the Bounty, XVII 718.
 — (John Couch), on Laplace's calculations regarding the moon's acceleration, I 815, *n*—discovery of Neptune from theory, 827—on the perturbations of Uranus, 830; IV 93, prior to M. Leverrier in his mathematical investigations of this subject, I 830—his other investigations, 832—prize founded in commemoration of his discoveries, *ib*—on the lunar parallax, IV 89—on Saturn, 92.
 — (JOHN QUINCY), II 129; XXI 441.
 — on Monads, III 199.
 — (William), on Japan, XII 689, 690, *et seq.*
 — (W Bridges), his fish-joint for rails, XVIII 757—his suspended girder rail, 758, 759.
 — (Messrs), their work on the genera of recent mollusca, XV 329—their nomenclature, *ib*—on the habits of the Auriculidae, 375—on the genus Phorus, 382; and on other mollusks, 385, 388, *et seq.*
 Adams' and Deane's revolvers, XI 102.
 ADAMSON (Patrick), II 129.
 ADANA, a town of Asia Minor, II 130.
 ADANSON (Michael), II 130—his account of the green monkey, XIV 140.
 ADANSONIA, II 131; V 184. See Baobab-tree.
 ADAPIS, an extinct quadruped, II 131.
 ADAR, a Hebrew month, II 131.
 ADARCON, an ancient coin, II 131. See Dario.
 ADARME, a Spanish weight, II 131.
 ADATAIS, II 131.
 ADCORDABLES DENARI, II 131.
 ADCORRENTES, II 131.
 ADRA, river, II 131.
 ADDEIMATE, II 131.
 ADDEPHAGIA, in medicine, II 132.
 ADDEPH, II 132. See Viper.
 ADDEP'S GRASS, a cryptogamous plant, II 132.
 Adde's tongue, genus of ferns, V 216.
 ADDEXTRORES, II 132.
 ADDEICE, II 132.
 ADDIOTI, II 132.
 ADDIOTIO IN DIEM, II 132.
 ADDITION, II 132.
 Addington (Henry), V 534—elected speaker, *ib*—his administration, 576, IX 857; XVII 740, 741—his alteration of the sinking fund, X 320.
 ADDISONIAN COLLEGE, II 132.
 ADDISON (Joseph), II 132—his opinion of Hobbes's *Treatise on Human Nature*, I 42—his censure of the French authors of his age, 55—value of his essays in widening the circle of mental cultivation, 160, 161—his essays on the pleasures of imagination, 161—his reputation as a metaphysician has suffered by the beauty and clearness of his style, 83, 161—reasons for his being thought superficial, 161—his definition of "fine writing," 162—ments of his style and writings, *ib*—his argument for the immortality of the soul, *ib*—on the care with which Nature disseminates her blessings, 163—quotation from, concerning ideas, with Dr Blair's structures thereon, 272—precision of his ideas on colours, 273—on dreams, III 321, *n*—on beauty, IV 538—his connection with Budgell, V 725—his dialogues, VII 799—Dennis on his "Cato," and the absurdities that arise from preserving the unity of place, VIII 151; character of that play, 164—his hymns, XII 189—on Damascus, VII 639—his poetry, XVIII 124—his want of poetic genius, XX 71—his connection with Steele, 673—his defective reading, XXI 172—on wit, 894—his quarrel with Pope, XVIII 334—his birth-place, XXI 879.

ADD-ADM

- Addison (Charles G.), on the ruins of Palmyra, XVII 222, 223.
 — (Lancelot), II 136.
 — a county in Vermont, U.S., II 136.
 — (Thomas), on navigation, XVI 5.
 ADDITION, in law, II 136—of place, *ib*—in algebra, II 490, 494—in arithmetic III 583—of vulgar fractions, 598—of decimals, 600, 602, 603.
 ADDIX, a Greek measure, II 137.
 ADDLE EGGS, II 137.
 ADDUCTOR MUSCLES, or adductors, II 137; III 38, 39.
 ADELA, II 137.
 Adela, genus of insects, IX 219.
 ADELAIDE, a town and county in Australia, II 137, IV 294, 296—climate of, 296.
 — Madame, sister of Louis Philippe, X 201, 231.
 Adelaide's (Queen), College and naval fund, XVI 113.
 ADELARD, II 137, X 503.
 ADELPHORA, a town in Sweden, II 137.
 ADELTE, II 137.
 Adelmum, genus of insects, IX 132.
 ADELME, bishop of Shrewsbury, II 137, 458.
 ADELNAU, in Prussia, II 137.
 ADELPHIANI, a sect of ancient heretics, II 137.
 ADELSBERG, a town of Illyria, II 137—stalactitic caverns of, VI 68.
 ADELSGALG, II 137.
 ADELSE, II 137.
 ADELUNG (John Christopher), II 137—list of his works, 138—his Mithridates, XIII 197, 199, IX 343, XVII 528, Dr Young's review of, XXI 964, completed by Vater, 829—on the language of Thibet, XIII 198—on the Celta, IV 366.
 ADEMPTION, in civil law, II 139.
 ADEN, a town in Arabia, II 139 III 861—plan of the port of, II Pl. III.
 ADENAU, a circle in Prussia, II 139.
 Adenoma, glandular growths, XVII 691.
 ADEPHAGA, family of insects, IX 77.
 ADEPTE, II 139.
 ADEPNO, a Sicilian city, II 139.
 ADESBACH FELS, II 139.
 ADES or HADES, II 140.
 ADESENARIANS, II 140.
 Adfoo, Egyptian village, VIII 513.
 ADRA, a Mahometan festival, II 140.
 Adherbal, VI 290; XVI 350.
 ADHESION, II 140.
 Adhesiveness, phrenological faculty of, XVII 562, 673.
 ADHEIL, II 141.
 ADIABENE, II 141.
 ADIANTUM, a family of ferns, II 141; V 216.
 ADIAPHORISTS, II 141.
 Adie (Alex.), optician—his sympiesometer, IV 458.
 — (Alex J.), on the expansion of building materials by heat, XI 268—his pyrometer, XVIII 705.
 ADIGE, a river of Italy, II 141; XII 637; XIII 644, XXI 551.
 ADIMANTUS, a Greek physician, II 141.
 Adinolo, mineral, XV 71.
 ADIPOCIRE, II 141.
 ADIPOSE, tissue of the human body, II 141, 787—cells, XVII 650.
 ADIRONDAKE, mountains in New York, II 141; XVI 218; XXI 420.
 ADIT, II 141—of a mine, *ib*, XV 226 and *n*.
 ADJAZZO, II 141. See Ajaccio.
 ADJECTIVE, in grammar, II 141; X 778; 790—comparison of, 776, 790.
 ADJOURNMENT, II 141.
 ADJUDICATION, in Scottish law, II 141.
 ADJUSTMENT, II 141.
 ADJUSTAGE, II 141; XII 111—flow of water through cylindrical, 115; through conical, 117, 119.
 ADJUTANT, II 142—Adjutant-General, 142; III 663.
 — bird, XVI 799.
 ADLEGATION, II 142.
 ADLOCUTION, II 142.
 Admetus, IX 277.

ADM-ADU

- ADMINICLE, II 142.
 ADMINISTRATOR, II 142.
 ADMIRABILIS SAL, II 142.
 ADMIRAL, II 142; XVI 102—of the fleet, II 142, XVI 102—Lord High-Admiral, II 143; XVI 103—promotions to the rank of, in 1787, V 526—Vice-Admiral, II 145—Turkish Port-Admiral, XXI 382.
 — in Conchology, II 144.
 Admiral (Jacob), his work on insects, IX 4.
 ADMIRALTY, High Court of, II 144—principal officers of, 145.
 — Scotland, II 148.
 — code of signals, XX 25.
 — Bay, II 147—Inlet, *ib*—Islands, *ib*, IV 264.
 Admiration, point of, XVIII 685.
 ADMONITION, II 148—A. Fustum, *ib*.
 ADMORTIZATION, II 148.
 ADNATA, II 148.
 Adolecera, genus of insects, IX 106.
 ADOLESCENCE, II 148; XIV 425.
 Adolphus (Gustavus) See Gustavus.
 — (Frederick) king of Sweden, XX 857.
 Adon, name applied to God, XXI 189.
 ADONAI, II 148; XXI 189.
 ADONIA, feasts in honour of Venus and Adonis, II 148.
 ADONIC VERSE, II 148.
 ADONIJAH, a son of David, II 148.
 ADONIS, II 148.
 — a river of Phoenicia, II 148; XX 904—name of a plant, II 148.
 ADONISTS, II 148.
 ADOPTIANI, ancient heretics, II 148.
 ADOPTION, II 148.
 ADOPTIVE, II 148—arms, *ib*.
 ADORAM, a city of Judah, II 149.
 ADORATION, II 150.
 ADOREA, II 150.
 ADORF, a town in Saxony, II 150.
 Adorium, genus of insects, IX 150.
 ADOSCUATION, II 150.
 ADOSSE, in heraldry, II 150; XI 332-3.
 Adour, Arabian tribe, III 348.
 ADOUR, river in France, II 150, XVIII 701.
 ADOWA, capital of Tigre in Abyssinia, II 150, 56.
 ADOXA, a genus of plants, II 151.
 ADRA, a seaport in Spain, II 151.
 ADRACHINE, a species of arbutus, II 151.
 ADRAMTELECH, II 151.
 ADRAMITTUM, II 151.
 ADRASTEA, in mythology, II 151.
 — CERTAMINA, games, II 151.
 ADRASTUS, king of Argos, II 151; VII 507.
 ADRAZZO, II 151. See Ajaccio.
 ADRIA, a town of Lombardy, II 151.
 ADRIAN, or Hadrian (Publius Ælius), Roman emperor, II 151. See Hadrian.
 — Pope so named, II 151, 152.
 — (Cardinal), II 153; XX 468.
 ADRIANI (Giambattista), II 153.
 ADRIANISTS, a sect of heretics, II 153.
 ADRIANOPLE, a city in Turkey, II 153—treaty of, XIX 497; IV 743.
 ADRIATIC SEA, II 153.
 ADRIAPALA, a city in Naples, II 153.
 ADROGATION, in Roman antiquities, II 153.
 ADSELE, II 153.
 Adslger (Peter), on magnetism, XIV 2.
 ADSTRACTION, II 153.
 ADULA, a mountain in Rhætia, II 153.
 Adularia, mineral, XV 70.
 ADULE, a town of Ethiopia, II 153.
 ADULLAM, II 154.
 ADULTE, II 154.
 ADULTERATION, II 154—of food, *ib*; IX 789; XIV 440—of coin, XI 154—of wines, *ib*—paper, XVII 280—pepper, 405—of tea, in China, XXI 87—in Britain, *ib*—of tobacco, 295.
 ADULTERINE, in civil law, II 155.
 ADULTERY, II 155—a ground of divorce in Scotland, XII 54—its punishment in China, VI 507—consequences of divorce on the ground of, XII 56—various meanings of the term, II 156.

ADU—AEL

- ADUNATI, II. 156.
 ADUR, river in Sussex, XX. 839.
 ADVANCED, II. 156—dutch, guard, II. 156
 ADVENT, in the calendar, II. 156
 AD VENTREM INSPICIENDUM, II. 156.
 ADVENTURE BAY, II. 156.
 ADVENTURER, II. 156—adventurers, an ancient company of merchants, ib.; XXI. 915.
 ADVERB, II. 156, X. 775, 790—in the Egyptian language, XI. 425.
 ADVERSARIA, II. 156.
 ADVERSATIVE, II. 156.
 ADVERSITOR, in antiquity, II. 157
 ADVERTISEMENT, II. 157.
 ADVICE, in commerce, II. 157—boat, ib
 ADVOCATE, II. 157—Faculty of Advocates, 158—English VII. 465—Scotch, VIII. 395, their library in Edinburgh, ib. XIII. 400
 —(Lord), in Scotland, II. 158
 Advocate-General of the Admiralty, II. 147
 ADVOCATION, a process in Scottish law, II. 158.
 ADVOWEE, II. 158.
 ADVOWSON, in common law, II. 158; VIII. 744.
 ADY, a species of palm, II. 158
 ADYNAMIA, II. 158
 ADYNAMON, II. 158.
 ADYTUM, II. 158.
 ADZE, II. 158
 AE or Æ, diphthong, II. 159
 ÆACRA, II. 159.
 ÆACUS, II. 159.
 ÆCHMALOTARCHA, II. 159.
 Æchmodus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII. 128.
 Ædelforsite, mineral, XV. 76.
 ÆDES, II. 159
 —genus of insects, IX. 225
 ÆDICULA, II. 159.
 ÆDILE, Roman magistrate, II. 159
 ÆDILITIUM ÆDICTUM, II. 159.
 ÆDITUUS, II. 159
 ÆGADES or ÆGATES, islands off the coast of Sicily, II. 159, XX. 246.
 Æge, VII. 389.
 ÆGAGROPILA, II. 159
 ÆGEAN SEA, II. 159
 ÆGEUS, king of Athens, II. 159; IV. 192.
 Ægialia, genus of insects, II. 120.
 ÆGIAS, II. 160
 ÆGIDA, a town of Istria, II. 160.
 ÆGILOPS, II. 160.
 —plant, the supposed original of wheat, XVII. 630.
 ÆGIRMUS, an island near Carthage, II. 160.
 ÆGINA, daughter of Asopus, II. 160.
 —island, II. 160—coins of, XVI. 371
 —sculpture of, XIX. 854
 ÆGINETA (Paulus), surgeon, II. 161; XIV. 455; X. 814—Adam's translation of his works, ib. n. 1
 ÆGINEZARUM FERIZ, II. 161
 ÆGINHARD, secretary of Charlemagne, II. 161.
 ÆGIPHILA, in botany, II. 161
 ÆGIS, in ancient mythology, II. 161.
 ÆGISTRUS, II. 161.
 ÆGIUM, a town of Achaia, II. 161.
 ÆGOBOLUM, in antiquity, II. 161
 ÆGOCERA, genus of insects, IX. 210.
 ÆGOPIDIUM, a genus of plants, II. 161.
 ÆGOSPOZAMOS, river, II. 161—battle of, IV. 208—descent of a stone near, XIV. 629.
 ÆGYPTUS, II. 161.
 ÆGINAUTIA, II. 161.
 ÆELPIC, a Benedictine monk, II. 161.
 ÆLIA CAPITOLINA, II. 162; XII. 734, 775; XIX. 943.
 ÆLIANUS (Claudius), II. 162—his natural history, XIV. 124—Gesner's edition of his works, X. 597—on the worship of Apis, III. 297.
 —(Tacticus), II. 162.
 Ælius Gallus, his expedition into Arabia, III. 862.
 ÆLIOPUS, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 942.
 ÆLTERE, a Flemish town, II. 162.

ÆL—ÆS

- ÆLURUS, cat deity of Egypt, II. 162.
 ÆMILIUS (L. Paulus), II. 162; VI. 295
 —(PAULUS), II. 162.
 ÆMOROLUM, in antiquity, II. 162.
 Ænaria. See Ischia.
 ÆNEAS, II. 162—character of, XVIII. 100, 105
 —(SYLVIVS), Pope, II. 162. See Pius II.
 ÆNEID, II. 162, XVIII. 105 See Virgil.
 Ænesidemus, his scepticism, XIX. 707.
 Aeneza, Arab tribe, III. 348.
 ÆNIGMA, II. 162.
 ÆNTHOLOGUS, II. 162
 ÆOLLE INSULE, II. 162
 ÆOLIAN HARP, II. 162, XV. 709
 —rocks, XV. 150, 155. See Aerial rocks
 ÆOLIO, II. 162—dialect, ib.; XIII. 210—digamma, II. 162—verse, ib
 ÆOLIPHE or Æolipile, in hydraulics, II. 163, IV. 793.
 ÆOLIS or ÆOLIA, a country of Asia Minor, II. 163—coins of, XVI. 375
 —genus of mollusks, XV. 390—embryo of, 389.
 Æolodon, fossil reptiles, XVII. 152.
 ÆOLUS, god of the winds, II. 163.
 ÆON, II. 163, X. 686 et seq
 ÆORA, a kind of exercise, II. 163
 ÆRPNUS (F. U. Theodote), II. 163, I. 987
 —his hypothesis to explain the phenomena of magnetism and electricity, 743
 —on electricity, VIII. 529, 530—on the pyro-electricity of tourmaline, 553—on the electricity of melted bodies, 565—the inventor of electrical condensers, 614—on magnetism, XIV. 5, 24—his artificial magnets, 70—his theory of magnetism, 91.
 ÆQUI, ancient people of Italy, II. 165
 ÆQUIMELIUM, II. 165.
 Æquoridæ, family of zoophytes, XXI. 1000
 ÆRA, in chronology, II. 165. See Era, Chronology.
 ÆRARIUM, II. 165
 ÆRARIUS, II. 165.
 ÆBBIA, the ancient name of Egypt, II. 165.
 Aerial roots, V. 77.
 —rocks, XV. 150—classification of, 156.
 —telescope, XXI. 119.
 ÆERIE, II. 165. See Ary
 ÆERNEN, a Swiss town, II. 165.
 ÆERODYNAMICS, II. 165. See Dynamics.
 ÆEROLITE, II. 165—aerolites in the British Museum, XIV. 635—the kaaba at Mecca probably an, I. 459; XIV. 378. See Meteorolite.
 ÆEROMANCY, II. 165; VIII. 54.
 ÆEROMETRY, II. 165.
 ÆEON, river in Cardiganshire, VI. 234.
 ÆERONAUTICA, II. 165
 ÆERONAUTICS, II. 166—Gay Lussac's balloon ascent, I. 939—height attained by MM Bixio, Barral, and Welsh, ib. n. 2; XIV. 640—Guyton de Morveau's ascent, XI. 165—Messrs Green and Rush's ascent, XIV. 640. See Balloon.
 ÆEROPHYLLACEA, II. 185.
 ÆEROPHYTES, parasite plants, II. 185.
 Æerostation, Cavallo's work on, VI. 245
 ÆERSCHEOT, a city of Belgium, II. 185.
 ÆERTSEN (Peter), II. 185.
 ÆERUGINOUS, II. 185.
 ÆERUGO, rust of copper, II. 185
 ÆERUSCATORÆ, ancient strolling beggars, II. 185.
 ÆS, II. 185—circumforaneum, ib—equestre, ib—uxonium, ib—grave, XVI. 383 et seq—used in statuary, XIX. 843.
 ÆSALUS, genus of insects, IX. 128.
 ÆSCHINES, an Athenian philosopher, II. 185.
 —a Grecian orator, II. 185—his oration against Demosthenes, VII. 738
 Æschrius, VI. 286.
 ÆSCHYLUS, II. 186; XX. 882, 448, 449—his improvements of the Greek drama, VIII. 184—effects of his tragedy, the Eumenides, on the audience, 186—

ÆS—AFR

- character of his works, 188; Stanley's edition of them, XX. 537
 Æschynite, mineral, XV. 111.
 ÆSCULAPIUS, II. 187, XIV. 451—his surgical skill, XX. 809—his temple at Epidaurus, IX. 274.
 Æshna, genus of insects, IX. 176.
 ÆSOR, the fabulist, II. 187; IX. 461—Caxton's edition of his Fables, XVIII. 535
 —a Greek historian, II. 187
 —(CLODIUS), Roman actor, II. 187.
 Æsophagus, XXI. 564 See Esophagus
 ÆSTHETICS, II. 188, IV. 514, XIX. 108—
 as applied to music, XXI. 29
 Æstiology, comparative, III. 94.
 ÆSTIMATO CAPTIVIS, II. 188
 ÆSTIVAL, II. 188.
 Æstivation, in botany, V. 121.
 ÆSTUARY, II. 188; IX. 599, 600—comparative amount of river and tidal water in, XVI. 82
 ÆSTUI or ÆSTII, a people of Germany, II. 188; X. 572.
 ÆSTUNETES, II. 188.
 ÆSTYNIUM, II. 188.
 Aetas, XIII. 743
 ÆETH, II. 188; IV. 157
 ÆTHALLA, the ancient name of Elba, II. 188
 ÆTHELING, II. 188
 —(Edgar) See Edgar Ætheling.
 Æthelmare, II. 429.
 ÆTHELSTAN, II. 188 See Athelstan
 ÆTHER, II. 188; IV. 448, 453; XIV. 439
 —several fluids so named, II. 189.
 ÆTHERIAL, II. 189
 ÆTHIOPIA, II. 189. See Ethiopia.
 Æthroscope, VI. 783; VII. 769; XI. 265; XIII. 345
 ÆTIANS, a branch of Arians, II. 189.
 ÆTIOLOGY, II. 189.
 ÆTION, an ancient Greek painter, II. 189.
 ÆTTITES, or eaglestone, II. 189.
 ÆTUS, the Aran, II. 189.
 —physician, II. 189; XIV. 455—on the medical virtues of the magnet, XX. 414—on surgery, 813.
 —governor of Gaul, II. 189; X. 2
 ÆTNA, II. 189; XVII. 589, XV. 218; XX. 243, XXI. 605—height of, XVII. 642—exportation of snow from, VII. 101—electrical phenomena on, VIII. 583.
 —an ancient town, II. 199.
 Aetobates, genus of fishes, XII. 328—
 fossil, 342; XVII. 119.
 ÆTOLIA, II. 199—coins of, XVI. 370.
 Aetoplatea, genus of fishes, XII. 328.
 ÆTER (Domitius), Roman orator, II. 200.
 ÆFFA, an African weight, II. 200.
 ÆFFECTION, II. 200; XIV. 579; XIX. 117—Aristotle on, III. 561—on the affections which may be the basis of beauty, IV. 542.
 ÆFFERERS, in law, II. 200
 ÆFFETUOSUS, in music, II. 200.
 ÆFFIANCE, in law, II. 200.
 ÆFFIDAVIT, II. 200
 ÆFFILIATION, II. 200, XIV. 426
 ÆFFINITY, in law, II. 200—chemical, 200; 140; VI. 440—of languages, XIII. 194
 ÆFFIRMATION, in logic, II. 200, XIII. 592, 594.
 ÆFFIRMATIVE, in grammar, II. 201.
 ÆFFIX, II. 201.
 ÆFFLATUS, II. 201.
 Afonso (Dom.), princes and kings of Portugal so named, XVIII. 380, 381.
 ÆFFORESTING, II. 201.
 ÆFFRAY, in law, II. 201.
 ÆFFRONTEE, in heraldry, II. 201.
 ÆFFUSION, II. 201.
 ÆFGHANISTAN, II. 201; III. 738.
 ÆFGHANS, their war with the Mahrattas, XI. 480; with the British in 1839, V. 667; XI. 509—their language, XIII. 207, 208—their conquest of Persia, XVII. 489.
 ÆFTUM, a city of Anatolia, II. 209.
 ÆFORT, village near Paris, II. 209.
 ÆFRAGOLA, a Neapolitan town, II. 209.
 ÆFRANIUS (Claudius), a Latin poet, II. 209.

AFR—AGA

- AFRICA, II. 209—America probably in part peopled from, 695—ants in, III. 263—Clapperton's discoveries in, VI. 753—complexion of the natives of, VII. 223, 224—British colonies in, 147—cotton manufacture in the interior of, 448—love of dancing in, 644—trade with England, VIII. 732, 733—languages of, XIII. 199, 202, 218, 225; XVII. 535
 —ethnology of, IX. 351—ancient circumnavigation of, X. 461—unexplored regions in, 476—portions of known to the ancients, 464—snowy mountains in, 477—metallic produce of, XV. 248, XVIII. 461—recent discoveries in, X. 477, 478, 479—extent of its coast line, XVII. 885—mean elevation of the surface of, 590—mountain system of, 595, 599—height of its mountains, 644—deserts of, 614—flora of, V. 238, XVII. 628, 629—mammalia of, 631, 632—birds, 634—insects, IX. 65—Sebastian of Portugal's expedition against, XVIII. 383—as a receptacle for convicts, 576—reptiles of, XVII. 634, XIX. 81, 35, 52, 53—course of the rivers of, 181—suicide in, XX. 799—sugar-cane, 798—slave-trade, 820—volcanoes, XXI. 608—imports of wool from, 911, prices of, 913—wines of, 886; Pliny's opinion of them, 882—missions to, 422; XV. 271, 276—maps of, II. Plate. See Nile, Niger, &c.
 African Association, II. 210; XVI. 265.
 —Company, XII. 818.
 —Institution, XX. 324.
 AFRICANUS (John Leo), II. 230. See Leo.
 —(SEX. JULIUS), II. 230.
 —(Scipio). See Scipio
 AFRIQUE, St., a French town, II. 230
 AFRILAGERS, II. 230.
 AFT, a sea term, II. 230.
 AFTER-GUARD, II. 230
 AFTERMATH, in husbandry, II. 230.
 AFWESTAD, a town of Sweden, II. 230.
 Afzelius (A.), his work on insects, IX. 11.
 —Swedish poet, XIX. 700.
 AGA, II. 230.
 Aga Muhammad Khan, XVII. 441.
 AGADIR, a sea-port in Morocco, II. 230.
 AGALMATA, in antiquity, II. 230.
 Agalmatolite, mineral, XV. 84.
 Agama, genus of reptiles, XIX. 31.
 Agamæ or Agamians, family of reptiles, XIX. 31.
 AGAMEMNON, II. 230—character of, XVIII. 101.
 AGANTIPPE, II. 230.
 AGAPE, love-feast, II. 230.
 AGAPEFE, II. 230.
 AGAPEFUS, II. 231.
 AGARD (Arthur), antiquary, II. 231.
 Agardh, on the physiology of plants, V. 71—his division of Alga, V. 218.
 AGARIO MINERAL, II. 231.
 AGARICUS, genus of fungi, II. 231; V. 217, 142, 146—luminescence of, 169. See Mushrooms.
 Agastia, genus of insects, IX. 209.
 AGASIAS, ancient sculptor, XI. 231.
 Agassiz (M.), on certain families of animalcules, III. 211—on glaciers, X. 636, 637, 640—his arrangement of fishes according to their scales, XII. 216, 832; XVII. 640—on fishes, 228, 236, 243 et seq—his works on recent and fossil fishes, XII. 332—works on the mollusca, XV. 327—on the echini, XXI. 989, 990.
 —(L.), his work on insect embryology, IX. 23.
 AGATE, II. 231; XV. 69—moss-agates, II. 232—jasp and opal agates, ib.—its distinction from calcedony, VI. 67—optical properties of, XVI. 647, 648—agate-ware, XVIII. 483—as a plate for the knife-edge of pendulums, XVII. 883
 AGATHARCTUS, a Greek painter, II. 232.
 AGATHARCTIDES, II. 232.
 AGATHERMUS, II. 232.
 AGATHIAS, II. 232.
 Agathidium, genus of insects, IX. 151.
 Agathis, genus of insects, IX. 188.
 AGATRO, a Greek poet, II. 232.

AGA—AGO

- AGATHOCLES, II. 232; XX. 900—his wars with the Carthaginians, VI. 234—5—his invasion of Africa, 234.
 AGATHYRNA, a town of Sicily, II. 232.
 AGAYE, a genus of plants, II. 232, V. 212—A. Americana, in Portugal, XVIII. 395.
 AGBARUS, II. 232. See Abgar.
 AGDE, a city of France, II. 232.
 AGE, II. 232—of the globe, 1b—of man, 233—of animals, 234—of plants, 234—of the antediluvians, III. 264—old age, XIV. 425—its influence in predisposing to insanity, 536—its influence on health, XIX. 607.
 AGEDA, a synod of Jewish doctors, II. 235.
 AGEIA, in antiquity, II. 235.
 AGEIADAS, a statuary of Argos, II. 235; XIX. 855.
 AGEINOTHE, archbishop of Canterbury, II. 235.
 AGEIA, II. 235.
 AGEN, in France, II. 235—fall of meteorolites near, XIV. 630.
 AGENDA, II. 235.
 AGENIOSUS, genus of fishes, XII. 262.
 AGENHNE, II. 235.
 AGENOUS, in France, II. 235.
 AGEHT, II. 235.
 AGEH, II. 237—A. Romanus, XIX. 806—A. peregrinus, 1b.
 AGEH PROGENUS, an Italian territory, II. 237.
 AGEHCLAUS, II. 237; XX. 502; XXI. 178.
 AGEER, an ancient fortification, II. 238.
 AGEERHUS, a province of Norway, II. 238.
 AGGLUTINANTS, in pharmacy, II. 238.
 AGGLUTINATE languages, XIII. 194.
 AGGREGATA, tribe of mollusca, XV. 330.
 AGGREGATION, in physics, II. 238.
 AGHA MUHAMMAD KHAN, king of Persia, XVII. 441.
 AGEHORI, II. 238.
 AGEHRI, in Galway, II. 238—battle of, XII. 491.
 AGEHROU, a French village, II. 238—battle of, 1b; VIII. 688; X. 22—archers at, III. 426.
 —on the history of art, XVII. 58.
 AGIO, in commerce, II. 239.
 AGIONATES, genus of fishes, XII. 247.
 AGIOTOMANDRUM, II. 239.
 AGIS, kings of Sparta, II. 239; IV. 206 *et seq.*; XX. 502.
 —a Greek poet of Argos, II. 240.
 AGISTMENT, in law, II. 240—tithes of, 1b.
 AGISTOR, a forest officer, II. 240.
 AGITATION, II. 240—in politics, 1b.
 AGITATOR, II. 240—agitators, 1b.
 AGEIA, one of the Graces, II. 240; X. 741.
 AGELOPE, genus of insects, IX. 210.
 AGELEPHON, a Greek painter, II. 240.
 AGELE, II. 240. See Agulleja.
 AGELEA, genus of annelids, XI. 298.
 AGELEURUM, in ancient Athens, IV. 163.
 AGELE, genus of insects, IX. 212.
 AGELE, a town of Piedmont, II. 240.
 AGELOREY (John), an English divine, II. 240.
 AGELOSA, genus of insects, IX. 218.
 AGEHRI, in antiquity, II. 240.
 AGEHRODEH, town in Buckinghamshire, II. 714.
 AGEHRO (Lago d'), lake near Naples, II. 240; XX. 239.
 AGEHRE, in law, II. 241.
 AGEHRI, old French coin, II. 241.
 AGEHRE (St.), village in Cornwall, II. 241.
 —one of the Selly islands, II. 241.
 AGEHREI (Maria Gaetana), II. 241; IX. 977.
 AGEHREK, ancient heretics, II. 242.
 AGEHREK, II. 242.
 AGEHREK, a Neapolitan city, II. 242.
 AGEHREK, trilobites, XVII. 103.
 AGEHRE DRY, II. 242.
 AGEHRE, archbishop of Lyons, II. 242.
 AGEH, II. 242.
 AGEHALLA, II. 242.
 AGEHALLA ONCUS, a street in Rome, II. 242; VI. 734.

AGO—AGR

- AGONISMA, II. 242.
 AGONISTARCHEA, II. 242.
 AGONISTICI, II. 242.
 AGONUM, II. 242.
 AGONOTHEA, II. 242.
 AGONUM, genus of insects, IX. 94.
 AGONYCLITE, II. 243.
 AGORA, II. 243; IV. 162.
 AGORACRITUS, a Greek sculptor, II. 243.
 AGORAEUS, II. 243.
 AGORANOMI, II. 243.
 AGORDO, town in Austrian Italy, II. 243.
 AGOSTIN de Musis, engraver, VIII. 800.
 AGOSTINI (Leonardo), antiquary, II. 243.
 AGOSTINO, and Angelo (da Siena), II. 243.
 —(PAOLO), II. 243.
 AGOUTI, in zoology, XIV. 189.
 AGOWS, people of Abyssinia, II. 56.
 AGRA, mysteries celebrated at, XV. 753.
 AGRA PROVINCES, II. 243; XVI. 301.
 —CHRY, II. 244—mausoleum at, XI. 477, and a. 1—sepy insurrection at, XVI. 309.
 AGRAM, a palatinate in Croatia, II. 244.
 AGRARIAN LAWS, II. 245; VI. 717; XIX. 303—agrarian agitation of the Gracchi, 317—Niebuhr on, XVI. 261—agrarian region of vegetation, V. 230.
 AGRANUM, in ancient Athens, IV. 163.
 AGREDA, a district and town in Spain, II. 247.
 AGRHA, a town in Upper Hungary, II. 247. See Erlau.
 AGRICOLA (Cnaeus Julius), II. 247—his conquests in Britain, V. 378—XIX. 340, 741—Tacitus' life of, XXI. 8—his subjugation of the Brigantes, 956.
 —(GEORGE), a German physician, II. 248.
 —(JOHN), founder of the Antinomians, II. 248; III. 273.
 —(RONDOLEPHUS), II. 248.
 AGRICULTURE, II. 248—extraordinary demand for books relating to, in the reign of James I., 1. 33, a. 1—culture of the willow, IV. 439—establishment of the Board of, V. 549—agricultural distress of 1821 and 1822, 638; of 1823, 636—deficient crops of 1826, 647—effects of the cotton manufacture on, VII. 454—improved by the crusades, 534—improvement of since 1815, 391—a rational system must be founded on chemistry, VI. 523—agricultural drainage, VIII. 130—insects injurious to agricultural produce, IX. 106, 125, 141, 150, 159, 171, 226—disliked by the Greeks, XI. 15—combination of, with manufacturing employments, XIV. 282—a healthy occupation, 442—employment of capital in, XVIII. 235—distinction between agricultural and manufacturing industry, 246—manufactures necessary for the improvement of, 236—profits in, 252—Society for the Protection of, 642—Ricardo on protection to, XIX. 155—taxes on the rent of land, XXI. 43—turp-fly, IX. 151; XXI. 549—agricultural statistics of Scotland, XIX. 796, 797, 798—professorship of, in University of Edinburgh, 438—steam-engines for, XXI. 614—Arthur Young's writings on, 960. See Agricultural Chemistry, Draining, Guano, Irrigation, Manures, Corn-laws, Dairy, Veterinary Science, Wheat, &c. Agriculture in Afghanistan, II. 207—Aberdeenshire, 33—Abyssinia, 55—Antrim, III. 285—Atragon, 393—Argyleshire, 526—Armagh, 614—Asia, 737—Australia, IV. 280, 296—Austria, 318—Ayrshire, 383—Baden, 360—Banffshire, 413—Bedfordshire, 568—Belgium, 623, 624—Bengal, 649—Berkshire, 666—Berwickshire, 679—Brazil, V. 294—Breckonshire, 312—Buckinghamshire, 722—Buenos-Ayres, 726—Bute, VI. 26—Caermarthen, 53—Caernarvonshire, 54—Caithness, 62—Cambridgeshire, 115—Canada, 133, 141, 146—Canary islands, 163—Cardigan-shire, 334—Carlow, 240—Cavan, 248—Ceylon, 398—Cheshire, 628—Chile, 550—China, 588—Clackmannanshire, 749

AGR—AGR

- Clare, 755—Cork, VII. 372—Cornwall, 407—Cumberland, 576—Denbighshire, 735—Denmark, 747—Devonshire, 763—Donegal, VIII. 105—Dorsetshire, 112—Down, 123—Dublin, 216—Dumbartonshire, 236—Dumfriesshire, 237—Durham, 266—Edinburghshire, 409—England, 722—Egypt, 427, 428, 516—Essex, IX. 335—Fermanagh, 515—Fife, 544—Forfarshire, 733—France, X. 245—Galway, 390—Germany, 588—Gloucestershire, 642—Gloucestershire, 680—Greece, XI. 15—Haddingtonshire, 178, II. 368—Hampshire, XI. 203—Hanover, 212—Hebrides, 278—Herefordshire, 349—Hertfordshire, 359—Hindustan, 452—Holland, 552—Huntingdonshire, XII. 48—Invernessshire, 439—Ireland, 511 *et seq.*—Italy, 639—Japan, 693—Java, 705—Kent, XIII. 66—Kentucky, 69—Kerry, 74—Kildare, 82—Kilkenny, 85—Kincardineshire, 89—King's County, 91, 92—Kinrossshire, 95—Kirkcudbrightshire, 99—Lanarkshire, 175—Lapland, 237—Leicestershire, 320—Leitrim, 328—Limerick, 488—Lincolnshire, 491—Linthgowshire, 497—Lombardy, 648—Londonderry, 681—Longford, 684—Lonsiana, 702—Louth, 702—Madagascar, 792—Madeiras, 797—Maryland, XIV. 330—Isle of Man, 244—Meath, 376—Mexico, 716—Middlesex, 808—Monaghan, XV. 409—Moray, 576—Munster, 687—Monmouth, 498—New Brunswick, XVI. 163—New Jersey, 175—New Hampshire, 173—New York, 219—Norfolk, 289—New Zealand, 233—Northumberland, 300—Norway, 324—Nova Scotia 344—Oregon, 706—Orkney, 721—Odessa, 406—Ohio, 480—Oxfordshire, XVII. 36—Palestine, 191—Papal States, 242—Pembrokeshire, 374—Pennsylvania, 396—Perthshire, 453—Poland, XVIII. 158—Portugal, 397—Prince Edward Island, 518—Prussia, 665, 666—Queen's County, 729—Radnorshire, 748—Renfrewshire, XIX. 8—Roscommon, 421—Ross-shire, 426—Roxburghshire, 455—Russia, 519, 544—Rutlandshire, 555—Savoy, 676—Saxony, 684—Scotland, 796 *et seq.*—Shropshire, XX. 229—The Two Sicilies, 247—Selkirkshire, 41—Servia, 61—Silo, 330—Somersetshire, 410—Spain, 489—Staffordshire, 530—Stirlingshire, 703—Suffolk, 790—Sussex, 839—Sutherland, 842—Sweden, 861—Switzerland, 889—Tipperary, XXI. 287—Tuscany, 394—Tyrona, 408—United States, 425; II. 706—Virginia, XXI. 508—Waterford, 770—Westmeath, 839—Wexford, 847—Worcestershire, 928—Westmoreland, 842—Westphalia, 844—Wicklow, 859—Wigtownshire, 863—Wiltshire, 868—Wisconsin, 893—Wurtemberg, 938—Yorkshire, 958. See the geographical articles generally.
 AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY, II. 373; VI. 523—Davy on, VII. 671.
 Agricultural College (Royal), X. 680.
 —labourers, health of, XIV. 442.
 —museum, Stirling, XX. 701.
 AGRICULTURE, II. 421; X. 632; VII. 185—taken by the Romans, VI. 287; by the Carthaginians, 289—destroyed by Carthago, 1b—temple of Jupiter at, III. 465—coins of, XVI. 365.
 Agrion, genus of insects, IX. 176.
 AGRIONIA, festivals in honour of Bacchus, II. 421.
 AGRIOPHAGI, II. 421.
 AGRIOPUS, a genus of fishes, II. 421; XII. 283.
 AGRIPEA (Cornelius), II. 421.
 —(HEROD), II. 421; XII. 773.
 —II., king of Chalcis, II. 422.
 —(MARCOUS VESPASIANUS), II. 422; XIX. 333—Rome improved by, 868.
 AGRIPPINIA, II. 423; XIX. 337; XX. 45.
 —daughter of Germanicus, II. 423.
 —COLONIA UBIORUM, II. 423; VII. 138.
 Agrodinus, genus of insects, IX. 145.

AGR—AIL

- Agromyza, genus of insects, IX. 257.
 AGRONOMI, ancient rural police, II. 423.
 AGROSTIS, a genus of grasses, II. 423.
 AGROTHERAS TUSULA, an Athenian festival, II. 423.
 Ags See Dax.
 Agtelek cave, in Gomör, XII. 10.
 Aguate, gold mines of, VII. 424.
 AGUAS CALIENTES, a Mexican town, II. 423.
 AGUDO, town in Spain, II. 424.
 AGUE, II. 424; XII. 436.
 AGUEDA, a Spanish river, II. 424.
 —(Santa), Spanish village, II. 424.
 AGUESSEAU (Henri Francois d'), II. 424.
 AGUILAR de la Frontera, II. 425.
 AGUILAS (San Juan de las), Spanish seaport, II. 425.
 AGULLANET, II. 425.
 AGULLON (Francis), II. 425.
 AGUMES, a town in Great Canary Island, II. 425.
 AGUIRRE (Joseph Saenz d'), II. 425.
 AGULHAS (Cape), II. 425, 212.
 AGURAH, a Jewish coin, II. 425.
 AGUSADURA, II. 425.
 AGYRI, II. 426.
 AGYRIANI, II. 426.
 AGYRIUM, an ancient Sicilian town, II. 426.
 AGYRIE, II. 426.
 AHAB, king of Israel, II. 426.
 AHALA, II. 426.
 AHAM, Dutch liquid measure, II. 3.
 AHANTA, a district in Africa, II. 426.
 AHASUERUS, II. 426; IX. 338; XVII. 434.
 AHATUS, II. 426.
 AHAZ, king of Judah, II. 426.
 AHAZIAH, II. 426, 427.
 AHEAD, a sea term, II. 427.
 AHENOBARRUS, II. 427.
 AHGAL, a Spanish town, II. 427.
 AHILAH, II. 427.
 AHIMELECH, II. 427.
 AHITOPHELE, II. 427.
 AHJOL, a city in Silesia, II. 427.
 Ahmad, founder of the Benoo-Tooloon dynasty in Egypt, VIII. 475.
 —rebel, VIII. 494.
 AHMEDABAD, II. 427. See Amedabad.
 AHMEDPOORA, towns in Hindustan, II. 427.
 Ahmed-Shah, XI. 431—tomb of, VI. 168.
 Ahmet, I., II., III., sultans, XXI. 369, 370, 376.
 Ahnaun, kind of wood, XX. 178.
 Ahrens (G. F.), his work on insects, IX. 7.
 —(A.), his works on insects, IX. 11.
 Ahrian, group of rocks, XV. 189.
 Ahriman, XXI. 1009.
 AHRWEILER, a Prussian circle, II. 427.
 AHULL, a naval term, II. 427.
 AHUSA, a town of Sweden, II. 427.
 AI, a town in Judea, II. 427.
 AI, three-toed sloth, XIV. 190, 121, a.; IV. 260—number of its cervical vertebrae, III. 75—its stomach, 108—intestines, 110—bloodvessels, 112.
 AIBAR, a Spanish town, II. 428.
 AIDAN, II. 428.
 —(St.), a Scottish bishop, II. 428.
 AID-DE-CAMP, II. 428—naval aides-de-camp to the queen, XVI. 117.
 AIMS, II. 428.
 AIGLAMOIDEA, genus of zoophytes, XXI. 1006.
 AIGLE, II. 428.
 —I/, a city of France, II. 428—shower of stones near, XIV. 631.
 AIGUE PERSE, a town of France, II. 428.
 AIGUES MORTES, a town of France, II. 428.
 AIGUILLOX, a town of France, II. 428.
 AIGUISSE, in heraldry, II. 428.
 AIKEN (Dr John), II. 428; IV. 431—on political ballads, IV. 396.
 Aikenhead (Thomas), condemned for blasphemy, IV. 754.
 Aikin (Dr), on Gilbert Wakefield, XXI. 682.
 —(Lucy) on the magnanimity of Queen Elizabeth, VIII. 636, a.
 AIKMAN (William), painter, II. 428.
 AILANA, II. 428. See Akabah.

AIL—AIR

Ailanto tree, XVII. 762.
 AILESBUARY, II. 429. See Aylesbury.
 Ailua, genus of fishes, XII. 263.
 AILMER, II. 429.
 AILRED, historian, II. 429.
 AILSA, II. 429.
 Ailurus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 154.
 Aim, in shooting, XX. 215.
 Aime's artificial magnets, XIV. 76.
 AIX, a department in France, II. 429.
 Ainslie (Dr), on the Japanese, XII. 690.
 AINSWORTH, in Lancashire, II. 429.
 — (ROBERT), author of a Latin Dictionary, II. 429.
 AINTAB, town in Syria, II. 430.
 AIR, II. 430—fixed air, IV. 737—changes it undergoes by respiration, XVII. 602—extent to which it is vitiated by different illuminating agents, XIX. 615—specific heat of, XX. 561—source of, in ventilation, XXI. 540—ingress and egress of, in ventilation, ib.—equalization of, in ventilation, ib.—amount of, necessary for ventilation, ib.—purity and temperature of, ib.—moisture of, affects ventilation, 541—nature of heating power applied to, ib.—steam apparatus used to heat, ib.—source of movement for the, ib.—varieties of ventilation of, 542. See Atmosphere, Meteorology, Pneumatics.
 — in painting, II. 430—music, ib.—hot, for heating apartments, XIX. 614.
 Air-bladder of fishes, XII. 225, 284; XVIII. 51.
 Air-cavities in plants, V. 73.
 Air-engines, XX. 619.
 Air-furnace, X. 365.
 AIR-GUN, II. 430; XVII. 518.
 AIR-JACKET, II. 430.
 AIR-PIPES, II. 430.
 AIR-PUMP, II. 430, XVIII. 32—invention of, IV. 451—Cavallo on the, VI. 345—double-acting, XII. 178—of a steam engine, XX. 655, 668.
 AIR-SHAFTS, II. 430.
 Air-thermometer, IV. 456; XXI. 221.
 AIR-THREADS, or gossamer, II. 430.
 AIR-VESSELS, in plants and animals, II. 430; XVII. 658.
 AIRANT, sect of Arians, II. 430.
 AIRDRIE, town in Lanarkshire, II. 430; XIII. 176.
 AIRE, two towns in France, II. 430.
 — river in Yorkshire, II. 430; XXI. 957—bridge over, XII. 609; XXI. 956.
 Airmiss, skirmish at, V. 432.
 AIRY, or Aery, eagle's nest, II. 430.
 — (George Biddell), astronomer-royal, I. 849—on tides and waves, 818; XVII. 582—his account of Laplace's dynamical theory, I. 817—on the perturbations by Venus of the earth's motion, 825—his physical and astronomical labours, 849—his introduction of galvanism in recording observations, 850—his magnetic and meteorological observations, ib.—his formula for M. Foucault's pendulum experiment, 855—on Russell's theory of waves, 889—on the rainbow, 899—on the phenomena of quartz, 910—on the undulatory theory of light, 917—application of the theory of magnetism to ships' compasses, 990; XX. 27—his proceedings at the Greenwich and Cambridge Observatories, III. 816, 817—his observations on the solar disk, IV. 88—on the lunar orbit, 89—on the perturbations of Venus and the earth, 90; I. 825—on the satellites of Jupiter, IV. 91—on the orbit of comets, 94—on pendulums and escapements, VII. 9—his improvements in the theory of fluids, XII. 78—means taken by, to determine the longitude of Valentia, XIII. 687, 688—on optics, XVI. 547, 605, and a. 1, 678, 679—his spherocylindrical spectacles, 587—on eye-pieces for telescopes, XXI. 124—his silvered specula, 182—his zenith sector, 385—his figure of the earth, ib. n.

AIS—ALA

AISLE, in architecture, II. 430.
 AISNE, a department in France, II. 430.
 Aitken (James), incendiary, V. 504.
 Aitken's blast-furnace, X. 359.
 AITOCZU, river in Lesser Asia, II. 430.
 AITON (William), botanist, II. 430—his Hortus Kewensis, VIII. 201.
 ARUS LOCUTUS, Roman deity, II. 431.
 AIX, city and arrondissement of France, II. 431—amber found at, 656—population, X. 277—academy of, XXI. 491.
 — an island, II. 431—river, ib.
 AIX-LA-CHAPELLE, a district and town in Prussia, II. 431, XIX. 145—treaty of, V. 462; XII. 653—congress of, in 1818, X. 179; XXI. 743.
 AJACIO, in Corsica, II. 431; VII. 417.
 AJALON, II. 431.
 AJAN, country of Africa, II. 432.
 Ajanea, genus of zoophytes, XXI. 1006.
 AJAX, II. 432.
 AJMERE, II. 432—temples at, XI. 477.
 AJOFRIN, a town of Spain, II. 433.
 AKABASH, Gulf of, II. 433, XVIII. 817.
 Akassa, river of Morocco, XVI. 392.
 AKEN, a Prussian town, II. 434.
 AKENSIDE (Mark), II. 434—his poetry, XVIII. 124.
 Akera bullata, teeth of, XV. 373.
 AKERBLAD (Jan David), II. 435—on the Rosetta stone, XI. 378-9.
 AKERMAN, in Russia, II. 435.
 AKHALISE, religious warriors of the Sikhs, II. 435.
 AKHALZIKI, II. 435.
 AKHALZIKH, a city of Georgia, II. 435—attack on, by the Russians, XIX. 496.
 AKHBAR, or Akbar, Mogul emperor of Hindustan, II. 435, 53.
 AKHMISSAR, II. 435.
 AKHMETSCHEV, II. 435; VII. 505.
 AKHTIAR, II. 435, VII. 505.
 AKIBA, rabbi, II. 435.
 AKIS, genus of insects, IX. 129.
 AKOND, II. 435.
 AKYAR, II. 435.
 AL, Arabic particle, II. 436.
 AL or ALD, a Saxon prefix, II. 436.
 ALA, II. 436.
 ALZE, II. 436.
 ALABAMA, II. 436; XXI. 419—debt of, 428—newspapers of, XVI. 195—production of wine in, XXI. 888.
 Alabandine, mineral, XV. 121.
 ALABARONA, II. 436.
 ALABASTER (William), II. 436.
 — a vase, or liquid measure, II. 437.
 — mineral, II. 437; XI. 172, XV. 96, 148—origin of the name, 148, n.—sculptured slabs of, at Nineveh, XVI. 270, 277—photography on, XVII. 551.
 Alabastine photographs, XVII. 552.
 ALABASTUM DENDROIDE, II. 437.
 ALACRANES, II. 437.
 ALADINISTS, a Mahometan sect, II. 437.
 ALADSCHAHISSAR, II. 437.
 ALADULIA, an Asiatic province of Turkey, II. 437.
 ALAEJOS, a Spanish town, II. 437.
 ALAGOR, a Spanish town and river, II. 437.
 ALAIN (Chartier), II. 437.
 ALAIS, in France, II. 437.
 ALAJAR, a Spanish town, II. 437.
 ALAMAGAN, island, II. 437.
 ALAMANNI (Luigi), II. 437.
 ALAMOS (Balthasar), II. 438.
 ALAN (Cardinal William), II. 438.
 ALAND, archipelago of, II. 438, IV. 403; XIX. 552.
 Alangiaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 192.
 Alani, X. 577; XII. 26—their irruption into Spain, XX. 459.
 ALANJAR, a Spanish town, II. 438.
 ALANT, in heraldry, II. 438.
 AL ARAB, II. 438.
 Alaria, fossil mollusks, XVII. 109.
 Alariaceae, nat. family of plants, V. 195.
 ALARIO I., II. 438—his invasion of Greece, IV. 173—Rome occupied by, XIX. 368.
 — II., compendium of laws prepared under, VI. 743.
 ALARIN, II. 439—bell, ib.
 ALARO, a town in Minorca, II. 439.

ALA—ALB

Alarum clocks, VII. 17.
 ALASCANI, an anti-Lutheran sect, II. 439.
 ALASCO (John), II. 439.
 ALA-SHER, II. 439; XVII. 511.
 ALASHKA, II. 439.
 ALASSIO, II. 439.
 ALASSONA, a Turkish town, II. 439.
 ALATAMAH, river in North America, II. 439.
 ALATRUM, a town in Italy, II. 439.
 ALAUDA, genus of birds, II. 439; XVI. 759—one of Caesar's legions so named, II. 439.
 ALAUSA, genus of fishes, XII. 287.
 ALAUTA, a Turkish river, II. 439.
 ALAVA, in Spain, II. 439.
 ALAY, II. 440.
 ALAYOR, a Spanish town, II. 440.
 ALB, II. 440.
 ALBA, in Piedmont, II. 440.
 — an Italian city, II. 440.
 — DE TORRES, in Spain, II. 440.
 — LONGA, in Latium, II. 440.
 — Duke of, XI. 565, 566 et seq.
 ALBACETE, a Spanish province, II. 440.
 ALBAHURIM, II. 440.
 ALBAN (St), protomartyr of Britain, II. 440.
 ALBANENSES, II. 440. See Albigenesae.
 ALBANI, II. 440; VI. 74.
 — (CARDINAL G. F.), Pope, II. 440.
 — (FRANCESCO), Italian painter, II. 441, XVII. 73.
 ALBANIA, II. 441; XI. 13—invasion by a Turkish army, 23—inhabitants of, IX. 361, 388—language, 390; XIII. 215—vineyards of, XXI. 886.
 — in Asia, II. 444.
 Albanians in Greece, XI. 14, 15—Ilyria, XII. 363—in Turkey, XXI. 378.
 ALBANO, city, II. 444—lake, ib.
 — Neapolitan town, II. 444.
 — painter, XVII. 73.
 ALBANS (St), II. 444; XI. 358—battle of, VIII. 690—early printing at, XVIII. 538.
 — (Hugh de), painter, XVII. 77, n. 1.
 ALBANUS MONS, II. 444.
 ALBANY, town in New York, II. 444; XVI. 217, 220—railway from, XVI. 220.
 — station of Hudson's Bay Company, II. 444.
 — district at Cape of Good Hope, II. 444; X. 713.
 — (Dukes of), regents of Scotland, XIX. 757, 767.
 — Earl of, XIX. 760, 761.
 ALBARIUM OPUS, II. 445.
 ALBARIN, in Spain, II. 444.
 ALBAFENGI, Arabic prince and astronomer, II. 445; III. 794, 795.
 ALBATRI, II. 445.
 ALBATROSS, II. 445; XVI. 812; XVII. 638.
 ALBAIDA, in Spain, II. 445.
 ALBAZIN, town in Greater Tartary, II. 445.
 ALBEMARLE, II. 445. See Anumale.
 — a county of Virginia, II. 445.
 — SOUND, II. 445.
 — island, X. 367.
 — (George), Duke of. See Monk.
 ALBENGA, an Italian seaport, II. 445.
 ALBERGHI, in Spain, II. 445.
 ALBERONI (Julius), II. 445.
 ALBERT, II. 445.
 — Margrave of Brandenburg, II. 445.
 — of Saxony, on aeronautics, II. 167.
 — (Prince-Consort) of Saxe Coburg-Gotha, his marriage with the Queen, V. 667—sum voted to, ib.
 — of Mecklenburg, king of Sweden, XX. 845.
 — Emperor of Austria, XX. 884.
 — (Charles), XII. 687, 693.
 ALBERTI (Leon Battista), II. 445; III. 451.
 — on medical jurisprudence, XIV. 423.
 Albertia, genus of entozoa, XXI. 978.
 ALBERTUS MAGNUS, II. 445; XIV. 458—his pretensions to the art of flying, II. 166—on sal-ammoniac, 720—his history of animals, XIV. 124.

ALB—ALC

ALBESTIA, II. 446.
 ALBI, in France, II. 446.
 ALBIGENSES, II. 446; persecution of, XI. 616; XII. 386, 387; XXI. 508.
 ALBIGEOIS (L.), in France, II. 446.
 Albin (Eleazar), his work on insects, IX. 4—his work on spiders, III. 390—on birds, XVI. 726.
 ALBINI, II. 447.
 Albinism in animals, XIV. 134.
 ALBINOS, II. 447.
 ALBINOVANUS (C. Pedro), II. 448.
 ALBINUS, II. 448.
 — (BERNHARD SIEGFRED), physician, II. 448—his anatomical labours, 764, 766—his arrangement of the muscles, III. 38.
 — (CLODIUS), II. 448.
 ALBION, II. 448; V. 372.
 — (New), II. 448.
 — printing-press, XVIII. 558.
 Albione, genus of annelids, XI. 307.
 ALBTREO, star, II. 449.
 ALBIS, ancient name of the Elbe, II. 449.
 ALBITE, a species of felspar, II. 449; XV. 71.
 ALBOGALERUS, II. 449.
 ALBORN, king of the Lombards, II. 449; XII. 641, XIII. 638.
 AL BOKAR, II. 449.
 ALBORAN, island, II. 449.
 ALBOX, a town in Spain, II. 449.
 Albrecht (Achilles), elector of Brandenburg, XVIII. 647.
 ALBRECHTSBERGER (J. George), musician, II. 449.
 ALBRIC, II. 449.
 Albucasis, physician, XIV. 457—his knowledge of surgery, XX. 815, 816.
 ALBUERA, II. 449—battle of, V. 609.
 ALBUFEIRA, a Portuguese town, II. 449.
 ALBUFEIRA de Valencia, lake, II. 449.
 ALBUM, II. 449.
 — græcum, XVI. 460.
 ALBUMAZAR, Arabian astronomer, II. 449.
 ALBUMEN, II. 449; XVII. 654; XIX. 610.
 — (animal), IX. 757—its use in clarifying, VII. 755—its qualities as an aliment, VIII. 19—of eggs, VIII. 418—albumen process in photography, XVII. 546—albuminous degeneration, 690, 696.
 — (vegetable), II. 381; IX. 757; V. 140; VI. 519.
 Albuminous seed, V. 140.
 ALBUQUERQUE, a Spanish town, II. 449.
 — (ALFONSO), II. 449.
 Albury mountains, XVII. 420—coal in, 422.
 ALBURN, II. 449.
 ALBURNUM of trees, II. 449; V. 81; XXI. 267.
 Alca, genus of birds, XVI. 810.
 ALCEUS, Grecian poet, II. 449.
 — comic poet, II. 450.
 — epigrammatic poet, II. 450.
 ALCAICS, verse and ode, II. 450.
 ALCAID or Alcaide, II. 450; XX. 467.
 ALCAIDA DE GUADIRA, II. 450—de Henares—de los Garules—la Real, Spanish towns, ib.
 — Hebrew bible, IV. 697; II. 450, XXI. 951.
 — university of, XIII. 805.
 ALCAIZ, or Alcahi, II. 450. See Alkali.
 ALCAIMENES, Athenian sculptor, II. 450.
 ALCAIMO, a city of Sicily, II. 450.
 ALCAN, VII. 315.
 ALCANIZ, a Spanish town, II. 450.
 ALCANNA, or Alkanna, II. 450.
 ALCANTARA, in Spain, II. 450—knights of, ib. 619.
 — in Brazil, XIV. 234.
 — river in Sicily, XX. 244.
 ALCARAZ, a city in Spain, II. 451.
 Alcatrazas, cooling vessels, VII. 100.
 ALCAUDETE, a Spanish town, II. 451.
 ALCAVALA, a Spanish tax, II. 161.
 ALCAZAR de San Juan, II. 451.
 — do Sal, II. 451.
 — KESIR, II. 451.
 — (LUTS DE), Jesuit, II. 451.
 ALCEDO, genus of birds, II. 451; XVI. 772.

ALC—ALD

ALCEDO (Antonio de), II. 451.
 ALCESTER, II. 451; XXI. 738, 739.
 ALCESTIS, II. 451.
 Alcetas, king of Epirus, IX. 277.
 Alceire (John), his letter to Henry V. on ship-building, XX. 122.
 ALCHADES, rabbi, II. 451.
 Alchemists, VI. 437—their notions on physical subjects, 448—first to explore new paths of science, 448—their fancies respecting dew, VII. 766—names of the principal, II. 451—Sir I. Newton's study of their works, XVI. 208—their objects, II. 452—in Persia, XVII. 430.
 ALCHERY, II. 451. See Alchemists
 ALCIATI (Andrea), Italian jurist, II. 452.
 ALCIADADES, II. 452, IV. 206, n. 2, 207 *et seq.*—his death and character, 209, n. 1—conduct of Socrates towards him, XX. 375—his respect for that philosopher, 378.
 ALCIDAMAS, II. 452.
 ALCIDES, II. 452.
 ALCONOUS, II. 452.
 Alcipoa, genus of annelides, XI. 298.
 ALCIPIERON, II. 452.
 ALCIIRA, a Spanish town, II. 452.
 ALCIORON, II. 452.
 ALCIOR, a Dutch city, II. 452.
 ALCIOMAN, Greek lyric poet, II. 452.
 ALCIOMANIAN verse, II. 453.
 ALCIOMENA, II. 453.
 ALCOBAZA, a town of Portugal, II. 453.
 ALCOCK (John), bishop, II. 453.
 ALCOENTRE, a town of Portugal, II. 453.
 ALCOHOL, II. 453, VI. 506 *et seq.*; IX. 766, 760, VII. 47; XIX. 611—boiling point of, VIII. 50—how to inflame it by electricity, 590—its vapour unlikely to supersede steam as a moving power, IX. 414—mode of freeing it, 415—its specific gravity, II. 453; XII. 89—produced by the fermentation of wort in brewing, V. 329—its narcotic properties, XIV. 439—its effect on the nervous system, XVII. 699—in wine, XXI. 889, 890—in thermometers, 212.
 ALCOHOLIZATION, II. 453.
 ALCON, star, II. 453.
 ALGORA, a town in Spain, II. 453.
 ALGORAN, II. 453—Marracci's edition of, XIV. 814. See Koran.
 —of the Cordeliers, II. 456.
 ALCOY, a Spanish city, II. 456.
 ALCOIN, II. 456, 61—his version of the Bible, IV. 701.
 Alcyonaria, zoophytes, XXI. 1004.
 ALCYONIA, zoophytes, II. 457.
 Alcyonidae, zoophytes, XXI. 1004.
 ALCYONTUM STAGNUM, lake, II. 457.
 ALCYONTUS (Peter), II. 457.
 ALDBOROUGH, a town in Yorkshire, II. 457.
 ALDEBARAN, star, II. 457, IV. 79, 82.
 ALDEBURGE, a town in Suffolk, II. 457.
 ALDERBERGER (Heinrich), engraver, II. 457.
 Aldehyde, in chemistry, VI. 509.
 ALDER tree, II. 457; V. 208; XVII. 759, 765—strength of the wood, XX. 757, 758—as a timber tree, XXI. 278.
 —(Mr), his work on the mollusca, XV. 327.
 ALDERHOLM, island, II. 457.
 ALDERMAN, II. 457.
 ALDERNEY, II. 457—harbour of refuge at, XI. 222—breed of cattle, XII. 730—race of, XVII. 580.
 Aldershot, military camp at, XI. 204.
 Alderton Melon pit, XI. 733.
 ALDELM (St), bishop, II. 458.
 ALDINE, II. 458; XIV. 292. See Aldus.
 ALDFORD, II. 458.
 ALDRED, bishop, II. 458.
 ALDRICH (Dr Henry), English divine, II. 458.
 —(Robert), bishop, II. 459.
 Aldrist, VIII. 411.
 ALDROVANDUS (Olysses), II. 459—his work on insects, IX. 2—on animals, XIV. 124—his MSS., XIII. 413—on ornithology, XVI. 725.
 ALDRON-MOOR, II. 459—lead mines of, VII. 577; XV. 243.

ALD—ALE

Aldus, his editions of the Greek classics, IV. 710; XVII. 522—his correction of the press, XVIII. 542. See Manuzio.
 ALE, II. 459; V. 332; IX. 759—ale-conner, II. 459—ale-silver, 560—brewing of, V. 318, 332—pale, or Indian, 332—home-brewed, 334—Scottish, 334, XIX. 805—bitter, V. 333—quantity exported from United Kingdom, 335—its average specific gravity, XII. 89—of Nottingham, XVI. 339—of London, XIV. 809—ale-measures, XXI. 808—of Edinburgh, V. 334.
 ALEA, II. 460.
 ALEANDRO (Geromino), II. 460.
 ALEATO, II. 460; X. 353.
 —fossil animals, XVII. 98.
 ALEATORIA, II. 460.
 ALEATOROMANTIA, II. 460.
 Aleators, birds, XVI. 785.
 A-LEE, a sea term, II. 460.
 ALEGAR, II. 460.
 ALEUTUS CAMPUS, II. 460.
 ALEMAN (Louis), archbishop, II. 460.
 —(Matteo), II. 460—his romance, XIX. 286.
 ALEMANNI, a German tribe, II. 460; X. 2, 576—their invasion of Italy, XIX. 349; of Helvetia, XX. 883.
 Alemannic language, X. 587.
 ALEMBERT (Jean le Rond), II. 460—his general survey of the various departments of human knowledge, founded on erroneous views, I. 1—his unsuccessful delineation of an encyclopedical tree, 3—quotation from, on his division of human knowledge, 3, 4—objections to this, 5, 6—his definition of poetry, 4, and n. 1—his identification of imagination with abstraction, 6—his diffidence in propounding his views, 7, n.—his encyclopedical tree only an amplification of Bacon's sketch, 7, 8—character of his preliminary discourse on the different branches of knowledge, 10—quotation from, on the bias of the mind from habits contracted in infancy, 64—his erroneous views on the necessary existence of space and time, 142, n.—his mathematical researches, character of his writings, 694—expanded the process of integration relative to *partial differences*, 716—discovery of the principle on which he framed his Treatise on Dynamics, 720, VIII. 364—sketch of his life and character, I. 720, n.—treated of hydrodynamics with his usual originality and depth, 724—on achromatic glasses, II. 93—his labours in astronomy, III. 809—his declaration about the election of an associate of the Academy of Sciences, I. 806—on the resolution of forces, VIII. 385—his connection with Diderot, 14—Condorcet's eulogy on, VII. 238—on the figure of the earth, IX. 552—on the motion of fluids, XII. 72—on imitative music, XV. 737—on the Provincial Letters of Pascal, XVII. 325, 330.
 ALEMBRO, II. 462.
 ALEMBROTTE, II. 462.
 ALENÇON, in France, II. 462—Jace, XIII. 142.
 ALENTO (Guhon), a Jesuit, II. 462.
 ALENQUEER, a Portuguese town, II. 462.
 ALENTERO, in Portugal, II. 462.
 Aleochara, genus of insects, IX. 104.
 Alepisaurus, genus of fishes, XII. 243, 213.
 Alepocephalidae, family of fishes, XII. 255.
 Alepocephalus, genus of fishes, XII. 255.
 ALEPPO, II. 462—pachalic of, XX. 905—plagues in, XVII. 748, 749, 751—temperature, XX. 907—taken by Saladin, VIII. 481.
 ALES (Alexander), II. 463.
 ALESSANDRI (Alessandro), lawyer, II. 464.
 ALESSANDRIA, a city of Italy, II. 464.
 —a province of Piedmont, II. 464; XIX. 640.
 ALESSI (Galeazzo), architect, II. 464.
 Alestes, genus of fishes, XII. 246.

ALE—ALE

ALET, a town of France, II. 464.
 Aletes, kings of Corinth, VII. 367.
 ALEUROMANCY, II. 464.
 ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, II. 464; XIX. 552—height of mountains in, XVII. 646—volcanoes, 589, 590.
 ALEXANDER THE GREAT, II. 466—a poor judge of merit in painting, III. 281, XVII. 56—educated by Aristotle, III. 453—his army, 638—era of, VI. 672—enlarged the boundaries of geographical knowledge, X. 462; III. 696—Egypt under, VIII. 467—his expedition to India, XI. 478, III. 752—his birth, XIII. 764—military exploits and conquests, 768 *et seq.*—his death and character, 772—his will, 773—burial, 774—Græco-Macedonian empire under, XI. 542—change in the Greek comage produced by, XVI. 355, 369—monarchy founded by, XV. 412—his invasion of Persia, XVII. 434—his rule in Syria, XX. 910—Tyre taken by, XXI. 405.
 —of Aphrodisias, II. 466.
 —of Iales, II. 466.
 —of Tralles, II. 466. See Tialianus
 —Bala, II. 466.
 —JANNÆTUS, II. 466.
 —SEVERUS, Roman Emperor, II. 466—reign of, XIX. 347.
 —V (Pope), II. 467.
 —VI (Pope), II. 467.
 —VII (Pope), II. 467, 541.
 —St, bishop of Rome, II. 467.
 —I, king of Scotland, II. 467, XIX. 751.
 —II, king of Scotland, II. 467, XIX. 753.
 —III, king of Scotland, II. 467, XIX. 753.
 —(NORL), II. 467.
 —(WILLIAM), earl of Stirling, II. 468, IV. 468.
 —(PAULOVIC), Emperor of Russia, II. 468—reign of, XIX. 491—Petersburg improved by, XVII. 437.
 —II, Emperor of Russia, XIX. 507.
 —of Phæra, XXI. 178.
 —Mount, gold-diggings at, IV. 289, 290.
 —king of Epirus, IX. 277.
 —hieroglyphical characters of the name, XI. 390.
 —(Prof.), on the prophecies of Isaiah, XII. 625.
 Alexandra, queen of the Jews, XII. 770.
 ALEXANDRETTA, II. 469. See Scanderoon.
 ALEXANDRIA, II. 469, 224, VIII. 496—academy of, 60—the depository of the sciences, under the Ptolemies, 751—era of, VI. 670—museum, III. 789; II. 475 destruction of the temple of Serapis in, VII. 810—embellished by Ptolemy Soter, VIII. 468—library of, 475; II. 733; XIII. 381—Pharos of, 463—battle of, in 1801, V. 584; VIII. 489—sieve of, by the Muslims, 475—commerce, ancient, VII. 185; XI. 480; modern, VIII. 517—Napoleon's opinion of its site, 420, n. 3—railway from, to Cairo, XX. 789—other ancient cities of that name, II. 478.
 —modern, II. 471.
 —a city of Virginia, II. 473; XXI. 754.
 —Russian city, II. 473.
 —in Louisiana, XIII. 699.
 ALEXANDRIAN MS., II. 474; XIII. 412.
 —SCROOL, II. 475—anatomical, 761—surgical, XX. 811—astronomical, III. 789—mathematical, X. 500—of medicine, XIV. 482—philology advanced by, XVII. 518—Platonists of, 793—end of this school, X. 502—poetry of the, XVIII. 108.
 —or Alexandrine verse, II. 476.
 Alexandrine Library, at Rome, XIII. 412.
 ALEXICACUS, II. 476.
 ALEXIN, in Russia, II. 476.
 ALEXIS, comic poet, II. 476.
 —a Piedmontese, II. 477.
 —Czar of Russia, II. 477.

ALE—ALG

Alexis, clairvoyant impostor, XX. 438.
 ALEXIUS I., II. 477.
 —Comnenus, VII. 316, 817.
 —Strategopulus, VII. 318.
 ALETN (Charles), II. 477.
 ALFAQUES, a Spanish seaport, II. 477.
 —Moonish clergy, so named, II. 477.
 ALFARABIUS, eastern philosopher, II. 477.
 ALFARO, a Spanish town, II. 477.
 ALFERGAN, Arabian astronomer, II. 477; III. 794.
 ALFET, II. 478.
 ALFIERI (Vittorio), II. 478—his tragedies, VIII. 147—his opinion of Washington, XXI. 765.
 Alfiores, people of Celebes, VI. 361.
 Alfonso. See Alphonso.
 ALFORD, a town in Lincolnshire, II. 480.
 —(MICHAEL), Jesuit, II. 480.
 —battle of, V. 406.
 —on the dates of St Paul's Epistles, XVII. 350.
 Alfigan, III. 794. See Alfeigan.
 ALFRED the Great, II. 480, VIII. 657—academy at Oxford founded by, II. 61—his translation of Boethius, IV. 808—his Doomsday Book, VIII. 98—Asser's life of, III. 776—his encouragement of science, XIV. 487—his navy, XVI. 89—trial by jury instituted by, XIII. 22—his ships, XX. 119—not the founder of Oxford University, XXI. 452.
 —(Prince), VIII. 662.
 ALFRITON, a town in Derbyshire, II. 481.
 Alfric, VIII. 661.
 ALGÆ, II. 481—natural order of plants, V. 217—their reproductive organs, 147—used as food, 218—their zones, 229—their classification uncertain, III. 194—distribution of, XVII. 630.
 ALGAIOLA, a Corsican seaport, II. 481.
 ALGARDI (Alessandro), II. 482; XIX. 864.
 ALGAROTI, II. 482; VI. 494.
 ALGAROTTI (Francesco, Count), II. 482.
 ALGARVE, a Portuguese province, II. 482—climate of, XVIII. 394.
 ALGAZEL, II. 482, 566; XIV. 210.
 ALGAZ, II. 482.
 ALGEBRA, II. 482—invention of, I. 556—first introduced into Europe by Leonardo of Pisa, 1b—first printed book on, 1b—Arabic notation introduced by Gerbert, 1b—system of Diophantus, 557—resolution of equations higher than the second degree, and extension of the rule by Cardan, 1b—merit of his discoveries, 558—poetical dress of his algebraic rules, 1b—properties of algebraic equations discovered very slowly, 1b—causes of this, 559—contributions to the science by Recorde, Bombelli, Vieta, Girard, Harriot, &c., 558, 559 (see these articles)—application of the algebraic analysis by Descartes to define the nature and investigate the properties of curve lines, 560—analysis of the work in which that discovery is announced, 1b—advantages of introducing algebra into geometry, 1b—the notation reduced to a system of symbolic writing, 561—the benefits of expressing quantity, and the operations on quantity, by conventional symbols, 1b—difference in practice between the algebraic and the geometric method of treating quantity, 1b—on the use of the signs *plus* and *minus*, 562, 709—algebraical signs, 703—Descartes' contributions to, 710; VI. 278—proposal of the *conchoid* by Newton, I. 711—advance made in, by the discoveries of Leibnitz, 1b—discoveries of De Moivre and Stirling, 1b—theory of quadratic factors, 712—further improvements in algebra, 712, 713—elementary works on, 713—valuable results of the introduction of, 560—applied to the calculation of annuities, III. 242; II. 536. See Equations, Negative Sign, Series, &c.
 ALGEMER, a town of Spain, II. 564.
 ALGENIE, star, II. 564.
 ALGER, a French priest, II. 564.
 Algeria, in Africa, II. 223; X. 262—de-

ALG—ALI

- clared to belong to France, 216—their conquests in, 217, 221.—Duke of Aumale, governor of, 230 See Algiers
- ALGEBIRAS, a Spanish city, II. 564; X. 620.
- or Algeciras Bay, X. 620.
- ALGHALIB-BILLAH, II. 565.
- ALGHAZZALI, II. 565.
- ALGHERI, a city in Sardinia, II. 585.
- ALGHISI (Francesco), musician, II. 565.
- (GALBAZZO), Italian architect, II. 565.
- (TOMASSO), Italian surgeon, II. 565.
- ALGHABARI, a Mahometan sect, II. 565.
- ALGIDUS, II. 565.
- ALGIERS, II. 565, 577; X. 263—Admiral Blake's negotiations with, IV. 752—Barbarossa proclaimed king of, 431—Lord Exmouth's attack on, V. 622—Bruce's residence at, 688—consul and vice-consuls at, VII. 336—taken by the French in 1830, X. 198—monarchy of, XV. 412—weights and measures of, XXI. 809—war with United States, 44.
- ALGOA-BAY, II. 577; X. 711.
- ALGOR, star, II. 577; IV. 84.
- ALGONKIN, the, group of Indian tribes, IX. 347.
- ALGOR, II. 577.
- ALGORITM, II. 577.
- ALGUAZIL, II. 577.
- ALGYTA, a genus of reptiles, XIX. 30.
- ALHAMA, Spanish city, II. 577.
- ALHAMBRA, II. 577; X. 794; III. 449.
- ALHABIRIN EL GRANDE, a Spanish town, II. 579.
- ALHAZEN, II. 579; III. 795, X. 503—his explanation of objects appearing larger near the horizon, I. 621—his work on optics, and the value of his researches, 622, 623; XIII. 449; XVI. 523—solution of a very difficult problem by, I. 622.
- ALHUCEMAS, II. 579. See Alucemas.
- ALI, cousin to Mahomet, II. 579—reign of, III. 363—tomb of, at Mesjid Ali, XIV. 546.
- BEX, an eastern adventurer, II. 580; VIII. 488.
- BEX, traveller under that name, II. 580; IV. 361.
- Murad, XIII. 79.
- PACHA, II. 580—history and character of, II. 441.
- Pacha of Egypt, VIII. 430.
- a town of Sicily, II. 580.
- ALIAS, in law, II. 580.
- Alibaud, his attempt on the life of Louis Philippe, X. 212.
- ALIBI, in law, II. 581.
- ALIZANTE, a city of Spain, II. 581—battle near, V. 613—insurrection at, in 1844, XX. 482.
- ALICATA, a city of Sicily, II. 581; XX. 245.
- ALIZOUZ, island, II. 581; XIII. 502.
- ALIZEN, II. 581, 687—Lord Grenville's alien bill, V. 546.
- Priorities, II. 582.
- ALLENATION, in law, II. 582—mental, XIV. 426. See Mental Diseases.
- Alima hyalina, VII. 542.
- ALIMENT, in the law of Scotland, II. 582.
- ALIMENTARIA LEX, II. 582.
- ALIMENTARIUM PUBLI, II. 582.
- ALIMENTARY DUCT or canal, II. 582.
- function, III. 3—its organs, 69.
- Alimentativeness, XVII. 562.
- ALIMENTS, II. 582; XVII. 565; XIX. 610, 611—their effects on health, XIV. 440—of plants and animals, III. 178—distinguished from medicines and poisons, *ib.* See Dietetics, Food, Nutrition.
- ALIMONY, II. 582.
- ALIPILARUS, II. 582.
- ALIPTERIUM, II. 582.
- ALIVANT PART, II. 582.
- ALIVOT PART, II. 582.
- Alismaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 214.
- ALISON (Rev. Archibald), II. 582; XXI. 411—his theory of beauty, IV. 540—on the pleasure arising from the study of antiquity, 545; from the contemplation

ALI—ALL

- of natural scenery, *ib.*—on associations peculiar to individuals, 547—on the causes of our admiration of Greek architecture, 549.
- Alison (Sir Archibald), II. 583; XXI. 413.
- (Professor), II. 583—on single vision, XIII. 462.
- ALISONTIA, river, II. 583.
- ALIWAL, village in N. India, II. 583—Sikhs defeated at, XI. 509.
- Alizatin, VIII. 282.
- ALJAMEIA, II. 583.
- ALKADARI, II. 583.
- ALKAHEST, II. 583.
- ALKALI, II. 583; XV. 65—in soils, V. 98—metals of the alkalies, VI. 484—in the composition of the earth's crust, XVII. 619—Sir H. Davy's decomposition of, by means of galvanism, VII. 669, I. 968—alkaline poisons, XIV. 434; XVII. 129.
- ALKALIMETER, II. 583.
- ALKALOIDS, II. 583—alkaloids as alteratives, XIX. 611.
- ALKANET, plant, II. 584; V. 201, III. 122.
- ALKENDI, II. 584.
- ALKMAAR, II. 584. See Alkmaer.
- ALKORAN, II. 584. See Alcoran.
- ALLA, or Allah, II. 584.
- ALLAGNA, town of Piedmont, II. 584.
- ALLAHABAD, in Hindustan, II. 584; XVI. 301, XI. 479.
- Allamand (M.), his criticism on Locke's argument against innate ideas, I. 107—extract of a letter from, to Gibbon, 250—Gibbon's account of, 107, n. 1.
- ALLAN (David), II. 585.
- (Thomas), stereotyping improved by, XVIII. 550.
- (Sir William), II. 585; XXI. 866.
- Bridge of, II. 586; XX. 704.
- river, II. 586; XX. 702.
- Allanite, mineral, XV. 90.
- ALLANTOIS, II. 586; XVII. 686.
- ALLATIUS (Leo), II. 586.
- ALLECTUS, II. 586; V. 380.
- Allecula, genus of insects, IX. 132.
- ALLEGANY, several counties in U.S. so named, II. 586.
- Indians, II. 680.
- mountains, II. 586; XVI. 213; XVII. 504, 394, XXI. 420, 743—their geology, II. 587, 675.
- river, II. 587; XVII. 395.
- ALLEGATA, II. 587.
- Allegewia, II. 683.
- ALLEGIANCE, II. 587.
- oath of, II. 588.
- church, I. 537—generally due to the church in which a man has been brought up, 543.
- ALLEGORY, II. 588, XIX. 182—propensity of the orientals for, XV. 769—in Spenser, XVIII. 121—French allegorical romance, 115.
- ALLEGRI (Antonio), or Correggio, painter, II. 588—his style, III. 709; XVII. 72.
- (Gregorio), II. 589.
- ALLEGRO, II. 589.
- ALLEN (Joseph and Richard), II. 589.
- ALLEVIATION, II. 589.
- ALLEMOND, French town, II. 590.
- Allen, bog of, XIII. 81, 91; XXI. 266.
- (Dr John), II. 590—his charge against Dr Lingard, XIII. 486.
- (Dr John), his plan for propelling vessels by ejecting water from the stern, XX. 636.
- (John), archbishop, II. 590.
- (Rev. J. N.), on the climate of Dadr, VII. 618.
- Lough, XIII. 327.
- (Thomas), II. 590.
- (William), II. 590.
- (Captain W.), on the Dead Sea, XVII. 188.
- ALLENDORF, II. 590.
- ALLER, river, II. 590.
- a Saxon form of the superlative, II. 590.
- ALLERTON, in heraldry, II. 590.
- ALLESTREE or Allestry (Richard, D.D.), II. 590.

ALL—ALM

- ALLESTRY (Jacob), II. 591.
- ALLEY (William), II. 591.
- ALLEYN (Edward), English actor, II. 591—Dulwich College founded by, VIII. 235; XXI. 167.
- ALL-HALLOW, or *All-Sants*, II. 584.
- ALLIA, river, II. 592.
- Alliaceous plants, XI. 741—used as food, IX. 760.
- ALLIANCE, II. 592—of France and England against Russia, VIII. 40.
- Holy See Holy Alliance.
- ALLIER, in France, II. 592.
- (Louis), II. 592.
- Alles of Rome, XIX. 307.
- ALLIGATT, II. 592.
- ALLIGATION, II. 592.
- ALLIGATOR, II. 593, XVII. 634; XIX. 25—teeth of, XVI. 437.
- machine used in the manufacture of iron, XII. 559.
- ALLIOT, star, II. 593.
- ALLITERATION, II. 593—in the Kaffir language, XIII. 226.
- ALLIUM, a genus of plants, II. 594; XI. 741.
- ALLIX (Pierre), II. 594.
- Allman (Prof.), on the genus Polyzoon, XXI. 1002.
- ALLOA, in Clackmannanshire, II. 594—ferry at, VI. 749—collieries at, 750—port of, 751—trade and commerce, *ib.*
- ALLOCATION, II. 594.
- Allochroite, mineral, XV. 85.
- ALLOUTRO, II. 594.
- ALLODIUM, II. 594.
- Allopathy, or Allopathy, XI. 606.
- Allogonite, mineral, XV. 94.
- Alloporphite, mineral, XV. 95.
- Allonville, great oak of, XXI. 270.
- Allophane, mineral, XV. 83.
- ALLOPI (Alessandro), II. 594.
- (Christofano), II. 594.
- Allostropism, VI. 447.
- ALLOXAN, II. 595.
- ALLOY, II. 595, VI. 484.
- ALL-SAINTS, island, II. 584.
- ALL-SAINT'S BAY, II. 584.
- ALL-SOULS, in the calendar, II. 584.
- ALL-Souls College, Oxford, XXI. 459.
- Alspice, XVII. 710.
- ALSTADT, in Saxe-Weimar, II. 595.
- ALSTON (Washington), painter, II. 595.
- Alundite, mineral, XV. 101.
- ALUMBER, a heraldic term, II. 595.
- ALLUMINOR, II. 595.
- ALLUSION, II. 595.
- Aluvial formation, XVII. 587.
- ALLUVION, in law, II. 595.
- ALLUVIUM, II. 595, VII. 722.
- ALLYGUR, II. 595—sepooy mutiny at, XVI. 809.
- ALMUCANTARS, II. 595. See Almucantars.
- Alma, river in the Crimea—battle of the, VII. 503; XIX. 503; XXI. 375.
- ALMADA, a Portuguese town, II. 595—beds, geological formation, XIII. 507.
- ALMADEN, town in Spain, II. 595—quick-silver mines of, XV. 237; XX. 489.
- ALMADIE, II. 595.
- ALMAGEST, II. 595; III. 793, 794.
- ALMAGRE, II. 596.
- Almagrera silver mines, XV. 234.
- ALMAGRO, a Spanish city, II. 596.
- (Diego de), II. 596; XVII. 463.
- the younger, II. 597.
- ALMANUS, II. 597—his patronage of literature and science, 755; XIV. 456, of astronomy, III. 794; of medicine, XX. 814—his attempts to ascertain the dimensions of the earth, IX. 548; X. 468.
- ALMANACK, II. 598—old almanacks, III. 581, 592—poor Richard's, X. 290.
- (NAUTICAL), II. 598; I. 884; III. 814, 815; XIV. 385, 386; XXI. 965—improved by Bailly, IV. 875; and Airy, XIII. 687—its use in finding the longitude, *ib.* *et seq.*—American, III. 815.
- among antiquaries, II. 598.
- Almandine, XV. 84—ruby, 87.
- ALMANSA, Spanish city, II. 599.

ALM—ALP

- ALMANSUR, caliph, II. 599—his patronage of astronomy, III. 794; and medicine, XIV. 456.
- Almanzor, Moorish general in Spain, XX. 463.
- ALMARAZ, Spanish town, II. 599.
- ALMARIC, II. 599.
- Almas cavern, in Transylvania, XII. 10.
- ALMAZARON, II. 599. See Mazarron.
- ALMAZORA, Spanish town, II. 599.
- ALME, or Alma, Egyptian dancing-gulls, II. 600; VIII. 443, 448.
- ALMEHRAB, II. 600.
- ALMEIDA, Portuguese fortress, II. 600; V. 608.
- ALMETSAR, ancient Arabian game, II. 600.
- ALMELO, in the Netherlands, II. 600.
- Almenar (George), physician, XIV. 457.
- ALMERIA, city and province of Spain, II. 600.
- ALMEYDA (Don Francisco), II. 600.
- ALMINGG, II. 601. See Almuggum.
- ALMISSA, town in Dalmatia, II. 601.
- ALMOHEDRES, II. 601, 602; XX. 461.
- ALMOND tree, II. 601; V. 191—culture of, XI. 711—prussic acid in the kernels of the fruit, XIV. 437.
- oil, XVI. 495, 497—Indian, 498.
- furnace, II. 601.
- river in Edinburghshire, VIII. 409; XIII. 487.
- viaduct on the Edinburgh and Glasgow railway, XVIII. 763.
- ALMONDBURY, township in Yorkshire, II. 601.
- ALMONDS, in anatomy, II. 601.
- ALMONER, II. 601.
- LORD HIGH, II. 601.
- ALMORAH, II. 602.
- ALMORAVIDES, II. 602, 620; XX. 461.
- Almqvist (J. C. L.), Swedish author, XIX. 710.
- ALMS, II. 603—alms' chest, *ib.*
- houses in England, VIII. 748.
- giving, objections to, XVIII. 296.
- ALMUCANTARS, in astronomy, II. 603; IV. 2; VI. 732—staff, II. 603.
- ALMUCUM, II. 603.
- ALMUDE, Portuguese liquid measure, II. 603.
- ALMUGGUM tree, II. 603.
- ALMUNECA, Spanish city, II. 603.
- ALNAGE, II. 603.
- ALNAGER, II. 603.
- ALNUS, genus of plants, II. 603; V. 208.
- ALNWICK, II. 603—castle, XVI. 300—diminished mortality in, owing to sanitary measures, XIX. 604.
- ALOA, II. 604.
- ALOE or Aloes, genus of plants, II. 604; V. 212—American aloe, *ib.*—poisonous to some animals, III. 179—aloe fibre, XXI. 783.
- ALOGI, ancient heretics, II. 604.
- ALOGOTROPHIA, II. 604.
- Alompra, V. 782.
- Alomya, genus of insects, IX. 189.
- Alontium or Aluntium, II. 641.
- Alonzo. See Alphonso.
- ALOPECIA, II. 604.
- Alopecias, genus of fishes, XII. 324, 322.
- Alopedias, family of fishes, XII. 324.
- ALOPEOURUS, a genus of grasses, II. 604.
- ALORA, Spanish town, II. 604.
- ALORA, genus of fossil fishes, II. 604; XII. 347.
- ALOST, a Belgian town, II. 604.
- Alouettes, or howling monkeys, XIV. 142.
- ALPACA, a species of llama, II. 605; XIV. 205—in Bolivia, IV. 821, 822—in Ecuador, VIII. 387—Peru, XVII. 473—wool of, XXI. 906.
- ALPARGATES, II. 605.
- ALP ARSLAN, Sultan, II. 604; XVII. 437—his war with Romanus IV., XIX. 355.
- ALPHA, II. 605.
- ALPHABET, II. 605—Coptic, XI. 412—Egyptian, 417—stenographic alphabets, XX. 675—alphabet of nature, 876—for the blind, IV. 776—finger, 778—in electric telegraphs, XXI. 102, 115 *et seq.*

ALP—ALT

ALPHEUS, father of James the Less, II 617.
ALPHET (Mikapher), II 617.
ALPHEUS, II 617; XI 11.
ALPHONSE, islands, II 617.
ALPHONSIN, in surgery, II 617.
Alphonine Tables, II 630.
ALPRONSO, the name of 22 Spanish and Portuguese sovereigns, II 618.
—— I. king of Aragon, XX 463.
—— X. king of Castile, II 619—astronomy cultivated by, III 796.
ALPRONSUS, Spanish historian, II 622.
Alpi Apuane, in Tuscany, XXI 392.
Alpine plants in Scotland, XIX 798.
ALPINT (Prospero), II 632—on the balsam of Mecca, IV 401, 402—on the plague, XVII 749.
ALPISTE, or Alpia, II 623.
ALPS, II 623, IX 381; XVII 596; XX 887; XXI 495—botany of the, V 226—glaciers of, X 634 *et seq*—eocene rocks of, XV 214—Hannibal's passage of, II 623; VI 293, XI 209—Bonaparte's passages, X 105, 118—geology of, 583; XVII 596—scenery of, compared with that of the Himalayas, XI 438—snow-level, XVII 602—chamois and ibex, peculiar to, 630, 632—heights of the principal peaks, 642—rivers proceeding from, XIX 181—Simplon pass and road, XX 298—of the Valais, XXI 504.
—— (HIGHER and LOWER) departments of France, II 628.
ALPREGHIN, II 628.
ALPUJARRAS, in Spain, II 628.
ALQUIERE, Portuguese measure, II 628.
ALREEDUS, English historian, II 625.
ALRESFORD, town in Hants, II 628.
ALSACE, in France, II 628, X 277—Charles X.'s journey to, 195—wines of, XXI 883.
ALSIN, Danish island, II 629.
ALSFELD, in Hesse Darmstadt, II 629.
Alsh (Loch), XIX 798.
ALSRAESH, city and province in Bokhara, II 629.
ALSREDA, in Sweden, II 629.
ALSIRAT, II 629.
ALSTUM, an ancient city of Etruria, II 629.
ALSTOR (Anthony), II 629.
—— (VINCENT), II 629.
ALSTRAUPE, II 629.
ALSTED (J. Heinrich), II 629.
Alster, river, XII 188.
ALSTON (Charles), II 629.
Alston's alphabetical system for the blind, IV 781; XVIII 554.
Alstonite, mineral, XV 95.
ALSTON-MOOR, II 630. See Aldston-moor.
ALT, in music, II 630.
—— or ALT, branch of the Danube, II 630; XII 10.
ALTAL mountains, II 630; III 784; XVII 599; XIX 548.
Altaic race of man, II 775. See Mongolian.
Altaite, mineral, XV 118.
ALTAMURA, a Neapolitan city, II 630.
ALTAR, II 630; III 433—use of, in Christian churches, derived from Judaism and Paganism, I 510.
ALTAR-THANE, II 632.
Alt-azimuth mounting of telescopes, XXI 143.
ALTDAMM, city in Pomerania, II 632.
ALTDORF, town in Bavaria, II 632—in Baden, *ib.*—in Switzerland, *ib.*, XX 882.
ALTDORFER (Albert), II 632.
ALTEA, town in Spain, II 632.
ALTELAND, in Hanover, II 632.
ALTENA, II 632. See Altona.
—— a circle and town in Westphalia, II 632.
—— river in Finmark, XIII 234.
ALTENBERG, II 632—tin mine of, XV 240.
ALTENBRUCH, II 632.
ALTENBURG, II 632; XIX 680.
ALTENKIRCHEN, II 632.
ALTERRANTS, in medicine, II 633—in dyeing, VIII 278.

ALT—AMA

ALTERN-BASE, II 633.
ALTERNATE, in heraldry, II 633.
—— husbandry, II 263.
ALTERNATION, II 633—of beds, in geology, XV 161.
ALTERNATIVE, II 633.
ALTHERA, a genus of plants, II 633; V 184.
Althorp, (Lord) See Spencer, Earl.
Althca, genus of insects, IX 150.
ALTIN, II 633—lake in Siberia, *ib*.
ALTING (Heinrich), II 633.
—— (JACOB), II 633.
—— (MENSO), II 634.
Altingaceae, nat. order of plants, V 207.
ALTINUM, II 634.
ALTITUDE, II 634—instrument, *ib*—of geometrical figures, X 520.
ALTKEICH, in France, II 634.
Altmann (L.), his works on insects, IX 21.
ALTMOHL, river, II 634.
ALTO-BASSO, II 634—fagotto, *ib.*—ri-pieno, *ib*. See Music.
—— Douro, wines of, XXI 884.
Alto-Relievo, II 634; IV 492; XIX 5.
AUTOMONTE, Italian town, II 634.
ALTON, town in Hants, II 634—village in Staffordshire, *ib*.
ALTONA, II 634—climate of, VII 746.
ALTORF, II 634. See Altdorf.
ALTRANSTADT, town in Saxony, II 634.
ALTRINGHAM, in Chester, II 635—carrot, XI 740.
ALTSOL, II 635.
ALTSTRELITZ, German town, II 635.
ALUCEMAS, island, II 635.
Alucita, genus of insects, IX 218.
ALUDERS, II 635.
ALUM, II 635, XV 97—sometimes used by bakers, IV 381—prevents dry rot VIII 212—in dyeing, 273, 277, 279, 293—used in adulterating bread, IX 770—specific gravity of, XII 88—optical properties of, XVI 690.
—— slate, II 638.
—— stone, II 637; XV 96.
Alum Bay, eocene beds of, XV 212—excellence of its sand for window-glass, X 662.
Alumina, VI 488; XV 65—in rocks and soils, II 389 *et seq.*—a mordant in dyeing, VIII 279, 315—sulphate of, II 638.
Aluminate, II 639; XV 96.
Aluminium, VI 487.
Alum-root, plant, V 194.
Alumite, mineral, XV 96.
ALUNNO (Nicolo) II 641.
Alunogene, mineral, XV 97.
ALUNTRUM, or Alontium, II 641.
Alutrus, genus of insects, IX 148.
Alutrus, genus of fishes, XII 313.
ALVA DE TORMES, II 641, 440.
ALVA or ALBA (F. A. de Toledo, Duke of), II 641—his proceedings in the Netherlands, XI 513 *et seq.*—his cruelties in Brussels, V 699.
ALVARADO (Pedro de), II 643; XI 77.
—— Mexican town, XIV 725.
ALVARES DE LUNA, II 643.
ALVARES (Francisco), II 643.
—— (DON JOSE and MANUEL), II 643.
—— (Juan), president of the Mexican republic, XIV 714.
ALVEOLUS, II 643.
ALVERCA, town in Portugal, II 643.
ALVINZ, in Transylvania, II 643.
Alvini (General), XV 788 *et seq.*
ALWALDI, a Mahometan sect, II 644.
ALWUR, in Central India, II 644.
ALYATES, king of Lydia, II 644; XIII 747—barrow of, IV 473.
ALYPIUS, II 644; XII 776.
Alyson, genus of insects, IX 196.
ALYTAUCHA, II 644.
ALYTE, a burgh in Perthshire, II 644.
ALYZIA, an ancient city of Acarnania, II 644.
ALZIRA, II 644. See Alcira.
AMA, II 644.
AMABRE, II 644.
AMAC, Persian poet, II 644.

AMA—AMB

Amada, temple of, III 434, 436, 441.
Amadan. See Hamadan.
AMADEUS, V, VIII, and IX, counts of Savoy, II 644, 645, XXI 509.
—— II, king of Sicily, XIX 641.
AMADIA, town in Kurdistan, II 645.
AMADIS DE GAULA, II 645.
AMADOU, II 645.
AMENUPHTHES, Egyptian king, XI 389.
AMAIN, a sea-term, II 645.
AMAK, island, II 645.
AMAL, Swedish town, II 645.
AMALAGAN, II 646.
AMALARIC, II 648.
AMALASONTA, II 646.
Amalden, quicksilver mines at, XV 237.
AMALBETTES, II 646.
AMALFI, Italian city, II 647, XX 240—alleged discovery of the Pandects at, VI 747—royal palace of, XV 782.
AMALGAM, II 647; VI 498—for electrical machines, VIII 536.
—— mineral, XV 114.
AMALGAMATION, II 647—extraction of silver by, V 46.
AMALIA, II 648.
AMALTEO, name of three Italian poets, II 648.
—— (POMPONIO), painter, II 648.
AMALTHEA, II 648.
Amakhef, ammonites, XVII 118.
AMAMA (Sixtus), II 648.
AMAND (M. A. G. Sieur de St), II 648.
—— (SAINT), towns in France, II 648.
AMANTIA, Neapolitan seaport, II 648.
AMANUS, mountain of Syria, II 648.
Amaponda, Kafrarian tribe, XIII 32, 37.
AMARANTACEAE, or Amaranthaceae, an order of plants, II 649; V 203.
AMARANTE, a Swedish order of knight-hood, II 648.
AMARAPURA, II 649. See Ummerapoora.
AMARA SINHA, II 648.
Amarygmus, genus of insects, IX 132.
AMARYLLIDEE, or Amaryllidaceae, an order of plants, II 649; V 212.
AMARYNTIA, festival, II 649.
AMARYNTHOS, amphitryony of, II 729.
AMASA, II 649.
AMASIA, II 649.
AMASIS, king of Egypt, II 649; VIII 465; XI 389.
Amatebun, Kafrarian tribe, XIII 32, 37.
Amathusia, genus of insects, IX 208.
AMATI (Pasquale), II 649.
Amativeness, faculty of, XVII 562, 673.
AMATUS LUSTANUS, II 649.
AMAUROSIS, II 649—in the domestic animals, XXI 578.
Amaury, his invasion of Egypt, VIII 480.
AMAXIOCHI, II 649; XII 452; XIII 348.
Amakosa, Kafrarian tribe, XIII 32, 37.
AMAZIAH, king of Judah, II 649.
Amazighis, African race, XV 594, 595.
AMAZON, river, II 650, 675; V 292; III 675, XVII 603, 646; XIX 182—basin of the, II 668; its flora, V 293; XVII 629—physical characters of, XVI 87—Acuna's exploratory voyage on the, II 120—navigation of the, 675—sea freshened by the water of, XVII 573—its connection with the Orinoco, XVI 716—bores in, XVII 581—country inundated by, 601—silvas of, 604, 609.
—— stone, mineral, XV 70.
Amazonas, in Peru, XVII 474.
AMAZONS, female warriors, II 650.
AMBAEHT, II 652.
AMBARVALIA, II 652.
AMBASSADOR, II 652.
Ambassia, genus of fishes, XII 275.
Ambato, town in Ecuador, XI 197.
AMBE, in surgery, II 655.
AMBER, II 655, XV 124—electricity of, VIII 528—mines of, in Burmah, V 779—of the *Aesti*, X 572—specific gravity of, XII 88—fossil insects in, XVII 103—in Prussia, XVIII 669, 712—statue of, XIX 844—in Yunnan, XXI 960—its use in making varnish, 628.
—— TREE, II 656.

AMB—AME

AMBERG, II 656.
AMBERGER (Christopher), painter, II 656.
AMBERGRIS, II 656; XIV 233.
AMBERT, a French town, II 658.
AMBIAHI, now Amiens, II 658.
AMBIDEXTER, II 658.
AMBIENT, II 658.
AMBIGENAE OVES, II 658.
AMBIGENAL HYPERBOLA, II 658.
Ambiguity, fallacies of, IX 478.
AMBIGUOUS, II 658.
Ambiotoca, genus of fishes, XII 268.
Ambiotocidae, family of fishes, XII 268.
AMBIT, II 658.
AMBITION, II 658.
AMBITUS, II 658.
Amble, pace of a horse, XI 656.
AMBLESIDE, in Westmoreland, II 658.
AMBLETUSE, in France, II 658.
Amblogaster, genus of fishes, XII 237.
AMBLYGON, in geometry, II 659.
AMBLYGONITE, mineral, II 659; XV 74.
Amblyopis, genus of fishes, XII 236.
Amblyopus, genus of fishes, XII 306.
AMBLYOPTY, II 659.
Amblypterus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 384; XVII 125.
Amblyrhynchus, teeth of, XVI 434.
Amblysemus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 386.
Amblyteres, genus of insects, IX 123.
Amblyurus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 334.
AMBO, or Ambon, II 659.
AMBOISE, French town, II 659.
—— (FRANCOIS and GEORGE D'), II 659.
Amboncychia, fossil mollusks, XVII 106.
AMBOYNA, island, II 659; XV 404—lizard, XIX 32—serpents of, 54.
AMBRACIA, in Epirus, II 661.
AMBRESBURY, II 662. See Amesbury.
AMBROGI (Domenico), painter, II 662.
AMBROSES, II 662.
AMBROSE, of Alexandria, II 662.
—— (St), bishop of Milan, II 662; VII 311—said to have introduced antiphonal singing, III 277.
—— (ISAAO), II 664.
—— (Saint), island, II 664.
AMBROSIA, II 664.
AMBROSIAN OFFICE, or rite, II 664; XIII 516.
—— library, at Milan, XIII 413.
—— liturgy, XIII 516.
AMBROSIN, coin, II 664.
AMBROSIO Aurelianus, II 664—Stonelonge said to have been erected by, XX 709.
AMBREY, II 665.
AMBULANCE, II 665.
AMBULANCE, II 665.
AMBULANT, II 665.
AMBULATORY, II 665.
AMBURBURUM, II 665.
Ambustus (Q. Fabius), XIX 308.
AMEDABAD, city of Hindustan, II 665.
AMEDIAN, an order of monks, II 665.
AMENDUGUE, in Hindustan, II 665; VII 690.
Amellion, on the classification of books, IV 715, 716.
Amelvas, reptiles, XIX 28.
AMELAND, island, II 665.
AMELIA, II 666.
—— ISLE, II 666.
AMELOT de la Houssaye (A. Nicolas), II 666.
AMELOTTE (Denis), II 666.
—— (F.), his French New Testament, IV 701.
AMEN, II 66.
—— Egyptian deity, VIII 486.
AMEND, or Amende, II 668—amende honorable, *ib*.
AMENDMENT, II 668. See Parliament.
Amenemha I. II. III. IV., Egyptian kings, VIII 455, 456.
Amen-nunt, Egyptian queen, VIII 480.
Amenoph I. II. III., Egyptian kings, VIII 460.
Amenophis, his encouragement of the mili-

AME—AME

tary spirit among the Egyptians, III 621.
 Amenophium, temple of, in Egypt, VIII. 510.
 Amenses, XI 388.
 Amentia, XIV. 426.
 Amentiferous trees or shrubs, V. 115, 207, 208.
 AMENTUM, or Ament, II. 666; V. 115.
 AMERCEMENT, in law, II. 686.
 Amerhinus, genus of insects, IX. 140.
 AMERIA, II. 666.
 AMERICA, II. 667—physical astronomy in, I. 827—armies of, III. 661—Cabot's discoveries in, VI. 47—botany, V. 225, 227, 228; XVII. 627, 628, 629—discovery of, by Columbus, VII. 115, 188; X. 471, and *n*—effects on commerce of the influx of gold and silver from, VII. 189—corn trade of, 404—cotton-wool, 447—trade with England, VIII. 741, 783—emigration to, 650, 651—insects of, IX. 69—ethnology, 347—fairs in, 469—glass-making, X. 660—antiquities of Central, XI. 77—rifle of, 101—first to establish commerce with Japan, XII. 698—variation of the needle in, XIV. 51, 53—languages of, XIII. 199, 203, XVII. 536—religious missions to foreign countries, XV. 270, sum of money expended on, 272—education in, 820—newspaper press, XVI. 192, 193, 194, 195—coinage, 390—tertiary strata, XVII. 588—mean elevation of the surface, 590—mountains of, 592; height of, 644, 645—mammals of, 631, 632—birds, 633, 634; XVI. 732—serpents, 634—distinction between fossil fauna of, and that of the old world, 638—clocks, VII. 18—Academy of Sciences, II. 66—Oriental Society of, III. 759—Bible Society, IV. 704—supply of the precious metals from, XVIII. 460—produce of the American mines, 460, 461, 462—reptiles of, XIX. 25, 28 *et seq*, 54.
 (North), aurora borealis in, IV. 244—Humboldt's vertical section of, 469—war between the British and French in, V. 463—remarkable wooden bridge in, VI. 384—temperature, 770, 773—its colonization by the British, VII. 136—British colonies in, 147—exports from Britain to, 190—fur trade, X. 345, 347—glaciers, 635—languages, XIII. 219—hospitals for the insane, XIV. 528—mines of, XV. 232, 234—metallic produce, 248—lower Silurian rocks, 197—upper Silurian, 199—Devonian, 200—carboniferous, 204—eocene, 214—miocene, *ib*—extent of its coast-line, XVII. 585—mountains, 593, 594; height of, 645—rivers, 604—earthquakes in the southern districts, 616—iron ores of, XII. 541—discoveries in the Arctic regions of, XVIII. 170—post-office, 406, 408—presbyterianism in, 491—Associate Synod of, 492—Quakers in, 720, schisms among, 721—prison discipline in, 571—as a receptacle for British convicts, 576—Russian possessions in, XIX. 552—course of the rivers of, 181—surgery in, XX. 819—timber of, XXI. 276—Tocqueville on, XXI. 299—slavery in, XXI. 321—suicide, 799—states of, 419—debt of the different states of, 428—cultivation of the vine, and winemaking in, 888—volcanoes of, 602—emigration to, 677—map of, II. PL. XXII. See United States, New York, and the other North American States, Canada, &c.; Washington, Jefferson, &c.
 (South), French scientific expedition to, V. 243; IX. 549—recognition by Britain of the independence of the republics of, V. 638—trade with England, VIII. 738—ethnology, IX. 348, 349—languages, XIII. 223—mines, XV. 235—metallic produce, 243, 248—birds, XVI. 732—pearl fisheries, XVII. 357—extent of its coast-line, 585—tendency to elevation in the whole continent, 590—volcanoes of, 590, 593; XXI. 603, 605—height of mountains, XVII. 645

AME—ANM

—rivers of, 603—Humboldt's travels in, I. 992; his view of the distribution of plants in tropical America, XVII. PL. IV—slavery in, XX. 321—wines of, XXI. 882—map of, II. PL. XXIII. See the different countries of; Andes, Amazon, &c.
 AMERICA, UNITED STATES OF, II. 714. See United States.
 American Indians, II. 676, 680; VI. 146; IX. 347, 348, 349—traditions of the Deluge among, VII. 719. See Cherokees, Esquimaux, &c.
 American war, V. 469, 477, 480 *et seq*—Burke's opposition to, 776—compensation to the royalists, 527. See United States, Washington.
 AMERIGO VESPUTCI, II. 714. See Vesputci.
 AMERSFOORT, a Dutch town, II. 714.
 AMERSHAM, in Bucks, II. 714.
 AMES (Fisher), II. 715, XXI. 424—celebrated speech of, XXI. 758.
 —(JOSEPH), II. 715—his typographical antiquities, IV. 707.
 —(WILLIAM), D.D., II. 715.
 AMESBURY, in Wilts, II. 715.
 AMETHYST, II. 715; XV. 69—structure of, XVI. 541—in heraldry, II. 715—circular polarization in, XVI. 676, 677—dichroism, 666.
 AMETHYSTINE, II. 715.
 AMHARA, II. 715, 56.
 Amharic or Abyssinian alphabet, II. 615—language, II. 57, XIII. 225.
 AMHERST (Jeffrey), Lord, II. 715.
 —(General), V. 463.
 —in India, II. 715.
 —in Hants, Massachusetts, U.S., II. 716.
 AMHERSTBURG, II. 716.
 AMHURST (Nicholas), II. 716.
 Amia, genus of fishes, XII. 316, 317.
 AMIANTHUS or Asbestos, II. 716; XV. 81.
 Amiatia, mountain, XXI. 392, 393.
 AMICABLE BENCHES, II. 716.
 —numbers, II. 716.
 Amici (Prof.), his micrometer, XIV. 749—on compound object-glasses, 777, 778, 782—his microscopes, 780, 783, 785.
 —(Vicenzo), on the microscope, XIV. 785.
 AMICTUS, II. 716.
 AMICUS CURLE, II. 716.
 AMIDA, Japanese god, II. 716.
 Amide, VI. 466.
 AMIENS, II. 716; XX. 412—population, X. 277—peace of, V. 585, 587; X. 121, 126; XV. 794—manufacture of cotton and cotton-velvet at, X. 262.
 Amidae, family of fishes, XII. 317.
 AMILCAR, II. 717. See Hamilcar.
 AMILCHI, II. 717.
 Amin (Muhammad), XVII. 90.
 AMINTA, II. 717.
 AMIOT (Père), Jesuit, II. 717—on the Chinese, VI. 587—on ancient Chinese characters, 572, 577.
 AMIUS, in Pontus, II. 717.
 AMITERNUM, II. 717.
 AMITTERE LEGEM TERRÆ, II. 717.
 AMIWOKE, seaport in Anglesey, II. 717.
 AMMA, II. 717.
 AMMAN (J. Conrad), II. 717.
 —(PAUL), II. 717.
 —or Amman, II. 718.
 AMMANATI (Bartolomeo), II. 718.
 AMMANIUS MARCELLINUS, II. 718.
 AMMIANUS (Scipio), II. 718.
 Ammobates, genus of insects, IX. 200.
 Ammocetes, genus of fishes, XII. 228.
 Ammocetidae, family of fishes, XII. 225.
 AMMODYTES, genus of fishes, II. 718.
 AMMON, or Ammonium, II. 718; XVI. 397.
 —the Egyptian Jupiter, II. 719, 724; XI. 382.
 —(ANDREAS), Latin poet, II. 719.
 —(DR.), on the Pentateuch, XVII. 402—on theology, XXI. 194 *et seq*.
 AMMONTA, II. 719; VI. 507; XV. 65—its composition, II. 720; VI. 465—salts of, 500—a constituent of the atmosphere, II. 376; VI. 463, 465—specific gravity

AMM—AMP

of, XII. 89—absorbed by the roots of plants, II. 379; V. 95—poisonous properties of, XIV. 434, 435—decomposition of, II. 384—Davy's experiments on, VII. 670—from peat, XVII. 359.
 Ammonia, sulphate and muriate of, II. 412—*a* name of Juno, II. 719.
 Ammonia-alum, XV. 97.
 AMMONIAC, II. 719—sal-ammoniac, *ib*; X. 433—origin of the name, II. 718—gum-ammoniac, V. 195.
 Ammoniacal liquor, as manure, II. 413—*from* gas-works, X. 433.
 AMMONITES, fossil shells, II. 723; VII. 406, X. 397, XVII. 111, 113.
 —people of Palestine, II. 723.
 Ammonitidae, fossil mollusks, XVII. 112.
 AMMONTIS, a country of Arabia Petraea, II. 723.
 Ammonium, VI. 465, II. 720.
 AMMONTUS SACCAS, of Alexandria, II. 723—ancient lithotomist, XX. 811.
 Ammophilus, genus of insects, IX. 195.
 Ammothea, genus of Arachnidae, III. 387.
 AMMUTATION, II. 724.
 AMNESTY, II. 724.
 AMNOS, II. 724; XVII. 686; III. 72.
 Amnoba, genus of zoophytes, XXI. 1007.
 AMORBRUM, a kind of poem, II. 724.
 Amoliba, mineral, XV. 116.
 Amok, "running amok," XIV. 105.
 AMOR, a city of Persia, II. 724.
 AMORUM, genus of plants, II. 724, VI. 232; V. 211.
 AMON, an Egyptian god, II. 724.
 —a king of Judah, II. 724.
 AMONBERG, in Hesse-Cassel, II. 724.
 Amontillado sherry, XXI. 884, 890.
 AMONTONS (Guillaume), II. 724—his barometer, IV. 455, 457—his pneumatic experiments, XVIII. 53.
 Amoo, river. See Oxus.
 Amoor, river, XIX. 548—Russian possessions on the banks of, *ib*.
 AMORBAACH, city in Bavaria, II. 725.
 Amoreux (N.), his work on the venomous insects of France, IX. 8.
 AMORGO, island, II. 725.
 AMORITES, II. 725.
 AMOROS (Col.), on gymnastics, XI. 169.
 AMORPHOUS, II. 725.
 AMORPHOZA, XVII. 92; XXI. 1008.
 AMORTIZATION, in law, II. 725.
 AMOS, the prophet, II. 725.
 Amosis, Egyptian king, VIII. 460.
 AMOURE (Guillaume de St), II. 725.
 —river, II. 725. See Amur.
 AMOY, II. 728—opened to British commerce in 1842, VI. 597—exports and imports, 591.
 Amphidees, nat order of plants, V. 187.
 Ampelis, genus of birds, XVI. 750.
 AMPERE (Andre Marie), II. 726; I. 974—his experiment of projecting water through a vertical slit, I. 727—his electro-dynamic theory, 974; consideration of that theory, 975—his great merit, *ib*.—Sir Humphry Davy's conduct towards, VII. 671—his discoveries in electro-magnetism, VIII. 532—on optics, XVI. 546—his suggestion for an electric telegraph, XXI. 94—on electro-magnetism, 638—his rotatory magnet, *ib*, 639—his electro-dynamic cylinders, *ib*.—his revolving battery, 640—his electripeter, 643.
 Amphicanthus, genus of fishes, XII. 304.
 AMPHICARUS, prophet of Argos, II. 726—oracle of, XVI. 698—temple of, IV. 192.
 AMPHIBIA, II. 726, XIV. 171; XIX. 14—fossil, XVII. 182—their blood-globules, II. 779—teeth, III. 105.
 AMPHIBOLE, mineral, II. 727.
 Amphibolite, II. 727; XV. 185.
 AMPHIBIOLOGY, II. 727.
 AMPHIBRACHY, II. 727; IX. 770.
 Amphibrya, class of plants, V. 179.
 Amphipoma, genus of insects, IX. 126.
 Amphipicula, fossil reptiles, XVII. 162.
 AMPHICOCE, II. 727.
 AMPHICOTONY, II. 727; IX. 497.
 Amphicyon, genus of fossil mammals, XVII. 165—dentition of, XVI. 464.

AMP—AMU

Amphidesma, genus of mollusks, XV. 342.
 Amphidoto, fossil echinoidea, XVII. 100.
 AMPHIDRYON, II. 729.
 AMPHILA, II. 729.
 Amphilestes, genus of fossil mammals, XVII. 157.
 AMPHIOCHIA, II. 729.
 AMPHILOCHUS, bishop, II. 729.
 AMPHILOCHUS, diviner, II. 729.
 AMPHIMACE, II. 729, IX. 770.
 Amphimesians, in ethnology, IX. 347.
 Amphinome, genus of annelides, XI. 237.
 AMPHION, in mythology, II. 729.
 AMPHIOCTIA, II. 729.
 Amphioxidae, family of fishes, XII. 227.
 Amphioxus, genus of fishes, XII. 227.
 Amphipoda, family of Crustacea, VII. 542.
 AMPHIPOLIS, II. 729; XIII. 763; XXI. 240.
 Amphipnon, genus of fishes, XII. 281.
 Amphiprion, genus of fishes, XII. 265.
 AMPHIPTOSTYLE, II. 729; III. 507.
 Amphiroa, genus of zoophytes, XXI. 1006.
 Amphisbena, reptiles, XIX. 40—teeth of, XVI. 428.
 Amphisbænae, family of reptiles, XIX. 40.
 AMPHISCOT, II. 729; X. 485.
 Amphisile, genus of fishes, XII. 305—of fossil fishes, XII. 344.
 AMPHISSEA, II. 729—sacred war against, *ib*.
 Amphistium, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 345.
 Amphistoma, genus of zoophytes, XXI. 979.
 AMPHITHEATRE, II. 729, III. 469—Roman, at Nismes, XVI. 279.
 Amphitherium, XVII. 157—jaw and teeth of, XVI. 448.
 AMPHITRITE, II. 731—genus of annelides, XI. 295.
 AMPHITRYON, II. 731.
 AMPHUMA, genus of reptiles, II. 732; XIX. 84.
 Amphodelite, mineral, XV. 71.
 AMPHORA, II. 732; XVIII. 713.
 AMPHORARUM VITUM, II. 732.
 AMPHOTIDES, II. 732.
 Amphoderidae, family of fishes, XII. 236.
 Amphroderus, genus of fishes, XII. 236.
 Amplexus, fossil corals, XVII. 97.
 AMPLIATION, II. 732.
 AMPLITUDE, in astronomy, II. 732; IV. 1—magnetical, II. 732.
 AMPISANTOI VALLIS, II. 732.
 AMPHILLI, II. 732—park, IV. 569.
 Ampulex, genus of insects, IX. 135.
 AMPULLA, II. 732—knights of St, *ib*; XIII. 120.
 AMPULLARIA, a genus of shells, II. 732; XV. 365, 366.
 AMPURIAS, in Catalonia, II. 732.
 Amputation, XX. 825—now less frequently resorted to than formerly, 828.
 AMPYX, II. 732.
 AMPHAPHEL, king of Shinar, II. 732.
 AMPHIAL-OAIS, Arabian poet, II. 732.
 AMPHIBER, in Northern India, II. 732; XVIII. 691.
 AMRU-EBN-AL-AS, a Saracen leader, II. 733, 470—burning of the Alexandrian library attributed to, II. 471; XIII. 381—Egypt subjugated by, VIII. 474; XVI. 512.
 AMRUM, island, II. 733.
 AMSANCUS, pools of, XII. 637.
 AMSORDIANS, a Protestant sect, II. 733.
 AMSTERDAM, II. 733—corn trade of, VII. 402—diamond cutting at, VIII. 4—athensium at, XI. 590—bank of, XV. 488—population of, 644; XI. 582—early newspaper of, XVI. 202—canal of, 55—weights and measures of, XXI. 804, 806.
 —town in New York, U. S., II. 735.
 —island in South Sea, II. 735; IV. 268; XVIII. 278.
 —New, town of British Guiana, II. 735.
 Amu, river in Bukhara, V. 758.
 AMULET, II. 735.
 Amur, river, II. 725; XVII. 607, 646.

AMU—ANA

- AMURATE, or Amourad I., sultan, II. 735; VII. 320; XXI. 368, 376
 — II., emperor of the Turks, II. 735; VII. 320, XXI. 368, 376
 — III., emperor, II. 736; XXI. 369, 376
 — IV., emperor, III. 736, XXI. 369, 376
 Amusement, natural desire of, VIII. 169
 AMUSETTE, small cannon, II. 736
 ANWELL, II. 736
 Amwoth, vitrified fort at, IX. 792
 ANYCLÆ, a city of Laconia, II. 736; XIII. 148—a Grecian colony, II. 736
 ANYGADALEZ, an order of plants, II. 736; V. 191
 Amygdaline, VI. 514, 518
 ANYGDALEID, II. 736—in Iceland, XII. 202
 Amygdalus, V. 191. See Almond tree.
 Amylaceous constituents of plants, II. 379
 Amyridaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 190
 ANYLIDE, II. 736. See Chemistry.
 ANYNTAS, II. 736; XIII. 761, 762.
 — a Greek writer, II. 736.
 ANYNTIANUS, a Greek historian, II. 736.
 ANYOT (Jacques), bishop of Auxerre, II. 736
 AMYTRALDUS or Amyrant (Moïse), II. 736
 Amyridaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 190—region of, 228.
 Amyrteus, Egyptian king, VIII. 466.
 ANA, II. 736.
 ANABAPTISTS, II. 741; XIV. 501—persecution of, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, VIII. 712—tumults by, in 1524, XIII. 731.
 ANABAS, genus of fishes, II. 743; XII. 289, 290.
 ANABASIS, II. 743; XXI. 950.
 Anabates, genus of birds, XVI. 768
 ANABATHRA, II. 743.
 ANABLEPS, genus of fishes, II. 743; XII. 219, 253, 253—eyes of, III. 95
 ANABOLEUM, II. 743.
 ANACALYPTERIA, II. 743.
 ANACAMPTIC, II. 743
 Anacanthini, or Anacanthas, order of fishes, XII. 268—fossil, XVII. 128.
 Anacanthus, genus of fishes, XII. 327.
 ANACARDIACEÆ, nat. order of plants, II. 743; V. 189.
 Anacardium, genus of plants, V. 190. See Cashew-nut.
 Anacellum, in ancient Athens, IV. 163.
 Anacharis alnistrum, American river-weed, XVII. 624.
 ANACHARISIS, the Scythian, II. 743.
 — travels of, II. 743. See Barthelemy.
 ANACHORET, II. 743.
 ANACHRONISM, II. 743.
 ANACLASTIC GLASSES, II. 743.
 ANACLASTICS, II. 743
 ANACLETARIA, ancient festival, II. 743.
 ANACLETICUM, II. 743.
 ANACLETUS, or Cletus, Bishop of Rome, II. 743.
 — anti-pope, II. 743.
 ANAGLINTERIA, II. 743.
 ANACROSTIC, II. 743.
 ANACOLUTHON, II. 743.
 ANACONDA, a large snake, II. 744.
 ANACREON, II. 744; XVIII. 102—his address to the Cicada, IX. 168—Moore's translation of, XV. 880.
 ANACREONTIC VERSE, II. 744.
 ANACRISTIS, II. 744.
 ANACRISTUS, II. 744.
 ANADEMA, II. 744.
 ANADIPILOS, II. 744.
 ANADYOMENE APHRODITE, II. 744.
 ANADYR, river, II. 744.
 ANÆSTHESIA, II. 744—anaesthetic agents, VI. 639; history of, 631, 632—induced by mesmerism, XX. 433, 436—in surgical operations, 820. See Chloroform.
 ANAFESTO PAOLICURO, first doge of Venice, II. 744.
 ANAGLYPHE, II. 744.
 Anaglyptography, VIII. 810
 ANAGNIA, now Agnani, in Italy, II. 744.
 ANAGNOSTA (John), Byzantine historian, II. 745.

ANA—ANA

- ANAGNOSTES, II. 745.
 ANAGOGE, II. 745
 ANAGRAM, II. 745
 ANAGROS, Spanish grain-measure, II. 745.
 Anahuac, ancient name of Mexico, II. 683—plateau of, XIV. 714, 715.
 Anahuatels, II. 683.
 ANAITIS, an Armenian divinity, II. 745.
 ANAK, II. 745
 Analcime, mineral, XV. 75—double refraction of, XVI. 542, 661.
 ANALECTA, II. 745
 ANALEMMA, II. 745; VII. 773; III. 798.
 Analemmatic dial, VII. 792
 ANALEPSIS, II. 745.
 ANALOPTICS, II. 745
 ANALOGEY, II. 745—Butler on, VI. 32—Socrates fond of teaching by, XX. 399—in grammar, II. 746
 ANALYSIS, II. 746—Condillac on, VII. 236, 237—algebraic, II. 482—logical, XIII. 577—its application to electricity, VIII. 531—ancient geometrical, XX. 300. See Geometry, new.
 Analytical Geometry, X. 542
 ANAM, or An-nam, in south-east of Asia, II. 746.
 Anamesite rock, XV. 133
 ANAMNESIS, II. 746
 ANAMORPHOSIS, II. 746
 ANAMOUR (Cape), II. 746.
 Anampses, genus of fishes, XII. 267.
 Anan, kind of wood, XX. 173
 Ananchida, echinoderms, XXI. 991.
 Ananchytes, fossil echinoderms, XVII. 100, 99
 ANANCYTIS, II. 746.
 ANANTAS, II. 746.
 ANANTISABTA, II. 746.
 ANAPÆST, II. 746; IX. 770
 Anapera, genus of insects, IX. 259.
 ANAPHORA, II. 746.
 ANAPHORIDIA, II. 746.
 Anaplognathides, family of insects, IX. 123
 ANARCHY, II. 746.
 Anarnacus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 230.
 Anarthichas, genus of fishes, XII. 309, 310—the teeth and jaws of, XVI. 424, 425.
 Anas, genus of birds, XVI. 818.
 ANASARGA, II. 746; XVII. 690.
 Anaspis, genus of insects, IX. 134.
 ANASTASIUS I. and II., Emperors of the East, II. 746
 — Bibliothecarius, II. 747.
 Anastatic printing, XVIII. 558—in engraving maps, XXI. 336
 Anastoma, fossil mollusks, XVII. 111.
 ANASTOMATICS, II. 747.
 ANASTOMOSIS, II. 747—of arteries, 792—of veins, 796
 Anastomus, genus of fishes, XII. 245.
 — genus of birds, XVI. 800.
 ANASTROPE, II. 747.
 Anatase, mineral, XV. 110
 Anastellina, genus of mollusks, XV. 350.
 ANATHEMA, II. 747.
 Anatina, genus of mollusks, XV. 850
 Anatindas, family of mollusks, XV. 850.
 ANATOCEMUS, II. 747.
 ANATOLIA, or Natolia, II. 747; XV. 899; III. 758—coast of, IV. 744.
 ANATOMY (human), II. 747—Dr Barclay on its nomenclature, IV. 443—its importance in drawing, VIII. 173—study of, by artists, XIV. 458—progress of, 460 et seq—sub-divisions of, 463—nervous system, XVII. 672—history of, II. 743. See Surgery.
 — (COMPARATIVE), III. 74—application of paleontology to, XVII. 91—spinal cord of the salmon, 669—web in the foot of a frog, 692. See Animal Kingdom, and the various zoological articles; Paleontology, Odontology.
 — of Plants—the cells, V. 66—vessels, 69—nutritive organs, 76—leaves, 87—of the reproductive organs, 112.
 ANATOMY ACT, AND ANATOMICAL SCHOOLS, III. 114.
 Anaukhe, mineral, XV. 79.
 ANAXAGORAS, III. 114; X. 497; XVII.

ANA—AND

- 803; XX. 370, 373, 382—his contributions to astronomy, III. 787, 788—his views on comets and the moon, I. 508, 569—on the quadrature of the circle, XX. 520
 Anaxander, Greek actor, VIII. 140.
 ANAXARCHUS, a Grecian philosopher, III. 115
 ANAXILAUS of Larissa, III. 115
 ANAXIMANDER, a Greek philosopher, III. 115; XII. 459; XVII. 231—his map, X. 486—his knowledge of astronomy, III. 787; of geometry, X. 497
 ANAXIMENES, a Greek philosopher, III. 115; X. 497; XII. 459—his astronomy, III. 787
 — Greek historian, III. 115.
 ANAZARBUS, city of Cilicia, III. 115
 ANBAR, town of Asia, III. 115
 ANBERTKENO, Bramin book, III. 115.
 ANCA, Portuguese town, III. 115
 Ancach, in Peru, XVII. 474
 ANCASTER, in Lincolnshire, III. 115.
 ANGENIS, in France, III. 115.
 ANCESTORS, III. 115
 Anchinea, genus of mollusks, XV. 336
 ANCHISES, III. 115
 Anchomenus, genus of insects, IX. 94
 Anchonus, genus of insects, IX. 140.
 ANCHOR, III. 116—weighing anchor, XX. 18—expediency of testing, XIV. 90—improvements in the form and manufacture of, XX. 24—Rodgers', ib—Trotmans', ib
 — GROUND, III. 121
 — in architecture, III. 122.
 Anchor escapement, VII. 8.
 Anchorella, genus of entozoa, XXI. 982.
 Anchovy, XII. 236, 237—on the coasts of Norway, XVI. 828—as an article of food, IX. 764—imports of, from Leghorn, XIII. 317—fishery, XX. 247.
 ANCHUSA, genus of plants, III. 122; V. 201.
 ANCHYLOSIS, III. 122.
 ANCIENT DEMESNE, III. 122.
 — history, XI. 542, 543.
 — wines, XXI. 882.
 ANCOBERT, III. 122.
 ANCOLE, III. 122.
 ANCOLLARIA, or Ancilla, genus of mollusks, III. 122; XV. 386—A. obtusa, ib—fossil, XVII. 110.
 ANCOLLON (J. P. Friederich), historian, III. 122—on the doctrines of the French and German schools of philosophy, I. 187.
 ANCLAM, III. 122. See Anklam
 ANCONA, an Italian city, III. 122, XVII. 241—evacuation of, by the French, X. 214.
 ANCOURT (Florent Carton d'), III. 122.
 Ancrum Muir, battle of, XIX. 776.
 ANCUS MARCIUS, III. 122; XIX. 296.
 ANCYLOBLEPHARON, III. 122.
 Ancyloceras, fossil mollusks, XVII. 113.
 Ancylogodon, genus of fishes, XII. 235.
 ANCYCLOGLOSSUM, III. 123.
 Ancyloscelia, genus of insects, IX. 200.
 Ancylogus, genus of mollusks, XV. 374.
 ANCYRA, III. 123. See Angora.
 ANDALUCIA, III. 123; XX. 493—climate of, 498
 Andalusite, mineral, XV. 86.
 ANDAMAN ISLANDS, III. 124—language, XIII. 208; IX. 344—degraded state of the natives, I. 451.
 ANDANTE, in music, III. 125.
 ANDEGAVI, a Gallic tribe, III. 125.
 ANDELYS, in France, III. 125.
 ANDENA, III. 125.
 ANDERNE, town of Belgium, III. 125.
 ANDERAVIA, or Anderabia, island, III. 125; XII. 372.
 ANDERNACHE, III. 125.
 Andersen (Hans C.), his novels, XIX. 293, 696.
 ANDERSON (Adam), III. 125.
 — (ALEX.), mathematician, III. 125; X. 504.
 — (Sir EDMUND), III. 126.
 — (JAMES, LL.D.), III. 126—his culture of the bread-fruit, V. 801—his theory of rent, XVIII. 243, n.

AND—AND

- ANDERSON (James W. S.), antiquary, III. 126
 — (Prof. JOHN), founder of the Andersonian Institution, Glasgow, III. 126, X. 652—on evaporation, IX. 412, 413
 — (ROBERT, M.D.), III. 127.
 — (Mr), his visit to Lake Ngami, XVI. 240.
 — on gunnery, XI. 103, 107.
 ANDES, III. 127; II. 668, XVII. 593—their geology, II. 670; VI. 542—snow level on, XVII. 602—their influence on the climate of South America, II. 671—were the chief seats of ancient American civilization, 683—the Deluge ascribed to the elevation of, VII. 720—of Bolivia, IV. 821—of Chili, VI. 542—of Colombia, VII. 133—of Ecuador, VIII. 386—silver mines of, XV. 235—of Peru, XVII. 470—height of, 644, 645—of La Plata, 776
 — birth-place of Virgil, III. 132
 Andesite, mineral, XV. 71.
 Andesite, rock, XV. 132
 ANDROCIDES, an Athenian orator, III. 132
 Ando-Peruvian tribes of South America, IX. 349.
 ANDORRE, or Andorra, republic of, III. 132.
 ANDOVER, town in Hampshire, III. 132
 — in Massachusetts, III. 132; XIV. 340.
 ANDRADA (Diego de Payva d'), III. 132.
 ANDRADA E SYLVIA (Bonifacio José d'), III. 132.
 — (Antonio d'), his travels in Asia, III. 758.
 Andreadeæ, sub-order of mosses, V. 217
 ANDRÉ (John), III. 132, 670—execution of, XXI. 753.
 — (Père), on beauty, IV. 538
 ANDREA DEL SARTO, III. 133, XVII. 66
 — (GIOVANNI), canonist, III. 133.
 — (GIOVANNI), bishop of Aleria, III. 133.
 — of Pisa, III. 133. See Pisano.
 ANDRÉE (Johann), III. 133.
 ANDREANI (Andrea), wood-engraver, III. 133.
 — (Paul), aeronaut, II. 177.
 Andreanofskie islands, II. 464.
 ANDREAS, or Andre (St), town in Hungary, III. 133.
 — of Carystus, surgeon, XX. 811.
 ANDREASBERG, in Hanover, III. 133.
 ANDREINI (G. Battista), III. 133.
 ANDREINI (P. Fausto), III. 133.
 Andrena, genus of insects, IX. 198.
 Andrenete, section of insects, IX. 198.
 ANDREOSSY (Antoine-François), Comte d', III. 133—his description of hydraulic obelisks at Constantinople, III. 335—on the canal of Languedoc, XII. 118, 128.
 ANDRES' (Juan), III. 134
 ANDREW (St), III. 134—an order of knights, ib.; XIII. 120, 122—St Andrew's day, III. 134.
 ANDREWS (St), city, III. 134—railway company of, IX. 546—university of, III. 135; XXI. 472; colleges at, 478—university library, XIII. 408.
 — (Professor), of Belfast, his researches in thermo-electricity, XXI. 653.
 — (I. D.), his report on the lakes of Canada, VI. 133, 139.
 — (JAMES PRATT), III. 136.
 — (LANCELOT), bishop, III. 137.
 — (Dr), his lock, XIII. 539
 Andrez (Abbate), on the history of paper, XVII. 251.
 ANDRIA, a Neapolitan city, III. 137.
 ANDRIANTES, III. 137
 ANDRIEU (Bertrand), III. 137.
 ANDRISCUUS, III. 137.
 ANDROCLUS, III. 137.
 Androclum, or staminal organs in plants, V. 118, 126.
 ANDROGEOUS, III. 137.
 ANDROMEDAS, III. 137.
 ANDROLEPSIA, III. 138.
 ANDROMACHE, wife of Hector, III. 138.
 ANDROMEDA, in astronomy, III. 138; IV. 80.

AND—ANG

Andromeda, genus of plants, III 138; V. 221; XI. 748.
 ANDRONICUS I., Commennus, III 139.
 — II., Paleologus, III 139.
 — of Cyrrha, III 139.
 — of Rhodes, III 139—his edition of Aristotle's works, III 537.
 — (LIVUS), XIII 527; VIII. 141—poetry of, XVIII 104.
 ANDROPHAGI, III 139.
 ANDROS, now Andro, island, III 139.
 Andry and Thourer's report on the use of magnets in medicine, XX 415.
 ANDRYCHOW, in Galizia, III 140.
 ANDUJAR, a city of Spain, III 140.
 ANDUZE, a town of France, III 140.
 ANECDOTES, III 140.
 ANEGADA, one of the Virgin Islands, XXI 599.
 ANEL (Dominique), surgeon, III 140.
 Anellida, fossil animals, XVII 100.
 ANEMOMETER, III 140; XIV. 651, XVIII 65.
 Anemometry, XIV. 651.
 ANEMONE, genus of plants, III 140; XI 752.
 ANEMOSCOPE, III 140; IV. 452.
 ANEURUM, III 140.
 Anichnium, genus of fossil fishes, XII 345.
 ANEROID BAROMETER, III 140; IV. 459—use of at sea, XX 97.
 ANET, a French town, III 140.
 ANEURISM, III 140—ancient treatment of, XX 814—John Hunter's operation for the cure of, 819—surgical treatment of, 828—in animals, XXI 574.
 Anfrye's essaying furnace, III 768, 769.
 ANGARA, island, III 140.
 ANGARA, Upper and Lower, rivers, III 140; XXI 954.
 ANGARI, or Anguru, III 140.
 ANGARIA, III 140. See Angari.
 ANGATZA, island, III 140.
 ANGIOTOMY, in surgery, III 140.
 ANGEL, III 140—hierarchy of angels, according to the Gnostics, III 811, n. 1—notions of the Mohammedans respecting, XV. 302—the apocalyptic, XVIII 481—of Jehovah, XXI 209.
 — a gold coin, III 141.
 Angel-fish, in Cornwall, VII 408.
 ANGELICA, genus of plants, III 141; XI 745—fruit of, V 195—used as food in Lapland, XIII 285, 240.
 — library, at Rome, XIII 412.
 ANGELIC, sect of heretics, III 141.
 ANGELICS, an order of knights, III 141.
 Angelin (M.), on the Sierran rocks of Scandinavia, XV. 197, 198.
 Angelini (B.), his work on insects, IX. 15.
 Anglique (Mère), of Port Royal, III 668; XVIII 376.
 ANGELO (Michael), III 141. See Michael Angelo Buonarroti.
 — (St.), several towns and castles in Italy so named, III 141.
 — (St.), castle of, XIX 365, and n. 4; 375.
 ANGELUS SILESIUS, III 141.
 — (Isaac), emperor, III 139; VII 317.
 ANGER, III 141—properly regulated, becomes a sense of justice, I. 407.
 ANGERBURG, a circle in Prussia, III 141.
 Angerman, river, XX 861.
 ANGERMANLAND, III 141.
 ANGERMÜNDE, in Prussia, III 141.
 ANGERONA, Roman deity, III 142.
 ANGERS, in France, III 142—population, X. 277.
 ANGERSTEIN (John Julius), III 142.
 ANGHIERA, town in Lombardy, III 142.
 ANGLBERT (St.), III 142.
 ANGINA PECTORIS, III 142.
 Angionoma, vascular growth, XVII 690.
 Angiospermous plants, V. 189, 287—reign of, in geological times, 287.
 ANGITA, III 142.
 Anglarite, mineral, XV. 161.
 ANGUS, III 142; X. 507—of incidence, III 143—of refraction, 1b—trisection of, 1b—solid, X. 582—angle formed by two inclined planes, XII 807—instru-

ANG—ANI

ment for measuring the angles of crystals, XV. 50—joining angles, in joinery, XII 809—Dollond on measuring small angles, VIII 93, 94.
 Angle-berries, disease in animals, XXI 579.
 Angler, fish. See Lophius.
 ANGLESE, old German nation, III 146.
 ANGLESEA, or Anglesey, island, III 146; VIII 754—cattle of, II 343—earthenware filters, IX. 582—Druids in, VIII 183.
 Anglesea (Arthur, earl of), III 219.
 — (Marquis of), communications to, on Catholic emancipation, V 654—lord-lieutenant of Ireland, XII 501.
 Anglesie, mineral, XV. 105.
 Anglia, origin of the name, III 146.
 ANGLING, III 146—popularity of the pursuit, IX. 613—for chart, XII 241—Isaac Walton's book on, XXI 696—list of books on, III 162-165.
 ANGLIO-CALVINISTS, III 165.
 Anglo-Norman Gothic architecture, III 480.
 — castles, VI 320.
 ANGLO-SAXON, III 165—written characters of, II 615—language, V 374, VIII 798—versions of the Scriptures, XIX 840—institutions, VIII 685—domestic habits, 666—military system, XV. 6, 7—Rask's grammar, XVIII 808—thanes, XXI 163—Turner's history of, 890—population of America, II 709.
 ANGLOS (Thomas), III 165. See White (Thomas).
 ANGOLA, or Dongo, in Africa, III 165. II 227.
 ANCON, III 166.
 ANGORA, in Asia, III 166—goat of, XIV. 211; its wool, XXI 908.
 — battle of, XXI 368.
 ANGORNO, town in Central Africa, III 166.
 ANGSTURTA, in South America, III 166—congress of, in 1819, IV 518.
 ANGOR, in Abyssinia, III 166, II 56.
 ANGOULME, in France, III 166.
 — Duke d', his Spanish expedition, X. 185; XX 478.
 ANGOUMOIS, in France, III 166; X. 277.
 ANGOY, III 166.
 ANGRA, a city in Terceira, III 166.
 ANGRI, a Neapolitan town, III 167.
 Anguidæ, family of reptiles, XIX. 41.
 ANGUIER (François and Michel), III 167.
 ANQUILLA, island, III 167.
 — genus of fishes, XII 232, 230—angling for *A. vulgaris*, III 162.
 — genus of fossil fishes, XI 347.
 ANQUILLARA (G. Andrea dell'), III 167.
 Anguillidæ, family of fishes, XII 232, 230.
 Anguilliformes, family of fossil fishes, XII 347.
 Anguine Syren, XIII 400. See Proteus anguinus.
 ANQUINUM OVUM, fabulous egg, III 167; VIII 188.
 Angus, genus of reptiles, XIX. 41.
 ANGUS, county in Scotland, III 167. See Forfar.
 — (Earl of), XIX 767, 769, 770.
 ANGUSOLA, four sisters, painters, III 167.
 Angustellati, echinoderms, XXI 991.
 ANGSTOLIA, III 167.
 Angustura, tonic bark, V. 189.
 Anæmia, disease of miners, XIII 460.
 ANHALT, duchies of, in Germany, III 167.
 ANHALT-BERNBURG, III 167.
 ANHALT-CÖTHEN, III 168.
 ANHALT-DESSAU, III 168.
 ANHOLT, Danish island, III 168.
 Anhydrite, mineral, XV. 96.
 ANIANY Breviarium, III 168; VI 743.
 Anianus (Flavius). See Avianus.
 ANICINI (Luigi), III 168.
 ANIELLO, III 168. See Massaniello.
 Aniline, VI 514.
 ANIMALS, III 168—changes on European animals naturalised in America, II 714—difficulty of defining the term, III 168—wherein different from plants, 168, 169—chemical characters of, 170—substances of which composed, 171—har-

ANI—ANK

monious combination of their organs, 172—variety of organisation among, 1b—classification of, 182 *et seq.*; II. 771—of Linneus, III 184; Virey, 1b., Lamarck, 185; XIII 162; Dumeril, III 190, Blanville, 1b.; Macleay, 191; Cuvier, 192—no change of species produced by time, climate, or other secondary causes, 173—geographical distribution of, XVII 680, III 174, II 712—what constitutes a species, III 174—hybrids, XII 68; generally barren, 1b., III 174—doctrine of equivocal generation, 175—brain and nervous system in different classes of, 176 (see Brain)—tenacity of life in certain kinds, 1b. 177—insensibility to pain in many, 1b—senses of, 178—aliment of, 179—nature of the flesh in different classes, 1b—power of enduring abstinence from food, 180; II. 60—food of, 418—hibernation of, III 180; XII 62—paving, III 181—obscure case of animal and vegetable life combined, 198, 200—electricity of, VIII 570—worship of, in Egypt, 439; XV. 765—effects of electricity on, VIII 610—effects of light on, XIII 400—light emanating from, 458—hieroglyphic symbols of, XI 392—figures of, borne on arms, 331, 332, 338—hospital for, 470—adaptation of their covering to the climate they inhabit, 362—Gesner's history of, IX. 597—kinds used as human food, 761—strength of, XIV 416, 417—duty we owe to, XV. 566—definition of the term, XVII. 91—geological succession of, 92—total number known, 681—form of seminal particle in, 688—fecundation, 1b—modes of propagation, 688—development of the ova in, 684—necessity of air to, XVIII 72—their tendency to increase in a geometrical progression, 338—superiority of small animals in strength and agility, XX 770—effects of galvanism on, XXI 609, 634—extinct (see Paleontology)—of America, II 713—Arabia, III 345—Assam, 764—Canada, VI 142—Europe, IX. 387. See the geographical articles, also Zoology, Ichthyology, Ornithology, Mammalia, Odontology, Paleontology, &c.
 Animal bodies, characteristics of, II 771—chemistry of, VI 501 *et seq.*, 521—more easily dyed than vegetable, VIII 274—effects of electricity on, 601.
 — FLOWER, III 168.
 — Food, VIII 23; IX. 761—preservation of, 767.
 — heat, XVII 665.
 — MAGNETISM, III 193; XX. 413.
 — manures, II. 407.
 — mechanics, as applied to medicine, XIV. 461.
 — KINGDOM, III 168—Cuvier's work on the, VII 605.
 — oils, XVI. 492, 493.
 — poisons, XIV. 439.
 ANIMALCULE, III 193—patches of the ocean coloured by animalcules, XVII 574—cretaceous formations composed of, 588—as microscopic objects, XIV 806—Spallanzani on, XX. 496, 497—in-testinal, XXI 975.
 ANIMATOR, III 213—of style, XIX. 141.
 ANIME, a resin, III 213—its use in making varnish, XXI 596.
 ANIMETTA, III 213.
 ANIO, now Teverone, river, III 213.
 ANISE, an umbelliferous plant, III 213.
 Aniseed, oil of, XVI. 497.
 ANISO, III 213.
 Anisomera, genus of insects, IX. 227.
 Anisomyx, genus of insects, IX. 126.
 ANJAB, in Hindustan, III 213.
 ANJERO, in Hindustan, III 213.
 ANJOY, in France, III 213; X. 277—dukes of, XI 571; XVIII 143.
 Anka, Egyptian deity, VIII 436.
 ANKER, liquid measure, III 213.
 ANKERITE, mineral, XV. 100.
 Ankerstrom, assasin, V. 543; XX. 859.
 ANKLAM, a circle in Prussia, III 213.

ANK—ANO

Ankle-joint, III 37—surgical treatment of its dislocation, XX. 826.
 ANKOBAR, in Abyssinia, III. 213.
 Anlaff, VIII 658.
 ANN, or Annat, in law, III 213.
 ANNA, or Ana, an Arabian town, III 213.
 — COMMENA, daughter of Alexius Commennus I., III 213.
 — IVANOVA, empress of Russia, III 214.
 — PERENNA, ancient divinity, III 214.
 ANNABERG, German city, III 214.
 ANNAGE, island, III 214.
 ANNALS, III 214—of Tacitus, XXI 4—in what respects different from history, 1b—Hailes' Annals, VII 634.
 ANNAMABOE, on the Gold Coast, III 215; XI 89.
 ANNAN, in Dumfriesshire, III 215; VIII 238.
 — river, III 215, XVI. 87, XIX 790—close-time in, IX. 613.
 ANNAND (William), dean of Edinburgh, III 216.
 ANNAPOLIS, town in Maryland, III 216; XIV 331—Washington's resignation at, XXI 753—naval academy at, 430—convention at, 437.
 — county, town, and river of Nova Scotia, III 216; XVI 343.
 ANNE, queen of Great Britain, III 216—reign of, V 447—her death and character, 452—her navy, XVI 93—newspaper press under, 133—Ireland in her reign, XII 492—act for consolidating the post-office, XVIII 406.
 — BOLEYN, queen of Henry VIII, III 217, VII 492; VIII. 699, 701.
 — of Cleves, queen of Henry VIII, VII. 704.
 — empress of Russia, XIX. 481.
 ANNE'S (St.) day, III 217.
 ANNELING, III 218—of metals, VII 92; XX. 756—of the specula of telescopes, XXI 135.
 ANNEX, in the kingdom of Sardinia, III 219; XIX. 633, 640.
 ANNELIDES, or Annelida, class of articulated animals, III 219, 192; XI 290, 293, and n. 1—works on, 1b. See Helminthology.
 ANNESLEY (Arthur), III 219.
 — (Maurice), V. 456.
 ANNEXATION, III 219.
 ANNIVERSARY, III 219.
 ANNOMBO, African island, III 219.
 ANNONÆ PRÆFECTUS, III 220.
 ANNONAZ, a town of France, III 220.
 Annotia. See Anotta.
 ANNUALRENT, III 220.
 Annual plants, XI 750, V. 77; III 171.
 — rings, in trees, XXI 268.
 — means, in meteorology, XIV. 664.
 Annuitants, their lives not so select as is generally supposed, III 225.
 ANNUITIES, III 220—tables of, 251—application of algebra to the calculation of, II 536; III 242—Government loss by, V. 651—expectation of life in different countries, XII 395; XVIII. 351, 353; in England, 355—purchasable by savings banks, XIX. 667. See Life Assurance, Probability.
 Annuity-Tax in Edinburgh, VIII 398.
 ANNULAR, III 257—crystal, 1b—eclipse, 1b; IV. 44, 48—lenses, XIII 472.
 ANNULARIA, fossil genus of plants, III 257.
 ANNULET, III 257—in architecture, 50—in heraldry, XI 326, 330—in joinery, XII 808.
 ANNULOSA, a primary division of the animal kingdom, III 257, 191, IX. 60.
 ANNUNCIADA, order of knighthood in Savoy, III 257.
 Annulus and annulate, in botany, V. 143.
 ANNUNCIATION, III 257; VI 667.
 ANNUS DELIBERANDI, III 257.
 ANO, a quadruped, III 257.
 Anobium, genus of insects, IX. 112.
 Anodon, genus of mollusks, XV. 349.
 ANODYNE, III 257.
 Anolius, genus of reptiles, XIX. 34.

ANO—ANT

ANOMALISTICAL YEAR, III 257.
 ANOMALOUS, III 257.
 ANOMIA, genus of mollusks, XV. 348, 347.
 ANOMIANS, III 257.
 ANONACEAE, nat. order of plants, V. 180.
 ANONIMOUS, III 257—books, IV. 711.
 ANOPHELES, genus of insects, IX. 225.
 ANOPIUS, genus of fishes, XII 277.
 ANOPILOTHERIUM, genus of fossil mammals, III 257; XVII 164—teeth of, XVI 465.
 ANORTHITE, mineral, III 257; XV. 1.
 ANOSMIA, III 257.
 ANOSTOMA, genus of mollusks, XV 373.
 ANOTIA, genus of insects, IX. 169.
 ANOTTA, or Arnotto, a dye, III 257; VIII 296; II. 86, V. 183—used to colour cheese, VII 625; and silk, IV. 770—in Guiana, XI. 82—imports of, VIII 784—order of plants, V. 183.
 ANONS, genus of birds, XVI 813.
 ANQUETIL (Louis Pierre), III 253.
 — DU PERRON (Abraham Hyacinthe), III 253.
 ANSÆ, in astronomy, III 259.
 ANSÂIRYEH, Syrian sect, XX. 908.
 ANSATON, lake, XX. 229.
 ANSARIANS, people of Syria, III 259.
 ANSBACH, in Bavaria, III 259.
 ANSE, ancient French town, III 259.
 ANSELM (St.), archbishop of Canterbury, VIII 859, I. 325; VIII 669—on the existence of God, XXI 187.
 — OF LAON, III 260; II. 26.
 ANSER, genus of birds, XVI 816.
 ANSON (George, Lord), III 260—his expedition to the South Seas, V. 459, XVI 106—his visit to the Ladron Islands, XIII 150; XVIII 269—narrative of his voyage, XIX. 235.
 — (General), XVI. 303.
 Ansted's arrangement of rock formations, V. 238—his manual of geographical science, XVII 462.
 ANSTET (Christopher), comic writer, III 260.
 ANSTONE, building-stone, XX. 712.
 ANSTRUTHER (Easter and Wester), in Fifehire, III 260, 261.
 ANT, III 261; IX. 193; XVII 637—acid of the red ant, VI 627.
 — amazon, III 266.
 — parasil, XVII 637.
 — white, or Termites, II. 218; IX. 179; XVII 637.
 ANT-EATER, III 266; XIV. 191, 192; XVII 631—its teeth, III 105; XVI 413, 414, 440.
 ANT-HILLS, III 266, 263.
 ANT-ILION, IX. 178—Bonnet's investigation of its habits, V. 8.
 ANTACIDS, III 266.
 ANTEA, in architecture, III 266, 487, 502.
 ANTEPOPOLIS, ancient city on the Nile, III 266.
 ANTEPUS, giant, III 266; XIV. 360.
 ANTICIDIAS, peace of, XX. 501; XXI 177.
 ANTALO, Abyssinian town, III 266.
 ANTANACLASIS, III 266.
 ANTANAGOGIA, III 266.
 Antandrus, VI. 284.
 Antao (St), one of the Cape Verde Islands, XXI 543, 544.
 ANTAR, III 266.
 ANTARCTIC, III 267—polar regions, XVIII 181—pole, X. 481—ocean, XVII 576—botanic region, V. 228.
 ANTARES, star, III 267; IV. 79.
 ANTEAMBULONES, III 267.
 Antecedent, in grammar, X. 787, 758—in geometry, 517.
 ANTECESSOR, III 267.
 ANTECESSORS, III 267.
 ANTEDILUVIANS, III 267.
 Antefixa, in architecture, III 507.
 Antego, III 268. See Antigua.
 ANTEJURAMENTUM, III 268.
 Antelopius, genus of fishes, XII 270.
 Antelme (Adr.), his work on insects, IX. 22.
 ANTELOPE, III 268; XIV. 210—number of species, XVII 632—African, II. 217—Indian, XI. 455.

ANT—ANT

ANTELOCAN, III 268.
 ANTENNE, ancient city of Latium, III 268.
 ANTEMURALE, III 268.
 ANTENATI, III 268.
 ANTEOLEMA, III 268.
 Antennæ of insects, IX. 36—their functions in ants, III 262; and in bees, IV 574.
 — of the crustacea, VII 537—of myriapods, XV 747.
 ANTENOR, Athenian sculptor, III 268.
 — Trojan prince, III 268.
 ANTEPLANI, III 268.
 ANTEQUERA, in Spain, III 268.
 ANTEROS, one of the two Cupids, III 268; VII. 590.
 ANTESIGNANI, III 268.
 ANTERIARI, III 268.
 ANTERIMINTICS, III 268.
 ANTHEM, III 268.
 ANTHEMIS, a genus of plants, III 268; V. 197.
 ANTHEMIS, Roman architect, III 268—his plan of the dome of the church of St Soplus at Constantinople, 402—on Archimedes' burning mirrors, VI. 4.
 Anther, in botany, V. 118, 126.
 Antheridia, V. 143, 145.
 ANTHESPHORIA, ancient Sicilian festival, III 268.
 ANTHESTERIA, Athenian festival, III 268.
 ANTHESTERION, the eighth month of the Athenian year, III 269.
 Anthia, genus of insects, IX. 81.
 Anthiacum, genus of insects, IX. 199.
 Anthias, genus of fishes, XII 275, 276.
 Anthicides, tribe of insects, IX. 134.
 Anthidium, genus of insects, IX. 200.
 Anthobin, section of insects, IX. 126.
 Anthocephalus, genus of zoophytes, XXI 973.
 Anthocrinus, fossil echinoderms, XVII 98.
 ANTHOLOGION, III 269.
 ANTHOLOGY, III 269.
 Anthomyia, genus of insects, IX. 250.
 ANTHONY (Saint), III 269; XV. 406—knights of, III 269—St Anthony's fire, III 269; IX. 329.
 Anthophila, family of insects, IX. 198.
 Anthophora, genus of insects, IX. 100.
 ANTHOPHORUM, in botany, III 269.
 Anthophyllite, XV. 81.
 ANTHROISMUS, in rhetoric, III 269.
 Anthosiderite, mineral, XV. 90.
 Anthosoma Smithii, VII. 543.
 Anthozoa, fossil polypes, XVII 96.
 — zoophytes, XXI 1002.
 ANTHRACITE, III 269; IX. 782; VII. 118, 471; XV. 123, 149—area of, in Pennsylvania, VII. 127; XVII 395—in Kilkeny, XIII 84—employed in reducing iron ores, XII 544—evaporative power of, XX. 653—its value as fuel, 353.
 — furnace, III 769.
 Anthracomite, XV. 92.
 Anthracosis, fossil mollusks, XVII 108.
 ANTHRAX, III 269—genus of insects, IX. 283.
 Anthrenus, genus of insects, IX. 115.
 Anthribus, genus of insects, IX. 138.
 ANTHROPOLOTTUS, III 269.
 Anthropoides, genus of birds, XVI 798.
 Anthropological argument for the existence of God, XXI 186.
 ANTHROPOLOGY, III 269; IX. 841; XXI 184, 196. See Man.
 ANTHROPOMORPHISM, III 269; I. 109, a. 2.
 ANTHROPOMORPHITES, ancient heretics, III 269.
 ANTHROPOMORPHOUS, III 269.
 ANTHROPOPHAGI, III 269. See Cannibal.
 Anthus, genus of birds, XVI 757.
 ANTYTROPHEA, in rhetoric, III 270.
 ANTI, III 270.
 ANTILARINE and ANTILARIS, III 270.
 ANTILACCHUS, a foot in ancient poetry, III 270.
 ANTIBES, French seaport, III 270.
 Antiburghers, XVIII 499—division among them, XIII 758—their reunion with the burghers, 500.

ANT—ANT

ANTICHRIST, III 270.
 ANTICHRISTONES, III 271.
 ANTICIPATION, in music, III 271.
 ANTICLIMAX, in rhetoric, III 271.
 Anti-corn-law league, XIV. 256.
 Anticor, disease in animals, XXI 557.
 ANTICOSTI, island, III 271.
 ANTICUM, III 271.
 ANTICTRA, name of three cities of ancient Greece, III 271.
 ANTIDEMIA, genus of plants, III 271.
 ANTIDORON, III 271.
 ANTIDOSIS, III 271.
 Antidotes to poisons, XIV. 432 *et seq*; XVII 133.
 ANTIGALACTIC, III 271.
 ANTIGONIS I, III 271; VIII 468.
 — II (GONATAS), III 272; IV. 172.
 Antigone, mineral, XV. 80.
 ANTIGRAPHUS, III 272.
 ANTIGUA, island, III 272.
 — (La), city in Guatemala, XI. 78.
 ANTIGUOMENA, III 272.
 Anti-Libanus, XVII. 182; XX. 903.
 ANTILLES, or Caribbee islands, III 272—Greater and Lesser, XXI 837—serpents of, XIX. 54.
 ANTILLOGRITHM, III 272.
 ANTILLOGY, III 272.
 ANTILOMICS, III 272.
 Antelope, genus of mammalia, XIV. 209.
 — fossil, XVII 170.
 ANTIMONIUM, III 272.
 ANTIMERIA, III 272.
 Antimonic acid, VI. 494; XV. 61.
 Antimonious acid, XV. 61.
 Antimonite, XV. 119.
 ANTIMONY, III 272; VI. 494; XV. 65, 114—white, 112, ores, 1b—oxide, 61—localities producing, 246; XVII 622—in galena, XIII 299—sometimes poisonous, XIV 434—specific gravity of, XII 88—in Chile, VI. 548—in Scotland, XIX. 790.
 — ore, gray, XV. 118.
 Antimony-ochre, XV. 112.
 Antimony-silver, XV. 113.
 Antonoë, ruins of, VIII. 504.
 ANTIOMIANS, III 273—Gnostic antinomians, I. 521, their corruptions of Christianity, 1b—their theory of moral distinctions, XV. 543.
 ANTIPOUS, III 273.
 ANTIOCH, III 273; XX. 901, 910—aqueeduct at, III 334—mundane era of, VI. 671—Cæsarean era of, 672—coins of, XVI 379—earthquake at, XVII 616.
 — in Pisidia, III 275.
 — ad Taurum, now Alntab, III 275; II. 430.
 ANTIOCHIAN, sect and epocha, III 275.
 ANTIOCHUS, a dynasty of Syrian kings, III 275.
 — SOTER, III 275.
 — the Great, VIII. 469—his war with the Romans, XIX. 812, 814.
 — of Ascalon, philosopher, III 275.
 — Epiphanes, III 275—his invasion of Egypt, VIII 469—his treatment of the Jews, XII 732, 768; XVII 193—Jerusalem laid waste by, XII 733.
 ANTIOPE, III 275.
 ANTIPODOPHASTIS, III 275; II. 741.
 ANTIPAROS, island, III 275.
 ANTIPAS HEROD, III 275; XII 770.
 Antipastus, in Prosody, IX. 770.
 ANTIPATER, III 275; XIII 773 *et seq*.
 — an Idumean, III. 276; XII 770.
 — Cælius, III. 276.
 — of Sidon, III. 276.
 Antipathana, zoophytes, XXI 1004.
 ANTIPATHY, III 276—therapeutical system, XI. 608, 607.
 ANTIPHILUS of Egypt, painter, III 276.
 ANTIPHLOGISTIC regimen, III 276—theory, VI. 352—in veterinary science, XXI 555.
 ANTIPHON, III 277.
 — geometer, X. 498—on the quadrature of the circle, XX. 520.
 ANTIPHONARY, III 277.
 ANTIPHONT, III 277.

ANT—ANU

ANTIPODES, III. 277; X. 485.
 ANTIQUARI, monks, copiers of old books, III 277.
 ANTIQUARY, III 277—Scottish Society of Antiquaries, VIII. 397—Society of, London, XIII 674.
 ANTIQUE, III 277.
 ANTIQUITIES, III 277—academies of, II. 69—pleasure from the study of, IV. 545—in the British Museum, XIII 674—of Greece, XI. 21—Indian, II. 696—Central America, XI. 77—Mexico, XIV 719—Cornwall, VII 408—Devonshire, 764—their relation to philology, XI. 527—Roman, XIX. 367. See Rome. See Medals, Athens, Egypt, &c.
 ANTRITHINUM, a genus of plants, III. 277.
 ANTISABBATARIANS, modern religious sect, III 277.
 ANTISCIT, III. 277.
 ANTISEPTICS, III 277; IX. 767; XIX. 621.
 Antisian, tribes of South America, IX. 349.
 ANTISPASMODICS, III 278.
 ANTISTASIS, in oratory, III 278.
 ANTISTHENES, Greek philosopher, III 278; I. 316; VII. 608; XVII 791—his admiration of Socrates, XX. 379.
 ANTISTROPIE, III 278.
 ANTITACTE, sect of Gnostics, III. 278.
 ANTITHESIS, in rhetoric, III 278.
 ANTITRINITARIANS, III 278.
 ANTITYPE, III 278.
 ANTUM, city of the Volsci, III. 278.
 ANTIVARI, III 278.
 Antlers, XIV 203; XVII 171.
 ANTILIA, an ancient machine, III. 278.
 — the proboscis of lepidopterous insects, III. 278.
 ANTOCI, III. 278; X. 485.
 ANTOINE (St), town of France, III. 279.
 ANTONELLO da Messina, III. 279.
 ANTONIA, fortress in Jerusalem, III 279; XII. 733, 744.
 ANTONIAN WATERS, III. 279.
 ANTONIANO (Silvio), III. 279.
 ANTONIENS (Hans), Vander Goe, Dutch poet, III. 279.
 ANTONIN (St), town of France, III. 279.
 ANTONINI ITINERARIUM, III 279, X. 463.
 ANTONINUS LIBERALIS, III 279.
 — MARCUS AURELIUS, the philosopher, Roman emperor, III 279—reign of, XIX. 344—his patronage of science, XIV. 454—English translation of his Meditations, XV. 626.
 — Prus, Roman emperor, III. 280—reign of, XIX. 343—his account of the Christians, VI. 641—condition of the Jews under, XII 775, XVII. 195.
 ANTONINUS'S WALL, III. 281, V. 379.
 ANTONIO (Nicholas), III. 282.
 — (Dom), prince of Portugal, XVIII. 384.
 — bishop of Spalatro, XIII. 449.
 — (Port) in Jamaica, XII. 677.
 ANTONIUS (Marcus), Roman orator, III. 282.
 — (MARCUS) triumvir, III. 282; VI. 763; XIX. 328 *et seq*.—his rule in Egypt along with Cleopatra, VIII. 471—his war against the Parthians, XVII. 312.
 ANTONOMASTIA, III. 283; XIX. 184.
 ANTOSLANDRIANS, a Lutheran sect, III. 283.
 ANTRAM, county in Ireland, III. 283—town, 286—basalt of, XV. 190—agricultural statistics of, XII. 516, 517.
 Antrimolite, mineral, XV. 75.
 ANTWERP (Antvers, in French), III. 286—commerce of, VII. 188; IV. 598—polyglot Bible of, 697; XVIII. 266—bombardment of, in 1830, IV. 606—siege of its citadel in 1892, 610; IX. 826; X. 208—taken by the Duke of Parma, XI. 571—Royal Academy of the Fine Arts at, IV. 632—railways, XI. 582—laid waste by the Spanish troops, 569—plocene rocks near, XV. 215—works of Rubens at, XIX. 469.
 Antylus on surgery, XX. 813.
 ANTUS, or Anup, Egyptian deity, III. 287; VIII. 439; XI. 386.

ANU—APH

- ANUS, muscles of the, III 39.
 ANVIL, III 288; V-anvil, XII 564—anchor-smiths', III 120.
 ANVILLE (J. B. Bourguignon d'), III 289—on the extent to which the ancients were acquainted with the coasts of Africa, II 209—his contributions to geography, X 473.
 ANWARI, Persian poet, III 290.
 ANWEILER, in Landau, III 290.
 ANYSIS, Egyptian king, XI 889.
 ANYTUS, one of the accusers of Socrates, XX 380, 392, 395.
 ANZIN, French village, III 290.
 ANZUAN, island, XII 789.
 AODON, genus of mammalia, XIV 281.
 AORIST, tense of Greek verbs, III 290, X 765.
 AORISTIA, III 290.
 AORTA, anatomy of, III 65—distribution of its branches, ib.—its anatomical connections, II 791—tying of the, XX 829, n.
 AOSTA, town and province of Piedmont, III 290; XVII 707.
 APÆDUSIA, III 290.
 APAOGGE, III 290.
 APAGOGICAL DEMONSTRATION, III 290.
 APAGON, a genus of fossil fishes, III 290.
 APAGYNOUS plants, III 290.
 APALACHIAN mountains, III 290. See Appalachian Mountains.
 APAMEA, name of several ancient cities of Asia, III 290.
 APANAGE, III 290.
 APATLITE, mineral, XV 97.
 APATEON, genus of fossil reptiles, XVII 133.
 APATHY, III 290.
 APATITE, mineral, III 291; XV 98—commission sent to examine it in Estremadura, II 415—crystallization of, VII 561.
 APATURA, genus of insects, IX 208.
 APATURIA, Athenian feast, III 291.
 APAULIA, III 291.
 APAUMBE, in heraldry, III 291.
 APE, III 291; XIV 137—apes at Gibraltar, X 619.
 A-P-EAK, sea-term, III 291.
 APEL, or Apellus (Johann), III 291.
 APÉLLES, III 291—his style of painting, XVII 55.
 APÉLLEICON of Teos, III 292—the works of Aristotle preserved by, 536.
 APÉLLEITES, heretics of second century, III 292.
 APENNINES, III 292. IX 382; XII 635; XVII 241; XX 235; XXI 392—heights of, XVII 642; XX 236—geology of, ib.—barley and oats extensively grown on, XXI 394.
 APENNADE, city in Schleswick, III 293.
 APEP or Apophis, Egyptian deity, VIII 438.
 APER, the wild boar, III 293, XIV 797.
 APÉRIENT, III 293.
 APÉRTURE, in geometry, III 293— in optics, III 293; XVI 554.
 APETALÆ, sub-class of plants, V 203.
 APETALOUS, plants, III 293.
 APÉX, III 293, 294.
 APÉLÉRESIS, III 294.
 APHANES, mineral, XV 103.
 APHANISTICUS, genus of insects, IX 105.
 APHANITE, rock, XV 135.
 APHAREUS, genus of fishes, XII 288.
 APÉTEX, name of several cities in Scripture, III 294.
 APHELIUM, or Aphelion, III 294, XVII 413.
 APHIDI, family of insects, IX 170.
 APHIDIPHAGI, family of insects, IX 151.
 APHIOM, Karahissar, III 294. See Afium.
 APHIS, plant-louse, III 294; IX 171—sucked by ants, III 293—Bonnet on the propagation of, V 8—woolly aphid, XI 716.
 APHILASTON, III 294.
 APHLOCHITON, genus of fishes, XII 248.
 APHLODACTYLUS, genus of fishes, XXI 277.
 APHRODISIUM, III 294.
 APHODIUS, genus of insects, IX 120.

APH—APO

- APHONIA, III 294.
 APHORISM, III 294.
 APHERACTI, III 294.
 APHRITE, XV 92.
 APHRIS, genus of fishes, XII 278.
 APHERODISIAS, name of several ancient cities, III 294.
 APHRODITA, genus of annelides, XI 299, 291.
 APHERODITE, III 294.
 APHTHARTODOCTE, III 294.
 APHTHONG, III 294.
 APHTHONIS, of Antioch, III 294.
 APHTHOS thrush, disease in animals, XXI 564.
 APHYLLOUS, leafless plants, III 294.
 APIACEÆ, an order of plants, V 195.
 APIAN (Peter), III 294.
 APIALÆ, section of insects, IX 198.
 APIARY, III 294; IV 586.
 APIOUS, III 296.
 APIGADAM, Dutch town, III 296.
 APIOCERAS, fossil mollusks, XVII 112.
 APIOCRINUS, fossil echinoderms, XVII 98, 99.
 APION, III 296—genus of insects, IX 138.
 APIS, Egyptian deity, III 296, XI 385.—genus of insects, IX 203.
 APISTES, genus of fishes, XII 281, 283.
 APIUM, a genus of umbelliferous plants, III 297.
 APJOHN (Dr), cases of human combustion related by, VII 166.
 APLOACTIS, genus of fishes, XII 283.
 APIUM, genus of mollusks, XV 371, 384 et seq—ova of, 390.
 APNEUSTA, order of mollusks, XV 369.
 APO, III 297.
 APOCALYPTIC, III 297. See Revelation, Book of.
 APOCARPOUS pistil, in botany, V 130.
 APOCOPE, III 297.
 APOCRISARIUS, III 297.
 APOCRUSTIC, III 297.
 APOCRYPHA, III 297; XIX 833—of the New Testament, XII 761—controversy respecting its circulation, IV 703, XXI 233—regarded as canonical by papists, XVIII 337.
 APOCRYPTES, genus of fishes, XII 306.
 APOCYNÆ, or Apocynaceæ, nat order of plants, III 298; V 199.
 APODA, order of zoophytes, XXI 896.
 APODECTE, III 298.
 APODERUS, genus of insects, IX 138.
 APODES, sub-order of fishes, XII 268.—lemniscati, sub-order of fishes, XII 229.—anguiformes, sub-order of fishes, XII 231.—arthropterygi, sub-order of fishes, XII 284.
 APODIOTIC, III 298.
 APODITERIA, III 298.
 APOGES, in astronomy, III 298; XVII 418.
 APOGENOIDES, genus of fishes, XII 288.
 APOGON, genus of fishes, XII 275—of fossil fishes, 343.
 APOKERUSIS, III 298.
 APOLECTUS, genus of fishes, XII 297.
 APOLEMIA, genus of zoophytes, XXI 1000, 1006.
 APOLLINARIAN GAMES, III 298.
 APOLLINARIANS, ancient heretics, III 298.
 APOLLINARIS (Sulpicius), III 299.—SIDONTUS (C. Sollus), III 299.
 APOLLINOPOLIS magna, temple of, III 458; VIII 518; XI 882, and n. 2.
 APOLLO, III 299, VII 708—oracles of, XVI 698—oracle of, at Delphi, VII 709.—BELVEDERE, statue, III 299; VIII 172; XIX 869.
 APOLLODORUS, Athenian painter, III 300; XVII 53.—of Carystus, comic poet, III 300.—tyrant of Cassandra, III 300.—of Gela, Sicilian poet, III 300.—the Athenian, III 300.—of Pergamos, III 300.—epigrammatic poet, III 300.—architect, III 300.—disciple of Socrates, XX 392, 394.

APO—APP

- APOLLONIA, city of Illyricum, III 300.—festival, III 300.
 APOLLONICON, III 300; XVI 713.
 APOLLONTOS of Alabanda, III 300.—Dyscolus, III 300, XVII 520.—of Perga, III 300; VII 348; X 501, 503—his profound researches in mathematics, I 551—on comic sections, VII 249, 250—extended notation proposed by, III 576—his contributions to astronomy, 782—his introduction of the epicycle, I 598; III 790—editions of his works, 303—first formed the alliance between geometry and astronomy, 790—Simson's restorations of his works, XX 300, 301—on the quadrature of the circle, 521.—author of the Argonautica, III 303; XVIII 103.—of Tralles, one of the sculptors of the Farnese bull, III 303.—sophist, III 303.—of Tyana, III 303—life of, by Philostratus, XVII 543.
 APOLLOS, III 304.
 APOLLYON, III 304; II 9.
 APOLOGISTS, in the primitive church, IX 491.
 APOLOGUE, III 304; IX 461.
 APOMYOS, heathen gods, III 304.
 APONO (Peter d'), III 304.
 APOPEMTC, III 304.
 APOPHORETA, III 304.
 APOPHOREMA, III 304.
 APOPHYGE, in architecture, III 507.
 APOPHYLLITE, mineral, III 304; XV 76.—optical properties of, XVI 542, 661, 663.
 APOPLEXY, III 304, XIV 486; XVII 700—in horses, XXI 575.
 APORIA, in rhetoric, III 304.
 APORIS, genus of insects, IX 195.
 APOROSPEIS, in rhetoric, III 305.
 APOSPHRAGISMA, III 305.
 APOSTASACEÆ, nat order of plants, V 211.
 APOSTASY, III 305.
 A POSTERIORE, III 305, 327.
 APOSTLE, III 305—Acts of the Apostles, II 118; XIII 718—the apostles of Jesus Christ have no successors, I 501, 487—spurious acts of the Apostles, II 118; III 298—the question of Peter's supremacy among the apostles, XVII 481 n., 482—manner in which the apostles speak of Christ, XXI 210.
 APOSTLES' CREED, III 305; I 493.
 APOSTOLEIS, III 306.
 APOSTOLLANS, sect of Mennonites, III 306.
 APOSTOLIC, III 306—churches, independent of each other, I 487.
 APOSTOLICAL FATHERS, III 306—constitutions, VII 322.—succession, how to be understood, I 503.
 APOSTOLICI, or Apostolica, III 306.
 APOSTOLITUM, III 306.
 APOSTROPHÆ, III 306; XVIII 685; XIX 183.
 APOSTURA, section of insects, IX 214.
 APOTACTITE, III 306.
 APOTHECHISMUS, III 306.
 APOTHECA, III 307.
 APOTHECARY, III 306—Apothecaries' Company, XV 465—table of apothecaries' weight, III 584; XXI 808—police of apothecaries' shops, XIV 441—grains, in different countries, XXI 807.
 APOTHECUM, in lichens, V 146.
 APOTHEOSIS, III 307.
 APOTHEUSIS, III 307.
 APOTOMÆ, III 307.
 APOTROPE, III 307.
 APPA Sahib, XV 771.
 APFALACHIAN MOUNTAINS, III 307; XXI 420, 421—coal-field of, 420. See Alleghany Mountains.—branch of American aborigines, II 877.
 APFALACHICOLA, river in North America, III 307.
 APPANAGE, III 307. See Apanage.

APP—APU

- APPARATUS, III 307.
 APPARELLE, in fortification, III 307.
 APPARENT HEIR, in law, III 307.
 APPARITION, CIRCLE OF, in astronomy, III 307.
 APPARITIONS, III 308—Shakspeare's ghosts, XX 88, and n. 1.
 APPARITOR, III 322.
 APPEAL, in law, III 322; VIII 787, 788— to God, XIII 262—in murder, 22. See Parliament.
 APPELLANT, III 323.
 APPELLATION, III 323.
 APPELLATIVE NAMES, III 324—of God, XXI 188.
 APPENDICULARIA, genus of mollusks, XV 236.
 APPENDINI (Francesco Maria), III 324.
 APPENZELL, Swiss town and canton, III 324, XX 882.
 APPERT (M.), his mode of preserving food, IX 767.
 APPEPTE, III 324; XIV 579.
 APPTIA VIA, III 324; XIX 223.
 APPIAN, Roman historian, III 325.
 APPIANT, two modern Italian painters, III 325.
 APPUS CLAUDIUS, III 325; XIX 300—his aqueduct, III 333.
 APPLAUSE, III 325.
 APPLE, III 325; V 191—section of the fruit, 138—chemical composition of, IX 759—culture and varieties of, XI 715—specific gravity of the wood of the apple-tree, XII 89.—egg, V 201.—(bitter), V 193.
 APPELEY, in Westmoreland, III 325; XXI 843.
 Applegath's printing machines, XVIII 559, 560.
 APPLICATION, in geometry, III 325.
 Appold's centrifugal pump, XII 76, 180.
 APPRAISER, III 325.
 APPREHENSION, in logic, III 325; XIII 568; XIX 114, 115.
 APPRENTICE, III 325; XIV 346—sea-apprentices, 349.
 APPRENTICESHIP, III 326—of slaves, XX 325.
 APTRACHES, in fortification, III 327. See Fortification.
 APPROBATION, love of, XVII 562, 673.
 APPROVERS, in law, XVIII 192.
 APPROXIMATION, III 327.
 Appuldurcombe Down, Isle of Wight, XXI 861.
 APSILUS, in astronomy, III 327; IV 46, 48.
 APRICOT, culture and varieties of, XI 711.
 APRIES, king of Egypt, III 327; VIII 465.
 APRIL, III 327—gardening calendar for, XI 758.
 APRION, genus of fishes, XII 276, 323.
 A PRIORI, a philosophical term, III 327.
 APRON, in ship-building, III 327—in gunnery, III 327.
 APSILUS, genus of fishes, XII 276.
 APSIS, III 327.—in astronomy, III 327—motion of the Apseids, I 812; IV 102; change of the, I 811.
 APSUS, genus of fossil fishes, XII 346.
 APSLEY House, XXI 829, 940.
 APS, in France, III 328.
 APtenodytes, genus of birds, XVI 811.
 APteral, in architecture, III 507.
 APterichthys, genus of fishes, XII 282.
 APteryx, a genus of wingless birds, III 328; XVI 796; XVII 155.
 APthalmichthys, genus of fishes, XII 282.
 APTHANE, III 328.
 APtinus, genus of insects, IX 81.
 APTORNUS, extinct genus of birds, XVII 156.
 APULIUS (Lucius), III 328; II 608.
 APULLA, a subdivision of ancient Italy, III 328—volcanic formation of, XII 637.
 APULIAN system of agriculture, XX 247.
 APURE, river, III 328; XVI 716.—province, XXI 567.

APU—ARA

APURIMAC, river, III 328; XVII 604.
 APUSCUMAC, African lake, III 328.
 APYONI (Son), III 328.
 APYRUS, III 328.
 AQUA, III 328—fortis—secunda—Tofana, history of, ib.
 —marina, or aquamarina, III 328; XV 88.
 —regia, III 328; VI 483—specific gravity of, XII 89.
 Aquæ Sextæ, defeat of the Teutones at, XIX 319.
 AQUAMBOE, African kingdom, III 331.
 AQUARIANS, III 331.
 AQUARI, III 331.
 Aquarium, invention of, XV 328.
 AQUARIUS, zodiacal sign, III 331; IV 80.
 Aquatic plants, V 221.
 AQUATINTA ENGRAVING, III 331; VIII 799, 801.
 AQUEDUCT, III 333—Roman, XIX 359—at Delhi, VII 706—at Marseille, XIV 317—ruins of, at Jericho, XII 727—at Lisbon, XIII 506—at Segovia, XX 33.
 Aquæus humour of the eye, in man, III 44; XVII 678—in different animals, III 95.
 —rocks, XV 139—classification of, 155—petrology, or the character, structure, &c., of, 156—elevation of, 166—as building stones, XX 711.
 Aquifoliaceæ, nat. order of plants, V 199.
 AQUILA, a constellation, III 339; IV 80.
 —Neapolitan city, III 339—Roman standard, ib.
 —a native of Pontus, III 339—his Greek version of the Old Testament, IV 700; XIX 840.
 —genus of birds, XVI 742.
 Aquilariaceæ, nat. order of plants, V 205.
 AQUILEIA, ancient Italian city, III 339.
 AQUINAS (St Thomas), III 339—doctrines of, I 325—his comprehensive views, 326—extensive influence of his ethical system, 328—champion of Augustinianism, 325, 434—on charity, 436—on the power of the Pope, 436—on comedy, VIII 148.
 AQUINO, Italian town, III 340.
 —(CARLO D'), Italian writer, III 340.
 AQUITANIA, division of Gaul, III 340.
 ARABESQUE, III 340; XI 68; XVII 59.
 ARABIA, III 341, 734—climate of, 736—7—coffee, VII 53—modern names of months, VI 674—expeditions of Mohammed Alee and Ibrahim Pasha against the Wahabees of, VIII 493, 494—locusts in, IX 159—horses of, XI 634; III 345, 740—languages of, XIII 200, 209—mythology, XV 764—coins of, XVI 380—mountains of, XVII 597—deserts, 614—Arabian botanical region, V 228; XVII 628—export from Europe of the precious metals to, XVIII 467—weights and measures of, XXI 809—polygamy, XVIII 266.
 Arabians, or Saracens, of the middle ages—the first discoverers in Northern Africa, II 209—invention of algebra claimed by them, 483—their conquest of Algiers, 567—fond of astrology, 598—science cultivated by them, 764—55—anatomy little advanced by them, 755—national character, VIII 490, n. 4—their dialects, VII 778—their architecture, III 400; VIII 499, n. 2—conquests, III 743—their astronomy, 794—refined species of numeration, II 7—introduction of Arabian numerals into Europe, III 580—medicine under, XIV 456, 457, its decline, 456, 457—conquest of Egypt by, VIII 474—their attention to geography, X 468, to geometry and other sciences, 508; to mathematics, XXI 338—appear to have been acquainted with gunpowder, XI 150—their art, XVII 60—their knowledge of surgery, XX 814—See Saracens.
 Arabic alphabet, II 616—translations of Aristotle, III 537—versions of the

ARA—ARA

Scriptures, IV 700; XIX 339—learning, XVII 521—language, 534; XIX 338—Mr Carlyle's translation of Arabic works, VI 242—Casaris' catalogue of Arabic MSS., 310—Edrisis' Arabic work on geography, VIII 411—Pocock's Arabic versions, XVIII 88.
 Arabic, gum, V 73, 190; XI 93—specific grav. of, XII 89—imports of, into the United Kingdom, VIII 734, into Britain, XI 93—of Korofan, XIII 131.
 ARABIC, sect, III 366.
 Arabine, V 73; IX 756; XI 93.
 ARABISM, III 366.
 ARABIST, III 366.
 Arabs (Modern), III 347—in Africa, II 220—Algiers, 566—Syria, XX 907—their invasion of, 911—their ballad literature, IV 396—slave-trade carried on by, XX 320—See Bedouins.
 ARACIN, III 366. See Arracan.
 Aracana, genus of fishes, XII 314.
 Aracans, birds, XVI 779.
 Araceæ, nat. order of plants, V 214.
 ARACEUS, a genus of plants, III 366.
 ARACENE, III 366.
 ARACHNIDES, III 367—poisonous species, XIV 441—fossil, XVII 100, 103.
 ARACHNOIDES, in anatomy, III 390, 87.
 ARACHNOTHERA, genus of birds, XVI 769.
 ARACK, III 390—See Arrack.
 Aradus, genus of insects, IX 163.
 ARBOMETER, III 390—barometrical, XII 87.
 Aræopagus. See Areopagus.
 ARBORETYPE, in architecture, III 392, 507.
 ARBROSTITTLE, in architecture, III 392, 507.
 ARBOTICS, in medicine, III 392.
 ARÆXENE, mineral, XV 106.
 ARAFAH, III 392.
 ARAFAT, mountain near Mecca, III 392; XIV 379.
 Arago (Dominique François Jean), I 907, 908—his geodetical observations, ib.—his optical labours of most importance, ib.—his discovery of the colours of crystallized bodies in polarized light, ib.—on the phenomena of depolarization, ib.—his experiments on rays oppositely polarized, 909—his polariscope, ib.—on Newton's rings, and the rotatory action of quartz, 910—on the retardations of light in dense media, ib.—his rotation magnetism explained, 980—on electro-magnetism, 911, 974, 745, 746, VIII 532—on meteorology, I 911—character of his Eluges, ib.—article on polarization of light, in this work, written by, ib. n. 2—his death, I 911—on chromatics, VI 643 et seq.—his share in measuring the French arc of meridian, I 837—on Sir Wm. Herschel's discoveries, 846 n. 2—on magnetism, XIV 10, 15, 29, 30, 31, 53, 55—on micrometers, 744, 745—his micrometer, 752—on optics, XVI 537, 538, 544, 595, 605 et seq., 762—pension obtained for the discoverers of photography by, XVII 545—experiments on the force of steam, XX 558—on the power of electrical currents in developing magnetism in iron and steel, XXI 638, 640—his acquaintanceship with Dr Thos. Young, 994.
 ARAGON, in Spain, III 398; XX 493—Moorish kingdom of, 462—Christian kingdom, 467—canal of, 491—vintage of, XXI 884.
 —dynasty of, in the two Sicilies, XX 259, 263.
 ARAGONA, town of Sicily, III 394.
 ARAGONITE, mineral, III 394. See Arragonite.
 ARAKAT, town of Spain, III 394.
 ARAT, sea of, III 394, 738; XVII 591, 606; XIX 549.
 ARALACEÆ, nat. order of plants, III 394; V 195.
 ARAX, III 394; XX 901.
 —descendants of, VIII 46.
 —(Eugene), scene of the murder committed by, XIII 107.

ARA—ARC

Aramean race of man, II 775.
 ARAMAIC LANGUAGE, III 394; XIII 209; XIX 833.
 Aramus, genus of birds, XVI 798.
 ARANDA DE DUERO, Spanish town, III 394.
 Aranea, genus of Arachnides, III 379.
 Araneides, family of spiders, III 373.
 ARANGOE, kind of beads, III 394.
 ARANJUEZ, Spanish town, III 394.
 Aranzi (J. C.), his anatomical discoveries, II 759.
 Arapaima, genus of fishes, XII 250, 249.
 Araponga, birds, XVI 750.
 Araqua-Guazi, river, XVII 709.
 ARARAT, mountain, III 394.
 ARAS, ancient Araxes, river, III 395.
 Aratinga, genus of birds, XVI 780.
 ARATUS, of Sicily, III 395.
 —of Soli, poet, III 395.
 Arian, Swiss town, XX 882.
 ARAUCANIA, in South America, III 395.
 Arianism, II 690, VI 552, 553; IX 349—their wars with the Spaniards, III 395—complexion of, VI 548.
 ARAUCARIA, genus of coniferous plants, III 396; XVII 761.
 Arauco, in Chile, VI 547.
 ARAUSI, III 396.
 ARAVULLI, mountains, III 396.
 ARBACES, king of Media, III 396, 778; IV 594; XVII 434.
 Arbacia, fossil echinoidæ, XVII 100.
 ARBALEST, or Cross-bow, III 396, V 251.
 ARBE, island and city of Ilyria, III 396.
 ARBELA, now Arbil, in Asiatic Turkey, III 396—battle of, XIII 768; XVII 434.
 ARBERG, a Swiss town, III 396.
 Arbetio, VII 304.
 Arbitrator, in law, III 396.
 ARBITRARY, III 396—punishment in law, ib.
 ARBITRATION, III 396—of exchange, IX 444.
 Arblay (Madame D') See Burney (Frances).
 Arbogastes, VII 310, 311.
 ARBOIS, French town, III 397.
 ARBON, Swiss town, III 397.
 ARBOR, in mechanics, III 397.
 —vite, XVII 761.
 Arboreculture. See Planting.
 ARBORETH, III 397; IX 783—abbey of, ib.—paying-stone, V 45.
 ARBURG, Swiss city, III 398.
 Arbuthill, station in the Trigonometrical Survey, XXI 331.
 ARBUTHNOT (Alexander), III 398.
 —(JOHN, MD.), III 398—his share in the work entitled Martinus Scriblerus, I 243 n., XX 873—estimate of his talents, I 286—his errors respecting the value of ancient coins, XV 433—his epitaph on Col. Chartres, IX 283—Swift's intimacy with, XX 873.
 ARBUSUS, genus of plants, III 399; V 198; XI 748; XVII 761; XX 330—A uræa uræ, used for dyeing black, VIII 305—A. urædo, indigenous to Kerry, XV 687.
 ARC, JOAN of, III 399; XII 787; X 23.
 —trisection of an, III 145.
 —of meridian, measurement of, IX 548 et seq.—French arc, I 836—English, 837—Indian, 838; IX 552, 557 n., 568 n.—Russian, I 854—table of arcs of meridian, IX 562.
 —of parallel, I 854; IX 559, 560, 564.
 Arca, genus of mollusks, XV 347, 349; XVII 106.
 Arcada, family of mollusks, XV 349—fossil, XVII 106.
 ARCADE, in architecture, III 400, 488, 507.
 Arcadi, Academy of, II 70.
 ARCADIA, III 400; XI 12, 19—monarchy of, XV 412—coins of, XVI 372.
 Arcadian alphabet, II, Pl. XIX.
 Arcadius, Roman emperor, VII 311.
 Arcanite, mineral, XV 89.
 ARCELAUTS, III 400.
 ARCH, III 400, 507—principle of, known to the Greeks, 440; XX 710; but its properties unknown, III 443—invention

ARC—ARC

of the, ib—first extensively used by the Romans, ib.—Gothic, speculation as to its invention, 446—Saxon, 480—Anglo-Norman, ib—pointed, ib et seq.—Lancet, 481—Attwood on the, IV 234—equilibrium of arches, V 351—brickwork arches, 733—early Egyptian arches, VIII 502—centres for, VI 373 et seq.—Assyrians well acquainted with the principle of, XVI 277—non arches, XII 587—in the construction of roofs, 589—oblique, XX 314—arch of a circle, X 513—theory of stone arches, XX 544—principles of, 719—how to describe, 725—to find the joints of, 728—to find the arch-stones, ib—different kinds of, in mediæval architecture, 732—arch-joints, 734—relieving arches, ib. See Aqueduct, Bridge, Centre, Skew-bridge.
 ARCH, TRIUMPHAL, III 418—Roman, 469, 477—arch of Titus, 487.
 —an English prefix, III 419.
 Archæocladia, fossil echinoidæ, XVII 99.
 ARCHÆOLOGY, III 419.
 Archæoniscus, fossils, XVII 102.
 Archæus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 845.
 Archagathus, his African expedition, VI 285.
 —physician, XIV 453, XX 812.
 ARCHAIISM, III 422.
 ARCHANGEL, III 422.
 —in Russia, III 422; XIX 521—blockade of the town of, in 1854, 507—climate, 519.
 ARCHBISHOP, III 423; IX 281—succession of archbishops of Canterbury, VI 197—English archbishops, VIII 743—French, X 243, 267.
 ARCHCHAMBERLAIN, III 423.
 ARCHCHANCELLOR, III 423.
 ARCHDEACON, III 423—court, 424—English archdeacons, VIII 743.
 ARCHDUKE, III 424.
 Archegonium, in botany, V 156.
 Aichegossaurus, fossil reptile, XVII 133.
 ARCHELAUS, Greek philosopher, III 424.
 —king of Macedonia, III 424; XIII 761.
 —king of Judea, III 424; XII 772.
 —Athenian general, III 424, IV 172—his engagement with Sylla, III 685.
 —Greek sculptor, III 424.
 —king of Cappadocia, VI 223.
 ARCHENA, Spanish town, III 424.
 ARCHENHOLZ (Johann Wilhelm Von), III 424.
 Archer (Scott), his improvements in photography, XVII 546, 547.
 —(Henry), his machine for perforating postage stamps, XVIII 415.
 Archers, Royal Company of, in Scotland, III 428—body of, established by Henry VII as yeomen of the guard, VIII 694.
 ARCHERY, III 424; XI 170; XX 200—practised at Kilwinning, XIII 88. See Bow.
 ARCHES COURT, III 429; VII 468.
 ARCHETYPE, III 429.
 ARCHIBUS, III 429.
 Archiadia, fossil echinoidæ, XVII 100.
 ARCHIACOOLYTHUS, III 429. See Acolyte.
 ARCHITATE, III 429; XIV 422.
 Archidamus, IV 204.
 ARCHIDAPIFER, III 429.
 ARCHIDONA, Spanish city, III 429.
 Archiepiscopal orders of knighthood, XIII 123.
 ARCHIGALLUS, III 429.
 Archigenes, Roman surgeon, XX 813.
 ARCHIGERONTES, III 429.
 ARCHIL, lichen for dyeing purple, III 429; V 217; VIII 285; XIII 515—discovery of, VIII 273.
 ARCHILOCHIAN verse, III 429.
 ARCHILOCHUS, Greek poet, III 429.
 ARCHIMAGUS, III 429.
 ARCHIMANDRITE, III 429.
 ARCHIMEDES, III 429; X 500—his contributions to mathematics, I 551, 553—discoveries in physics, 566—the first who applied mathematics to natural philosophy, 567—his discoveries in hy-

ARC—ARD

arostatics, 596, XII 69—extended notation proposed by, III 576—his planetarium, 790—his burning glasses, VI 3, 7; I 692—on comic sections, VII 249, 250—his screw-engine, XII 69, 181—his proposition on floating bodies, 88—anecdote of, 85, XX 130—Moor's edition of his *Arenarius*, XV 526—on the quadrature of the circle, XX 521, 522—his machines for defending Syracuse, 900—death of, ib
 ARCHIMEDES—SCREW PROPELLER, III 430
 See Steam Navigation
 Archimediopora, fossil animals, XVII 98, 96
 ARCHIMIMUS, III 430.
 ARCHINUS of Coele, III 431.
 ARCHIPELAGO, III 431—the Dangerous Archipelago, XVIII 282.
 ARCHUSYNAGOGUS, III 431.
 ARCHITECT, III 431—skilful architects of the middle ages, 402
 ARCHITECTURE, III 432—French Academy of, II 69—Mexican, 683—Peruvian, 685, 688—Chinese, 688; VI 532—Egyptian, III 457, VIII 442—Nubian, XVI 340—Hindu, III 459, XI 477—Grecian, III 440, 460—Roman, 443, 469—Italian, 449, 477—Gothic or Pointed, 445, 478—principles of architectural composition, 485—glossary of terms, 507—Assyrian, III 499 *et seq*; XVI 276—of Pompeii, XVIII 288—Spain, XX 494—America, XXI 424—Alison on the beauty of Grecian, IV 549—Coulomb's statistical problems relating to, VII 461—improved by the Crusades, 534—its position among the arts, XIV 337—Lombard style, XIII 643—garden architecture, XI 754—in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, &c., XXI 934 See Arch, Building, Carpentry, Chimney, Dome, Free Masonry, Roof, Stone Masonry, &c.
 (Naval). See Ship-building.
 Architeave, III 507—Doric, 464, 476—Ionic, 465, 475—Corinthian, 467, 474—Caryatic, 467—in joinery, V, 752, XII 812.
 ARCHIVE, or Archives, III 517.
 ARCHIVIST, III 517.
 Archivolt, in architecture, III 507.
 ARCHLUTZ, or Arcilluto, III 517.
 ANCHOX, III 517, IV 198, 213—in Gnosticism, X 687
 ARCHPRIEST, or archpresbyter, III 518.
 ANCHITAS of Tarentum, III 518, 562; X 498, XVII 787—his artificial flying dove, II 166, IV 320.
 Arcis, battle of, X 168
 ARCIS-SUR-AUBE, in France, III 518.
 ARCO, town in the Tyrol, III 618.
 ARCOLE, village in Austrian Italy, III 518—battle of, ib; X 103; XV 789.
 ARCON (J. C. E. Le Michaud d'), French engineer, III 518—his floating batteries, X 618
 Arcopagus, genus of insects, IX 153.
 ARCOS DE LA FRONTERA, Spanish town, III 519.
 ARCOOT, city of Hindustan, III 519.
 —nabob of, payment of his debts, V 514—Burke's speech on that subject, 777.
 ARCTIC, III 519—circle, ib.—pole, X 461—ocean, XVII 876; depth of, XVII 575.
 —Regions, III 519. See Polar Regions.
 —region of vegetation, V 231
 Arctomya, genus of mammalia, XIV 179.
 ARCTURUS, a fixed star, III 519.
 Arcuata, family of crustacea, VII 541.
 Arcucl, aqueduct of, III 336.
 AROR (Grotte d'), a stalagmitic cavern, III 519.
 —(PATRICK D'), III 519—on over-shot wheels, XII 168.
 Ard (Loch), trout of, III 158, 2.
 ARDEA, or Ardua, ancient city of Latium, III 519.
 —genus of birds, III 519; XVI, 798.
 ARDEBIL, or Ardebeel, Persian town, III 519.

ARD—ARG

ARDECHE, in France, III 519
 ARDEE, town in Ireland, III 519.
 ARDELAN, province of Persia, III 520
 ARDELL (James Mac), engraver, III 520.
 ARDEN, III 520
 ARDENNE, forest of, III 520, IV 610.
 ARDENNES, III 520
 Ardent spirits See Alcohol, Distillation, Brandy, &c
 Ardern (John of), surgeon, XX 817
 ARDES, French town, III 520
 ARDFERT, Irish town, III 520, XIII 72
 ARDGLASS, Irish seaport, III 520, VIII 122
 ARDISHER, III 520. See Persia
 Ardmore, in Waterford, XXI 769—pillar-tower at, 771.
 Ardnuichur, castle of, XXI 841.
 ARDOCH, in Perthshire, III 520
 ARDOXE, town in Belgium, III 520.
 ARDRAH, in Africa, III 520.
 ARDRES, French town, III 520.
 ARDROSSAN, in Ayrshire, III 520—harbour of, IV 338—railway, ib.—canal, XIII 176.
 ARDSICHER, in Wallachia, III 520
 ARE, French superficial measure, III 520; X 284.
 AREA, III 520—in architecture, ib—in geometry, 521; X 520—areas of the comic sections, VII 289 See Mensuration
 AREBO, African town, III 521.
 ARECA, a genus of palms, III 521, V 214; VI 394—fruit used in making betel, IV 685
 Areopagtas See Areopagus.
 AREMBERG, Prussian town, III 521.
 ARENA, III 521
 Arenaceous plants, V 221.
 ARENARIA, genus of birds, III 521; XVI 804—of plants, III 521.
 ARENARI, III 521
 ARENARIUM, III 521
 ARENDAL, Norwegian town, III 521.
 ARENDT (Martin Frederic), III 521
 ARENGA, a genus of palms, III 521.
 ARENICOLA, genus of annelides, XI 296.
 ARENICOLL, section of insects, IX 120
 Arencoid barometer, IV 459.
 ARENSBERG, city of Westphalia, III 521.
 ARENSBURG, seaport of European Russia, III 521.
 Areoda, genus of insects, IX 125.
 AREOLA, III 521.
 Areometer, barometrical, XII 87.
 AREORAGUR, III 521; IV 169, 215; XI 19
 AREQUITA, in Peru, III 521; XVII 469, 474.
 —volcanic mountain, IV 822—height of, XV 645
 ARES, Greek deity, III 522
 ARETEUS of Cappadocia, III 522; II 688; XX 812, 813—on insanity, XIV 527.
 ARETALOGI, III 522.
 ARETHUSA, III 522, XI 361.
 ARETINO (Guido), musician, III 522
 —(LEONARDO and FRANCESCO), III 523.
 —(PIETRO), III 523—anecdote of Tintoretto and, XXI 284
 AREZZO, Tuscan city, III 523.
 —prefettura of, XXI 305.
 AREFE (Henrique and Juan de), III 524.
 Arfvedsonite, mineral, XV 81.
 Argali, in zoology, XIV 212, 213.
 ARGAND (Aimé), III 524.
 —gas-burners, X 425—their offices, 426.
 —lamp, XIII 170—used in reflectors, 469.
 Argas, genus of arachnides, III 388.
 ARGAUM, in Hyderabad, III 524.
 ARGEL, III 524.
 Argelander (Prof.), on the solar motion, IV 87; I, 848—his catalogue of stars, IV 95—in the magnitude of the stars, ib.
 ARGELLES, in France, III 524.
 ARGENSOLA (Bartolome Leonard de), III 524.
 ARGENT, III 524—in heraldry, XI 324.
 ARGENTAC, French town, III 524.

ARG—ARI

ARGENTAN, in France, III 524.
 Argentario, mountain, XXI 393.
 ARGENTARIUS, III 524
 ARGENTECH, French town, III 524.
 Argenteus, Roman coin, XVI 383.
 ARGENTIERE, island, III 524
 Argentina, genus of fishes, XII 245.
 ARGENTINE CONFEDERATION, III 524 See La Plata.
 ARGENTINUS, Roman deity, III 524.
 Argentite, XV 117.
 ARGENTUM ALBUM, III 524.
 —DEI, III 524
 Arges, genus of fishes, XII 262, 260.
 Argillaceous rocks, XVII 620
 ARGO, III 524.
 ARGOBAST (Louis François Antoine), III 524
 Argobastes, VII 311
 ARGOL, or Argal, III 524.
 Argolis, in Greece, XI 12, 19—coins of, XVI 372.
 Argonauta, genus of mollusks, XV 401, 395
 ARGONAUTS, III 524
 —of St NICHOLAS, military order, III 525
 —Academy of, II 62
 ARGONNE, in France, III 525.
 ARGOS, III 525; XI 12—monarchy of, XV 412.
 —AMPHIPHOCICUM, III 525.
 ARGOSTOLI, town in Cephalonia, III 525, XII 453
 Argovia, a Swiss canton, II 3. See Argau.
 ARGUT, African island, III 525.
 Argumentation, process of, XIX 119, 120.
 Arguments, in rhetoric—classification of, XIX 121—application of, 125—from condition, 122—symptom, 122—resemblance, 124
 ARGUMENTUM AD HOMINEM, III 525
 ARGUN, river, III 525
 ARGUNSKOI, town in Siberia, III 525
 ARGUS, III 525—shell, 525
 —genus of birds, XVI 790.
 ARGUTTE, III 525.
 Aigyle (carls, marquises, and dukes of), III 527. See Campbell.
 —in Australia, IV 278, 282.
 ARGYLSHIRE, III 525—fisheries of, IX 635, 636—vitified forts of, 792—agricultural statistics, XIX 796, 797, 798—population, 799.
 Argynnis, genus of insects, IX 207.
 ARGYRASPIDES, III 527.
 ARGYREOSUS, genus of fishes, XII 297.
 ARGYRO-CASTRO, town in Albania, III 527.
 Argyroneta, genus of arachnides, III 379.
 Argyropelecus, genus of fishes, XII 248
 ARGYROPOLUS (Joanne), III 527.
 ARIADNEA, Greek festivals, III 527.
 ARIADNE, daughter of Minos, III 527.
 Arian languages, XVII 523—branches of, 530—philology of, 531—extensiveness of, 538
 ARIANO, Neapolitan city, III 528
 ARIANUS, III 528, 608; VIII 473; XII 764, XXI 208—opposed by St Ambrose, II 663—Milton's adoption of their views, XV 34—Whitaker's work on Arianism, XXI 851. See Arius.
 Arianthes, VI 222.
 ARIAS-MONTANUS, Spanish divine, III 528.
 ARICA, town and district in Peru, III 528.
 Aricia, genus of annelides, XI 299.
 ARICINA, surname of Diana, III 528.
 Arideus, XIII 773.
 ARIEGH, in France, III 528.
 ARIENZO, city of Naples, III 528.
 Aries, zodiacal sign, III 528.
 —See Battering-ram.
 Arietes, Ammonites, XVII 113.
 Aril, or Arillus, in botany, V 140.
 Arillode, in botany, V 140.
 ARIMANES, III 528.
 ARIMASPI, III 528.
 Arimundus, XIX 173.
 Anobarzanes, VI 222; XVIII 292.
 Ariodes, genus of fishes, XII 262.

ARI—ARI

ARIZOLI, III 528.
 ARION, Lesbian poet, III 528—fabulous horse, 529.
 —genus of mollusks, XV 374.
 ARIOSTO (Lodovico), III 529—Galileo's admiration of, X 381—his poetry, XVIII 95, 110—Hoole's translation of his *Orlando Furioso*, XI 622
 Ariovistus, X 574.
 ARISTEUS, son of Apollo, III 530
 —geometer, X 499.
 Aristagoras, his map, X 466.
 —the Milesian, IV 198.
 ARISTANDER, soothsayer, III 530.
 ARISTARCHUS, of Samos, III 530—his astronomy, 790
 —of Samothrace, III 530.
 Aristæus's account of the Pentateuch, IV 699.
 ARISTIDES the Just, III 530; IV 199.
 —(P. ÆLIUS), Greek rhetorician, III 531.
 —(QUINTILLIANUS), III 531
 —Greek painter, III 531; XVII 54, 57.
 Aristillus, astronomer, I 598; III 790; X 465.
 ARISTIPPUS, founder of the Cyrenaic sect of philosophers, III 531, 531, note 9; I 816, VII 610; XVII 789
 ARISTO of Chios, Stoic philosopher, III 532.
 ARISTOBULUS of Cassandria, III 532
 —Alexandrian Jew, III 532—his notice of the Septuagint, IV 698.
 —XII 770; XVII 194
 ARISTOCRACY, III 532; X 734—in Attica, IV 193.
 Aristodocus of Cyne, XX 391.
 ARISTOTELIS, III 532, XI 229; III 532; IV 197.
 ARISTOLOCHIEÆ, or Aristolochiaceæ, nat. order of plants, III 532, V 205.
 Aristomenes, XX 469.
 Aristonicus, XVII 411.
 ARISTOPHANES, III 532—his comedies. VIII 139—his enmity to Euripides, IX 378—instructed the people under the mask of folly, XVII 795—his comedy of *The Clouds*, XX 383—his ridicule and misrepresentation of Socrates, ib 384, 385.
 —of Byzantium, III 532.
 ARISTOTLE, III 533—his writings, 536, 570—character of his philosophy, 538—causes which operated in undermining the authority of, I 16—by whom his authority was endangered, 26—on rhetoric, 54; III 556, XIX 119 *et seq*—his comparison of the mind to a sheet of unwritten paper, I 330—resemblance of Hume's principles of association to the views of, 443—his definition of motion, 566; of light, 621; and heat, 756—his disbelief in a future state, 463—his physical tenets, III 541; IV 443—his system of logic may be derived from India, V 271—high estimation of his works in the middle ages, VII 535—on dew, 765—on the dramatic unities, VIII 152—on speculative philosophy, XIV 551—on dreams, VIII 176—his supported opinion on *universals*, XVI 284—Reid's account of his logic, XIX 2—founder of comparative anatomy, II 750—extent of his anatomical knowledge, ib.—his influence on the advancement of medicine, XIV 452—philology advanced by, XVII 518—refutation of his logic by Ramus, XVIII 805—his History of animals, II 750; III 543, 549; XII 204; XIV 122—on the soul, III 548—on mathematics, 541—on metaphysics, 541; XIV 553—on perception, III 549—his astronomy, 545, 789—his use of the term Reminiscence, XIV 576 and a. 10—his Analytics, III 553—on fishes, XII 259, 274 *et seq*—on birds, XVI 725—his Dialectic, III 550—his Poetics, 559—his Ethics, 560—his Politics, 566—design of his philosophy, 570—style of his writings, ib.—his obscurity, 571—C

ARI—ARM

his method of discussion, *ib.*—his originality, *ib.*—how far indebted to Plato, *ib.*—his esoteric and exoteric works, IX. 332—on fallacies, 476—on speech, XIII. 185—his library, 383—on light, 449—on optics, XVI. 521—on the distinction between *making* and *doing*, XV. 535—on moral philosophy, 536, 538, 541, 558, 560—his ethical works, 539—on the air, XVIII. 24—on man as a member of society, XV. 569—on falconry, XX. 209—on the silk-worm, 286—*Simplicius'* commentaries on, 298—Socrates a precursor of, 402—*influence* of his doctrines on medicine, 811—says little about the tides, XXI. 250—his opinions on natural theology, 181.

ARISTOTLE'S PHILOSOPHY, III. 536—*Lucius'* contempt for, I. 16—*Melanthon's* approbation of, *ib.* See *Aristotle*, *Ethics*, and *Ethical Philosophy*.

ARISTOXENUS, III. 572.

ARITHMETIC, III. 572—history of, *ib.*—early systems of notation, I. 702—discovery of the denary system generally referred to India, 703—advantages and gradual extension of this system, *ib.*—decimal fractions first introduced by *Stevinus*, *ib.*—notation of decimals brought to its utmost simplicity by *Napier*, *ib.*—advantages and disadvantages of the duodenary scale, *ib.*—perfect, prime, and composite numbers, 704—magic squares, *ib.*—continued fractions much cultivated during the eighteenth century, 705, and brought to perfection by *Euler*, *ib.*—applications of the theory by him, *ib.*—applied to the solution of numerical equations by *Lagrange*, 706—tables of the powers and products of numbers by *Hervart*, *ib.*—of the Greeks, Romans, and Arabians, II. 5, 6, 7—abundant number in, 54—proportion in, 500—of sines, 547—allegation or solution of questions relating to the mixture of ingredients, 592—binary, IV. 724; I. 703—Chinese knowledge of, VI. 585—Druidical knowledge of, VIII. 187—necessary truths of, XIV. 597, 598—one of the branches of pure mathematics, 383—*Napier's* rods, XV. 777—*Pestalozzi's* mode of teaching, XVII. 479—*Playfair* on the arithmetic of impossible quantities, XVIII. 4—arithmetical board for the blind, IV. 777—arithmetical progression, XVIII. 639. See *Number*, *Series*, *Addition*, &c.

ARIS, III. 607; IX. 404—his songs, XII. 189.

—genus of fishes, XII. 262.

ARK (Noah's), III. 608; VII. 718; XX. 117—of the Covenant, III. 608—in synagogues, XX. 898.

ARKANSAS, North American state, XII. 608; XXI. 419—debt of, 428—production of wine in, 883.

—river, III. 609; XVII. 605, 646.

ARKTIC, XX. 904.

ARKLOW, Irish town, III. 609.

ARKWRIGHT (Sir Richard), III. 609; VII. 442; V. 508—his spinning-frame, VII. 449; and other machines in cotton manufacture invented by, 443, 444; XIV. 251; XX. 510—importance of his inventions, V. 508.

ARLAND (Jacques Antoine), III. 612.

ARLES, in France, III. 612.

—earnest money, III. 524, 678.

ARM, human, muscles of, III. 38—motions of, 40.

ARMADA (Spanish), III. 612; VIII. 712; XVII. 511; XX. 469—English force opposed to, 127—partly wrecked on the coast of Ireland, XII. 478—articles brought up by a diver from sunk ships of the, VIII. 60.

ARMADILLO, quadruped, III. 613; XIV. 181—fossil, XVII. 174—teeth of, XVI. 440, 441.

ARMAGEDDON, III. 618.

ARMAGE, III. 612—battle of, XII. 478—agricultural statistics of, 516, 517.

ARM—ARM

ARMAGNAC, in France, III. 615.

—counts of, X. 22, 27.

ARMAMENT of fortresses, IX. 822—of ships of war, XVI. 93, 94, 98.

ARMAN (L.), his system of framing for ships, XX. 204.

ARMANÇON, river, XXI. 954.

ARMATURA, III. 615.

Armature of loadstones, XIV. 20—of electrical machines, XXI. 647.

Arm-bone, III. 31.

Armed Neutrality of 1780, V. 494; VII. 742.

ARMENIA, III. 615; XXI. 377—conquered by Alp Arslan, II. 604—monarchy of, XV. 412—plateau of, III. 738, XVII. 597.

ARMENIAN LANGUAGE, III. 616; IX. 390; XIII. 216; XVII. 530—alphabet, II. 615; III. 617—works in that language, II. 615.

Armenian monks, on an island near Venice, XXI. 539.

—VERSION, III. 617; IV. 701; XIX. 899.

Armenians, in ethnology, IX. 346.

—in Jerusalem, XII. 747—in Calcutta, VI. 70—in Turkey, XXI. 378—era of the, VI. 673—months, *ib.*

Armeno-Grégorian church, in Russia, XIX. 528.

Armenus, X. 575.

Armens-grube, silver mine, XV. 236.

Arment, Egyptian village, VIII. 513.

ARMENTERES, French town, III. 617.

ARMIGER, title, III. 617; IX. 338.

Arm, or ring, problem of, I. 949, *n.*

ARMILLARY SPHERE, III. 617; X. 496—supposed to have been invented by *Eratosthenes*, III. 790.

ARMINIANS, III. 617; IX. 394—*Grotius* one of, XI. 69—Dutch, 572—deny predestination, XVIII. 478—school of, XXI. 188—their hypothesis as to the effects of Adam's sin, 204—Arminian Baptists, IV. 427.

ARMINIUS, German chief, III. 617; X. 575.

—(JACOBS), III. 617, XI. 572—on theology, XXI. 183, 204 *et seq.*

ARMISTICE, III. 618.

ARMLIST, III. 618.

ARMORIC, III. 618.

ARMOR, III. 618.

ARMOUR, III. 618—Roman, 632—of the British Life-Guards, 665—of knights, VI. 618, 624—for divers, VIII. 57.

ARMS, military weapons, III. 618. See *Army*, *War*.

—in heraldry, III. 618—of states, XI. 322—royal arms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, 322, 323—marshalling, 339—coats of arms, why so called, XI. 321—of courtesy, VI. 610—places of arms, IX. 819.

—kings of, XI. 320.

—office of, for Ireland, XI. 321.

ARMSTRONG (John), M.D., physician and poet, III. 618—his sarcasm on *Burman*, V. 789—poetry of, XVIII. 124.

—(JOHN), M.D., physician, III. 618.

—(Robert), his furnace for the prevention of smoke, XX. 355.

—and *Bowman's* upright steam-boiler, XX. 617.

—gun, XXI. 727.

Armstrong's hydro-electric machine, VIII. 534, 605—*Faraday's* explanation of, 534.

ARMUTSEN, town in *Walcheren*, III. 618.

ARMY, III. 619—Achaean, 628—American, 661—Athenian, 625—Austrian, 644; IV. 317—of Baden, 652—Bavarian, *ib.*; IV. 519—Belgian, III. 653—Brazilian, 662; V. 297—British, III. 662, VIII. 750—of Bombay, V. 2—Carthaginian, III. 629—of Chile, VI. 547—Chinese, 588—Danish, III. 650; VII. 749—Dutch, III. 654; XI. 585—Egyptian, ancient and modern, III. 620; VIII. 515—French, III. 638; X. 270—of the German confederation, III. 652—Greek, ancient and modern, 624, 661; XI. 20—of Hayu, III. 661.

ARN—ARO

—Hanoverian, 652—Hungarian, XII. 16—Indian, XI. 530—Japanese, XII. 692—Macedonian, III. 626—of the middle ages, 635—Norway, XVI. 329—Neapolitan, III. 655, XX. 259—of the Netherlands, III. 653; XI. 586—Nova Scotia, XVI. 345—Ottoman, III. 656—ancient Persian, 622; modern, XVII. 428—Prussian, III. 646; XVIII. 671—Portuguese, III. 643, XVIII. 396—Papal States, XVII. 245—Roman, III. 629—Russian, 647, XIX. 532—Sardinian, III. 655, XIX. 638—Saxon, III. 651—Spanish, 643, XX. 492—Spartan, III. 625—Swedish, 650, XX. 866—Swiss, III. 655; XX. 891—Theban, III. 628—Turkish, 658, XXI. 382—of United States, III. 661; XXI. 430—of Wurtemberg, III. 652; XXI. 939—proportions of artillery acting with, III. 689—continental armies in the eleventh century, VIII. 667 *n.*—discussions respecting a standing army, V. 535—*Mr Windham's* act for the improvement of, 599—*Lord Howick's* bill for religious emancipation in, 600—militia act, 605—principles for regulating an invading army, XIII. 287, 289—disregard of sanitary arrangements in the British, XIX. 606—promotion in, VII. 202—commissions in, *ib.*—rates of pay, *ib.*, 203—organization of, XXI. 715. See *War*.

ARNALL (William), III. 668.

ARNAUD de Meyrueil, poet, III. 668.

—(DANIEL), troubadour, III. 668.

—DE ROUSIL (George), surgeon, III. 668.

—de Villa Nova, physician, III. 668.

—(Thomas Joseph), his visit to the ruins of Saba, III. 356.

—(St), marshal, French commander in the Crimea, XIX. 501, 504, XXI. 375.

ARNAULD (Antoine), III. 668; XVIII. 377—his book on true and false ideas, in opposition to the *Ideal theory*, I. 80—summary of his doctrines concerning ideas, *ib.* note 2—merits of his treatise on *The Art of Thinking*, *ib.*, the real author of that work, XVI. 253 *n.* 1—*anecdotes* of, I. 81—on *Euclid's Elements*, IX. 365.

ARNAY-LE-DUC, French town, III. 669.

ARNBERG (J. A.), his work on insects, IX. 15.

ARNOLD (John), III. 669.

ARNE (Thomas Augustine), III. 669.

Arnee, in zoology, XIV. 216.

ARNHEM, Dutch town, III. 670.

Arnhem land, in Northern Australia, IV. 270.

ARNICA, genus of plants, III. 670.

ARNIM (Achim von), his novels, XIX. 292.

ARNISÆUS (Henningsus), III. 670.

ARNO, Italian river, III. 670; XII. 637; XXI. 392.

ARNOBUS, III. 670.

ARNOLD of Brescia, III. 670; XII. 645.

—(BENEDICT), American officer, III. 670.

—(SAMUEL), musician, III. 671.

—(SCHRUTHAN VON WINCKELRIED), III. 671.

—(THOMAS), D.D., III. 671—on history, XI. 536—on *Niebuhr's* interpretation of the *Agarian laws*, II. 246—on the laws of the twelve tables, XIX. 301—on the history of Rome, 303, 304.

Arnold's illustration of the nerves, II. 815, *n.* 1.

ARNOLDUS (Gothofredus), III. 673.

Arnolpho, III. 450.

ARNON, river, XVII. 188.

ARNOTT (Dr), his stove, XX. 353, 741.

Arnotto, order of plants, V. 183.

Arnsberg, in Westphalia, XXI. 844.

ARNSTADT, in Germany, III. 673.

ARNSTLER, bishop of Rochester, III. 673.

ARNWAY (John), D.D., III. 673.

AROR, four towns in Scripture so named, III. 673.

ARORÆ, Egyptian deity, VIII. 438.

ARORÆM, order of plants, III. 673. See *Araceæ*.

ARO—ARS

ARONA, Italian town, III. 673.

AROO, islands, III. 673.

AROPH, III. 673—*Paracelsi*, *ib.*

Arpad dynasty, in Hungary, XII. 11.

ARPHAXAD, and descendants, VIII. 46.

ARPINAS (Giuseppe Cesare), painter, III. 673.

ARPINO, town of Naples, III. 674.

ARQUA, Italian town, III. 674—*Petrarch's* residence at, XVII. 499.

ARQUES, in France, III. 674.

ARRACAN, III. 674, IV. 651—war in 1825, V. 646.

ARRACK, III. 675; VI. 394; VIII. 47, XX. 798.

ARRAGON, III. 674. See *Aragon*.

ATTAGONA (L.), his works on insects, IX. 16.

Attagomite, XV. 92—refraction of, XVI. 659.

ARRAIGNMENT, in law, III. 675.

ARRAN, island, III. 675; VI. 27; XI. 278—*islands* off the Irish coast, III. 676, VII. 105.

—(Earl of), XIX. 778.

—(Earl of), under James VI., XIX. 788.

ARRAS, city in France, III. 676; XVII. 332—*tapestries* of, XXI. 20.

ARRASWISE, in heraldry, III. 676.

ARRAY, in law, III. 676.

ARRATERS, III. 676.

ARREBOE (A. Christensen), XIX. 692.

ARRENTATION, III. 676.

ARREBOYS, III. 676.

ARREST, III. 677—of judgment, *ib.*

ARRESTMENT, in Scottish Law, III. 678.

ARRETUM, III. 523; IX. 353, 359.

ARREZE, III. 678, 624.

Arthenus (J. E.), his work on insects, IX. 11.

ARRIA, wife of *Cæcina Pætus*, III. 678.

ARRIAN, Roman historian, III. 678—his account of *Belochistan*, IV. 639.

—bud, XVI. 738.

ARRIAZA (Juan Bautista), III. 678.

ARRIGE, III. 678. See *Arnege*.

Arndy silk-worm, IX. 212; XX. 288, 289.

ARNIS, III. 678, 507.

—fillet, or Tilting-fillet, III. 678.

ARROB, island, III. 678.

ARROW, III. 678, see *Archery*—makers, *ib.*

—grass, order of plants, V. 214.

—(Lough), XX. 320.

—root, III. 678; V. 211—of the *Bermudas*, IV. 668—adulterations of, IX. 769.

Arrow-headed writing. See *Cuneiform inscriptions*.

ARROWSMITH (Aaron), III. 679.

ARSACES VI., otherwise *Mithridates*, III. 679.

—kings of Parthia, XVII. 310, 435.

ARSACIDÆ, Persian dynasty, XVII. 435.

ARSBERGER (Prof.), on the force of steam, XX. 557.

ARSENAL, III. 679—of Venice, XXI. 538—Toulon, 317—naval, see *Dockyard*—military, see *Woolwich*.

—library of the, XIII. 408.

ARSENIO, III. 679; VI. 494, XV. 65; XVII. 628—native, XV. 114—ruines of, XV. 246—its allies with antimony, VI. 494—its action as a poison, XVIII. 128, 129, 132, 133—antidotes to, 134—poisoning with, XIV. 432—means of detection, 433—in mineral waters, XV. 89—administration of, to horses, XXI. 567—used for poisoning rats, 548.

—acid, VI. 495; XV. 61.

—antimony, XV. 114—silver, *ib.*—glance, *ib.*

Arsenical pyrites, XV. 115.

Arseniosiderite, mineral, XV. 102.

Arsenious acid, VI. 495; XV. 61.

Arsenite, mineral, XV. 113.

Arsenites of copper, VIII. 319.

Arsenuret of manganese, XV. 117; of cobalt, VI. 492.

ARSENUS, III. 679.

ARSENOR, mother of *Ptolemy I.*, III. 679—name of various cities, *ib.*

ARS—ART

- Arsenae, XI 391.
 ARSON, III 679; XIV 427.
 ARSOOR, battle of, VIII 481.
 ARSURA, III 679.
 Art, distinguished from science, XIX 734.
 Art-treasure Exhibition at Manchester, XIV 256—Art Institution in London, XIII 675.
 Art and PART, in Scottish law, III 679.
 ARTA, town in Albania, III 679; II 661.
 —gulf of, III 680.
 ARTABA, ancient measure, III 680.
 Artabanus, XVII 310, 313.
 ARTABAZUS, III 680.
 ARTAKERES, name of several Persian kings, III 680; VIII 465—founder of the dynasty of the Sassanide, XVII 435—revolt against the Parthians, 313.
 —Longimanus, VIII 466; XVII 434.
 —Mnemon, XVII 434.
 —Ochus, his subjugation of Egypt, VIII 467.
 Artaxias, III 615.
 ARTEDI (Peter), naturalist, III 680—on fishes, III 203, 206—his intimacy with Linnæus, XIII 498.
 Artemia salina, VII 543—A. Oudneyi, IX 532.
 ARTEMIDORUS of Ephesus, III 680; X 467.
 ARTEMIS, III 680; IX 268.
 —genus of mollusks, XV 350—fossil, XVII 103.
 ARTEMISIA, queen of Caria, III 680.
 —wife of Mausolus, III 680—monument erected by, to her husband, XIX 857.
 —a genus of plants, III 680; V 197.
 ARTEMISIUM, promontory, III 680.
 ARTEMON, ancient painter, III 680.
 —heretic, III 680.
 Arteries, their structure, II 789; III 65; XVII 653—functions, 661—anatomical connections of the arterial system, II 791—modes in which they terminate, 792, 797—generally accompanied by veins, 795, 796; but not always, 796—manner in which they pass into capillary vessels, 798—helixine arteries, 801—early opinions respecting them, 750 *et seq*—comparative anatomy of, III 112—aneurism of, XX 828, 829.
 ARTERIAN WELLS, III 681—natural siphons, XII 82.
 ARTEVELDE (James Van) III 681; X 16, 601.
 ARTHURIC, III 682.
 Arthropotama, order of mollusks, XV 336.
 Arthropoterus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 342.
 ARTHUR, hero of the Britons, III 682; XIX 743—Arthur's round table, III 682—Arthur's Knights of the Round Table, VI 622; XIII 111—Arthur's oven, VI 276—Arthur's Seat, III 682; basal of, XV 190—Arthur's Seat, in Nova Scotia, XVI 343.
 —governor of Tasmania, on the Aborigines of that country, XXI 31.
 Articores, genus of insects, IX 153.
 Artichoke, V 197—culture of, XI 743—Jerusalem artichoke, II 321, IX 760; XI 739.
 ARTHUR, in grammar, III 682, X 749, 791—In Egyptian language, XI 422, 426.
 Articles of Faith, I 541—thirty-nine articles, VII 486.
 —of war, XVI 107.
 ARTICULATA, III 682; II 772; IX 25, X 323—their organs of smell, III 94—of vision, 98—nervous system, 105—their structure, 185—Cuvier's division of, 192—characters of, 183, 192—fossil, XVII 100, 640—number known, 631.
 Articulation of bones, II 880—of the spine, III 8—shoulder, elbow, wrist, and fingers, III 34—hip, 36—knee, 37—ankle, *ib.*—in the mammalia, XIV 183.
 ARTIFICER, III 682.

ART—ASA

- ARTIFICIAL HORIZON, III 682.
 —manures, II 305.
 ARTILLERY, III 683—meaning of the word, 424—field, 688—siege, 691—garrison, 693—for coast defences, 695—exercise of, 696—park, 704—train, 705—Austrian, 645—French, 641—Spanish, 643—British, 665—Belgian, 654—Prussian, 646—Russian, 649—Turkish, 658—different kinds formerly in use, XI 186—different kinds of fire of, 141—marine, pay of, XVI 113. See Cannon, Gunners, War.
 ARTIST, III 705.
 ARTOCARPEA, or Artocarpacea, nat order of plants, III 705; V 206.
 Artocarpus incisa See Bread-fruit.
 ARTOIS, French province, III 705; X 276.
 —(Count d'), X 15 *et seq*.
 ARTOTYTES, early religious sect, III 705.
 ARS (useful), III 705—original invention of, I 453—boundaries of art and science undefined, 805—their connection with physical science, 807—limits of art, 808—application of electricity to the, I 984; XXI 638—multiplying works of art by, *ib.*—in Peru, II 685—Egypt, VIII 443, 447.
 —(fine), III 707—Grecian and Italian works in, 709—French and Spanish, 712—their progress in Britain, *ib.*—schools for promoting the, 718—Corinth, the seat of, VII 368—academies of the, II 87—exhibitions of works in the, IX 453—among the Etruscans, 359—institutions of, in London, XIII 675—societies for, in New York, XVI 230—illustrations of, from numismatics, 351, 352, 356, 357, 382, 387—their importance in history, XI 538—in Holland, 591—Portugal, XVIII 399—how regarded by Quakers, 722—organization of art, XIX 107—relation between arts and their theories, 109—data for theories of, 110—in Russia, 530. See Painting, Sculpture.
 —degrees in, III 720. See Universities.
 —unions, XIII 697.
 Artza, VII 314.
 ARUERS, Egyptian Apollo, XI 383.
 ARUM maculatum, plant, V 214—evolution of heat by, 149.
 ARUN, river in Sussex, XX 889.
 ARUNDEL, town in Sussex, III 720.
 —(Thomas), archbishop, III 720.
 ARUNDELLAN, or Oxford Marbles, III 720—Selden's work on, XX 87.
 ARUSPICES, or Haruspices, III 720; XI 235.
 ARVA, in Hungary, III 720.
 ARVALES FRATRES, III 720; II 652; XIV 305.
 ARVE, Swiss river, III 721; XX 888.
 Arvicola, genus of mammalia, XIV 188—teeth of, XVI 454.
 ARVIDSEN (A. Iwar), Swedish poet, XIX 700.
 Arvieux (M. d'), on Arabian horses, III 846.
 ARVIL SUPPER, III 721.
 ARVIRAGUS, British king, III 721.
 ARX, III 721.
 Arya-Bhatta, Hindoo algebraist, II 487.
 Arylodactyla, group of mammals, XVII 165.
 Arymbas, I and II, kings of Epirus, IX 277.
 Arytenoid cartilages, III 50.
 ARZACHEL, astronomer, III 795.
 ARZEW, seaport of Algiers, III 721.
 ARZILA, town of Morocco, III 721.
 As, an ancient weight, III 721—Roman coin, *ib.* VII 67; XVI 360, 383, 384; XV 432.
 Asafi, town in Morocco, XIX 570.
 ASAGHIL, III 721.
 ASAPE, III 721—Psalms ascribed to, XVIII 679.
 —(St), city in North Wales, III 721.
 Asaphus, trilobites, XVII 102.
 ASAPH-ADDON, III 722, 778.

ASA—ASH

- ASAROTUM, III 722.
 ASBESTOS, III 722, II 716; XII 367; XV 81—mines of, in Anglesea, III 146—specific gravity of, XII 88—paper made from, XVII 261.
 Ascalaphus, genus of insects, IX 178.
 ASCALON, III 722; XVII 182, 514—battle of, 196.
 ASCANTUS, son of Æneas, III 722.
 ASCARIS, genus of entozoa, XXI 980, 974 *et seq.*—in horses, 569.
 ASCENDANT, in astrology, III 722.
 ASCENSION, island, III 722, II 229.
 —DAY, III 723.
 —in astronomy, III 723; IV 3.
 Ascensius (Badius), printer, XXI 401.
 ASCETERIUM, III 723.
 ASCETIC, III 723.
 ASCHAFFENBURG, in Bavaria, III 723.
 ASCHAM (Roger), III 723; VIII 796—notice of Queen Elizabeth by, 635—account of Lady Jane Grey, in his Schoolmaster, XI 63—on *Morte d'Arthur*, XIX 263.
 ASCHERSLEBEN, a circle and city in Prussia, III 724.
 Ascia, genus of insects, IX 239.
 Ascidia, genus of mollusks, XV 334—A. gelatinosa, 333.
 Ascidiada, family of mollusks, XV 333.
 Ascidians, mollusks, compound, XV 330; propagation of, 331, 332—solitary, 332, propagation of, 333.
 Ascidiiformes, zoophytes, XXI 936.
 ASCII, III 724.
 ASCIZE, a sect of Montanists, III 724.
 ASCITES, III 724; XVII 690—in cattle, XXI 567.
 ASOLEPIA, festival, III 724.
 ASOLEPIAD, III 724.
 Asclepiadaceae, nat. order of plants, V 189.
 ASCLEPIADES, III 724; XIV 451.
 Asclepiades, XIV 453—on mental disorders, 527—their surgery, XX 810, 812.
 ASCLEPIODORUS, III 724; XVII 57.
 Ascoceras, fossil mollusks, XVII 112.
 ASCOLI, city of Italy, III 724—delegation of, XVII 243.
 ASCOLIA, festival, III 724.
 ASCOLIUM, III 724.
 ASCOLINO, A 469.
 ASCONIUS (Q. Peditanus), III 725.
 ASCRIPTION, III 725; II 74.
 ASCRIPTIUM, III 725.
 ASDRUBAL, III 725, VI 292; XX 457—defeated by the Romans, VI 297, 298—his cruelties, 301, 303—suicide of his wife, 303.
 ASSELLO (Gasparo), III 725—his discovery of the lacteal vessels, II 761, 803.
 ASER, III 725.
 —mountain, XVII 759—juice of its berries in dyeing, VIII 286.
 —prickly, order of plants, V 189.
 —residuum of combustion, XX 352—of agricultural plants, II 355, 386—of timber trees, XXI 268.
 —timber, XVII 758; XXI 274—used in coachmaking, VII 43—specific gravity of, XII 89—strength of the wood, XX 757, 758.
 —tree, V 199; XVII 758—varieties of, 764.
 —use of the term in geology, XV 188, n 1.
 ASHANTREE, in Western Africa, III 726; II 227.
 ASHBORNE, town in Derbyshire, III 727.
 ASHBURTON, town in Devonshire, III 727—group of rocks, XV 199.
 —(Lord) See Dunning.
 —(Lord), north-eastern boundary treaty settled by, XXI 796.
 ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH, III 727—population, XIII 321—canal of, XXI 738.
 Ashcroft's railway chair, XVIII 759.
 ASHEDON, III 727; IV 387; XVII 182, 514.
 ASHES, III 727—proportion found in different plants, and the different parts of plants, II 885, 886; V 96—composition of, II 886.
 Ashy Down and Beacon, Isle of Wight, XXI 861.

ASH—ASP

- ASHFORD, in Kent, III 727.
 ASHUR, or Asser, III 727.
 Ashkanian kings of Persia, XVII 435.
 Ashkoko, quadruped, XIV 199.
 ASHTLAR, III 727—walls, V 738.
 ASHMOLE (Elias), antiquary, III 727—founder of the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, 728; XVII 35.
 ASHOVER, in Derbyshire, III 728.
 Ashpittel (Mr), on the proportion of stais, XII 813.
 ASHRAFF, town in Persia, III 728.
 ASHTAROTE, III 728.
 ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE, in Lancashire, III 728.
 ASHTORETH, III 728—worshipped by the Phenicians, XX 906.
 Ashur, VIII 46.
 ASH-WEDNESDAY, III 725—confession of sins upon, VII 201.
 Asia, III 729—prevalence of castes in, VI 814—British colonies in, VII 147—trade with England, VIII 732, 733—entomology of, IX 68—ethnology, 344, 351—portions of, known to the ancients, X 464—languages, XIII 205 *et seq*, 216; XVII 527 *et seq.*—invasion of, by Alexander the Great, 756—origin of the medical profession in, XIV 450—extent of its coast line, XVII 585—mean elevation of its surface, 590—snow level, 602—mammals of, 631, 632—birds, 633, 634—height of mountains, 643—rivers, 606, 607—volcanoes, 589; XXI 603; plants, XVII 627, 628, V 225, 228—serpents, XIX 53—reptiles, 30, 35 *et seq*; XVII 634—a Roman province, XIX 315—Caesar's campaigns in, 326—trade with Russia, 541—course of its rivers, 181—map of, III Plate.
 —MINOR, III 758—Greek colonies in, VII 135—its fitness for immigrants, VIII 650—mountains of, VIII 597; their heights, 643, 644—plants, 627—missions in, XV 271—coins of, XVI 374, 375—architectural remains in, III 493, 503—silk, XX 277—Osmanis in, XXI 378.
 ASIARCHÆ, pagan pontiffs of Asia, III 760.
 Asiatic islands, volcanoes of, XXI 603.
 —SOCIETIES, III 759.
 Asiatics, IX 344.
 ASIENCO, III 760.
 ASILCO, family of insects, IX 234.
 ASILUS, genus of insects, IX 235.
 ASINARA, island, III 760.
 ASINIUS POLLIO, III 760.
 Asiphonata, section of mollusks, XV 381.
 ASIRIOI, genus of insects, IX 169.
 Ask (Robert), rebel, VIII 702.
 ASKEATON, Irish town, III 760.
 ASKERN, in Yorkshire, III 760.
 ASKEW (Anne), III 760.
 ASKIRGE, in Yorkshire, III 760.
 Asmanshausen, wines of, XXI 885.
 ASMODRUS, III 760. See Abaddon.
 ASMONRUS, III 760.
 Asmus (H. M.), his work on insects, IX 19.
 ASNA, III 760. See Esna.
 ASOLO, Italian town, III 760.
 ASOPH, III 760. See Azoph.
 Asp, poisonous serpent, III 760.
 ASPARAGINE, III 760, 762; VI 518.
 Asparaginus plants, XI 742.
 ASPARAGUS, III 760; IX 761—culture of, XI 742.
 —stone, XV 94.
 ASPASIA of Miletus, III 760; XVII 789; XX 371, 373, 382.
 ASPECT, in astronomy, III 760—characters of abbreviations of the aspects, VI 418.
 ASPECTANT, in heraldry, III 760.
 Aspen-tree, XVII 759.
 ASPER (Spiritus), in grammar, III 760; II 613.
 Aspergillum, genus of mollusks, XV 350, 352—fossil, XVII 108.
 Asperifolia, family of plants, V 201.
 ASPERMOTUS, in botany, without seed, III 760.

ASP—ASS

ASPERN, Austrian village, III. 760.
 ASPERGOS, Turkish town, III. 760.
 ASPHALTITES, lake, III. 760; XII. 785; XV. 145, XVII. 187, 189, 591. See Dead Sea.
 ASPHALTUM, III. 762; IV. 736, XV. 124—pavements made of, III. 227; XX. 715—lake of, in Trinidad, XXI. 351. See Bitumen.
 ASPHODELEZ, order of plants, III. 762.
 Asphodelodians, VI. 286.
 ASPHYXIA, III. 762; XIV. 430; XVII. 663—
 from drowning, VIII. 181.
 Aspic, serpent, XIX. 52, 71.
 ASPICUTERA (Martin de), III. 762.
 Aspidiscus, fossil corals, XVII. 97.
 Aspidogaster, genus of zoophytes, XXI. 982.
 Aspidoparia, genus of fishes, XII. 257.
 Aspidophorus, genus of fishes, XII. 282.
 Aspidorhynchus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 336.
 Aspinwall, town in Panama, XVII. 226.
 Asprate, II. 613.
 Aspidites, genus of insects, IX. 230.
 Aspredo, genus of fishes, XII. 260, 263.
 Aspro, genus of fishes, XII. 275.
 ASS, III. 762, XIV. 201—milk of, XV. 11—
 Arabian wild, III. 347—Asiatic, 740—Indian wild, XI. 456—in Egypt, VIII. 432—in Beykaneer, IV. 691—in Europe, IX. 387—Palestine, XVII. 191—Persia, 423—organs of voice, III. 101—strength of, XIV. 417.
 Assa, Egyptian king, VIII. 457.
 ASSAFETIDA, III. 762; V. 195; XVII. 421.
 Assahan, in Sumatra, XX. 806.
 Assal, lake in Abyssinia, II. 55.
 ASSAM, III. 762; IV. 651—tea-plant in, 649, XXI. 81—analysis of the tea-growing soil in, 84—value in the market, 91—mountains, XVII. 598.
 ASSARTUM, ancient copper coin, III. 765; XVI. 384.
 ASSASSIN, III. 765.
 Assassination, in Virginia, XIII. 750—in Scotland, in the sixteenth century, VI. 626.
 ASSAULT, in Law, III. 766.
 ASSAY, III. 766.
 Assayer, VII. 74.
 ASSAYING, III. 766—touch-needle, XXI. 318.
 Assellota, crustacea, VII. 543.
 ASSELYN (Hans), Dutch painter, III. 774.
 ASSELMANT, III. 774.
 ASSEMBLY, III. 775—of the people at Athens, IV. 214.
 —General, of the Scottish Church, III. 775, XVIII. 493, 499—Hill, in Edinburgh, VIII. 399—schools, XV. 825.—national, of France, X. 50.
 ASSEN, III. 775.
 ASSENED, town of Belgium, III. 775.
 ASSENHEIM, III. 775.
 ASSENS, Danish town, III. 775.
 ASSER (John), III. 776.
 Assessed taxes, in Scotland, XIX. 809.
 ASSessor, III. 776.
 ASSETS, in law, III. 776.
 ASSIDRANS, III. 776.
 ASSIDUI, III. 776.
 ASSIGNAT, III. 776.
 ASSIGNMENT, III. 776; IV. 417.
 ASSIMILATION, III. 776; XVII. 663—organs of, in the crustacea, VII. 539.
 ASSINIE, country in Africa, III. 776.
 Assises de Jerusalem, IX. 525.
 ASSISI, Italian city, III. 776.
 ASSISMENT, III. 776.
 ASSIZE, III. 776—of bread, IV. 284.
 Associate Synod of Original Seceders, XVIII. 500, 502.
 ASSOCIATION, III. 776.
 —African, II. 201.
 —agricultural chemistry, II. 265, 274.
 —British, for the Advancement of Science, III. 816.
 —OF IDEAS, III. 776; VII. 675; XIV. 594; XV. 286; XIX. 116—laws of, XIV. 595—its power in regard to avarice, &c., I. 382, 384—Mackintosh's theory of, considered, 305—in connec-

ASS—AST

tion with the sense of the beautiful, IV. 541 et seq.—Condillac on, VII. 234—its influence in dreams, VIII. 176—Plato on, XVII. 805.
 Association (Royal), for promotion of the fine arts in Scotland, VIII. 397.
 ASSOLZING, in law, III. 776.
 ASSONANCE, III. 776.
 ASSUAY, in Ecuador, III. 777.
 ASSUMPSIT, in law, III. 777.
 ASSUMPTION, festival, III. 777—in logic, ib.—deed of, ib.—island, ib.—capital of Paraguay, ib., XVII. 268.
 ASSUMPTIVE ARMS, in heraldry, III. 777.
 ASSURANCE, or Insurance, III. 777. See Annuities, Insurance.
 ASSUS, ancient city of Mysia, III. 777.
 ASSYE, in Southern India, III. 777—defeat of Scindia at, XI. 167.
 ASSYN-KALESSI, village in Asia Minor, III. 777.
 Assynt, in Sutherland, XX. 840.
 —(Loch), XIX. 794, XX. 840.
 ASTERIA, III. 777, XVI. 272—architecture of, III. 438, 500—tabular libraries of, XIII. 382—origin of the name, XX. 901—Assyrian empire, III. 741, monarchy, XI. 542; XV. 413—language, XIII. 209—bricks of, XVIII. 431—sculpture of, XIX. 546.
 ASTABAT, Persian town, III. 779.
 Astaclia, genus of crustacea, VII. 542.
 Astacus fluviatilis, VII. 542.
 ASTARFORT, French town, III. 779.
 Astarte, goddess, III. 728—genus of mollusks, XV. 150—fossil, XVII. 107.
 Astartidae, family of mollusks, XV. 350—fossil, XVII. 107.
 Astata, genus of insects, IX. 196.
 Astatic needle, XIV. 90; I. 976.
 Astela, genus of insects, IX. 256.
 ASTELL (Mary), III. 779.
 ASTELL'S island, III. 779.
 Asteracanthem, zoophytes, XXI. 995.
 Asteracanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 340.
 Asteraceae, nat. order of plants, V. 196.
 Asteriada, fossil star-fishes, XVII. 99.—zoophytes, XXI. 984, 994, 995.
 ASTERISM, III. 779.
 ASTERISM, III. 779; IV. 12, 79.
 Asterothymus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 342.
 Asteroidea, fossil polypes, XVII. 96.—zoophytes, XXI. 1003—arrangement of, 1004.
 Asteroidea, fossil echinoderms, XVII. 99.
 ASTERODON, III. 779—discovery of, I. 825, 859, IV. 91—the greater number discovered by Mr. Hind and M. Gasparis, ib.—list of, I. 859, 996; IV. 91.
 Asteropterychus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 387; XVI. 719; XVII. 120, 125.
 Asteropteryx, genus of fishes, XII. 307.
 A-STERN, sea-term, III. 779.
 ASTI, in Piedmont, III. 779—wines of, XXI. 886.
 ASTYLE (Thomas), antiquary, III. 779—on the origin and progress of writing, II. 612; IV. 706.
 Astley (Mr), his method of manufacturing sal-ammoniac, II. 723.
 Astolphus, Longobard king, XII. 642; XIII. 642.
 Astoma, genus of strachnides, III. 389.
 ASTOROUS, III. 779.
 Astor (J. J.), X. 346; XVI. 225.—House, hotel, XVI. 225.—Library, at New York, XIII. 430; XXI. 424.
 ASTORGA, Spanish city, III. 779.
 ASTORIA, a settlement in Oregon, III. 779; X. 346.
 ASTRABAD, in Persia, III. 779, 780.
 ASTREA, III. 780—planet, IV. 81; I. 859.
 Astridae, fossil corals, XVII. 97.
 Astragal, in architecture, III. 507.
 Astragalus, or heel-bone, III. 86, 87.—genus of plants, V. 190.
 ASTRAGALOMANCY, III. 780.
 ASTRAKAN, III. 780, XIX. 473—climate of, XIV. 674.

AST—AST

Astrakanite, mineral, XV. 99.
 Astral lamp, XIII. 171.
 Astrapapus, genus of insects, IX. 103.
 Astrape, genus of fishes, XII. 327.
 Astrapia, genus of birds, XVI. 768.
 Astridae, zoophytes, XXI. 1005.
 ASTRINGENTS, III. 780.
 Astroblepus, genus of fishes, XII. 262, 260.
 Astrodermus, genus of fishes, XII. 298.
 ASTROLABE, III. 780, XX. 124.
 ASTROLOGY, III. 780, IV. 435; VIII. 54—its extensive dominion over the human mind, I. 600—taught in universities, ib.—introduced into almanacs, II. 598—Babylonians addicted to, IV. 347—in Chaldea, VIII. 54—Persia, XVII. 430.
 Astronomical instruments, IV. 149, 110; I. 847—Borda's repeating circle, V. 37—Cavendish's method of dividing, VI. 354. See Quadrant, Telescope, &c.—tables, IV. 120-139.—Royal Society of London, III. 815—founded by Bailly, I. 852.
 ASTRONOMY, III. 781—history of, ib.; I. 800, 801—theoretical, IV. 1—physical, 96, I. 809, 824—practical, IV. 109, I. 832—spherical, 838, 861—nautical, XVI. 34—considerable progress made by the ancients in, I. 567, 597—views of those who first studied the heavens, 597, 771—universally believed by the ancients that the earth formed the centre of the universe, 598—introduction of the epicycle by Apollonius Pergenus, ib.—application of the epicycles to explain phenomena by Hipparchus, ib.—other epicycles introduced to explain the irregular motion of the moon and planets, ib.—the system of the heavens thus became extremely complicated, ib.—advantages which were derived from the epicycle, 599—the hypothesis of epicycles and of centres of uniform motion accommodated to the state of science, ib.—dawn of a new era, Copernicus and Tycho, 600—correction of Ptolemy's tables, by Alphonsus, king of Castile, ib.—contributions to the science by Furbach and Regiomontanus, ib.—publication of Copernicus's great work *Astronomia Instaurata*, containing the discovery of the earth's annual and diurnal motion, 601—observations of the heavens by Brahe, 602, see Brahe—discoveries of Kepler and Galileo, see these articles—evidence of the Copernican system developed by these discoveries, 608—beneficial results of it being established, 609—Descartes' theory of the universe; see Descartes—first complete system of astronomy in which the elliptic orbits were introduced was the *A Philolaica* of Bulhadius, 611—hypotheses views contained in that work, ib.—contributions to the science by Horrox, Ward, Riccioli, Hevelius, Hooke, Cassini, and Roemer; see these heads—first establishment of academies, 615—figure and magnitude of the earth; see Figure of the Earth—discovery of universal gravitation by Newton, 670; see also Newton—references of the ancients to weight or gravity, 673—clearer views of Copernicus and Kepler, 674—Galileo believed that gravity was a principle belonging to each of the planets individually, but not extending from the one to the other, 676—near approximation to the truth by Hooke, ib.—causes of irregularities in the motion of the moon, 676—Newton's determination of the shape of the earth, 677—discovery of the aberration of light by Bradley, 685—Newton's theory of the moon a work of genius almost superhuman, 779—lunar theory first expanded and improved by Calandrini, ib.—completed by Dr Stewart and Walmesley, 780—examination of the subject by Clairaut, ib.—astronomical discoveries of Mayer, 781; see also Mayer—calculations and discoveries of Euler regarding

AST—AST

the motions of the planets, 781, 782—appearance of Halley's comet, and calculations of Clairaut regarding its retardation, 783—size and consistency of comets, and methods of discovering their orbits, 784—notice of Lagrange's discourse on the libration of the moon, 785, 813—researches of Lagrange and Laplace regarding the planetary motions, 785, 811—Laplace's discovery of the moon's secular equation, 786—Laplace's complete theory of the motion of Jupiter's satellites, ib., 815—description of celestial refraction, and the lunar and solar parallaxes, 787—discovery of a new planet by Herschel, 788—discovery of four small planets, 789—number of stars which passed over Herschel's field of view in a quarter of an hour, ib.—speculations regarding the celestial bodies, and the constitution of the universe, 790—various estimates of the number of comets within the known extent of our system, 791—observations on the earth's internal structure, ib.—on the limits of the atmosphere, 792—on double and multiple stars, 793—stability and permanence of the solar system, 811—Leverrier on the eccentricities of the larger planets, 812—motions of apsides and nodes, ib.—Poisson's addition to the theory, 813—Laplace's improvements in the lunar theory, 814—contributions to the science by Legendre, Abel, and Ivory, 822, 823—progress of physical astronomy since the publication of the *Mécanique Céleste*, 824—Poisson, ib., 825—Airy on the perturbation of the earth by Venus, 825—MM. Plana and Hansen on the lunar theory, ib., 826—progress of physical astronomy in America, 827—discovery of Neptune from theory, by MM. Leverrier and Adams, 827—irregularities of the motions of Uranus, 828, hypotheses to account for them, ib.—Leverrier's investigations, and their result, 829—discovery of Neptune by M. Galle, 830—Mr. Adams preceded M. Leverrier in a similar investigation, ib.—observations on Neptune as a fixed star, 831—principal inequality of Uranus and Neptune, 832—progress of practical astronomy from 1770 till 1810—Maskelyne, 833; see that article—his determination of the lunar orbit, and its application to navigation, ib.—his observations on the attraction of mountains, 834—his improvements at Greenwich, 835—Mitchell and Cavendish's experiment on the density of the earth, 834—discovery of four small planets, 835—Olbers, Piazzi, Harding, Lacaille, ib., 836—Delambre, 836; see that article—arcs of meridian, ib., 837—Sir William Herschel, 838—history of sidereal and telescopic astronomy to 1820, ib.—discovery of Uranus, 840—Herschel on double stars, 841; on nebulae, 842, 843—on the grouping of the stars in space, and on the milky way, 843, 844—on the motion of our system in space, 845—modern astronomical details since 1810, 847—Bessel's contributions to the science, 848, 849—Airy's labours in physical and practical astronomy, 849—introduction of the galvanic method of observation, 850—Borda, his improvement in the manner of making pendulum observations, 851—Kater, 852—Baily, ib.; see that article—reduction to a vacuum, ib.—Prof. Stokes, 853—Col. Everest, ib.—M. Struve; see Index—M. Foucault's pendulum experiment, 854—Encke, 855, see Index—cometary astronomy, ib., 856—Gambart, 858—Hind, 859—discovery of new planets or asteroids, ib.—M. de Gasparis, ib.—asteroids, ib.—Lassell, 860—new secondary planets, ib.—sidereal astronomy since 1820, 861—double stars, ib.—Sir John Herschel, ib.; see Index—orbital of double stars, 862—brightness of stars

AST—ATH

and variable stars, *ib.*—Earl of Rosse, 868; his reflecting telescopes, *ib.*—latest observations on nebulae, *ib.*—Henderson and Bessel, *ib.*—parallax and distance of the fixed stars, *ib.* 864—how scriptural references to, are to be interpreted, 455—Aristotle on, III. 544—catalogues of the stars, VI. 331—Chinese knowledge of, 584—knowledge of the Druids in, VIII. 185—of the Egyptians, 442—of the Japanese, XII. 694—Persians, XVII. 430—speculations of Pythagoras in, XVIII. 711—method of the least squares, 633—Adam Smith's history of, XX. 345—astronomical determinations of the periodical forces which act on the sea or on a lake, XXI. 261—astronomical observations in connection with the trigonometrical survey, 335 See Aberration, Acceleration, Dialling, Sun, Moon, the different planets, &c.

ASTRUC (Jean), physician, IV. 156

ASTUR, genus of birds, XVI. 743

ASTURIAS, IV. 156, XX. 493—Moorish kingdom of, XX. 461—Christian kingdom of, 467

ASTRAEUS, king of the Medes, IV. 157; VII. 612

ASTYANAX, IV. 157

ASTYNOCHI, IV. 157

Aswán, in Egypt, VIII. 514 See Syene.

ASYLUM, IV. 157—Royal Naval, XI. 49

Asylums, lunatic, XIV. 528, 537—inmates of, VIII. 748. See Sanctuary.

ASYMMETRY, IV. 157

ASYMPTOTE, IV. 157, VII. 275; IX. 703

ASYNDETON, in grammar, IV. 157

Asyout, Egyptian town, VIII. 505, XX. 308

ATACAMA, in Bolivia, IV. 157, 821, 827; VI. 541, 547

ATACAMITE, mineral, IV. 157; XV. 104

ATAUVALPA, the last of the Incas, IV. 157; XVII. 464—his murder represented as a tragedy, II. 689.

Atak, XX. 303.

ATALANTA, IV. 157.

ATAMELIK, IV. 157

Atarvaveda, XXI. 681.

Ataulphus, Goths under, XX. 459

ATCAHALYA, river, IV. 157.

ATE, IV. 157.

Ateles, genus of mammals, XIV. 141.

ATELANE FABULAE, IV. 157; VIII. 141, 142

ATERGATIS, IV. 157.

ATESTE, Italian town, IV. 157.

Atouchus, genus of insects, IX. 119.

ATH or Aeth, IV. 157.

ATHABASCO, or Athabascow, river, IV. 158.

Athabaskans, people, IX. 847—language, XIII. 219.

Athala, genus of insects, IX. 183.

ATHALIAH, IV. 158

ATHANASIAN CREED, IV. 158—composed at the desire of Jovian, VII. 809.

ATHANASIUS (St), IV. 158—his opinion of apparitions, III. 311—death and character, VIII. 473.

ATHANATI, IV. 158

ATHANERIK, IV. 158; VII. 310

Atheism, XXI. 185—prevalent among the higher classes at Paris about the middle of last century, I. 181—contributed to aggravate the atrocities of the French Revolution, 182—a principle tending to, 501.

ATHEIST, IV. 158; I. 457.

ATHELING, IV. 158; VIII. 390.

ATHELINGEX, or Noble's Island, in Somersetshire, IV. 158; X. 410.

ATHELSTAN, Saxon king of England, IV. 159—reign of, VIII. 658—his laws regarding the coinage, VII. 73.

ATHENZUM, IV. 159—in Belgium, 619

ATHENZUS, mechanician, IV. 159.

—physician, founder of the Pneumatic sect, IV. 159—on the use and qualities of wine, XXI. 882.

—grammarian, IV. 159.

ATHENAGORAS, IV. 159; IX. 402.

Athenians, demoralising effects of a severe

ATH—ATK

pestilence on, I. 460, 461—their disbelief in a future state, *ib.*—their mode of punishing adultery, II. 155—their national character, IV. 210—effects of their political institutions on, 212—their attachment to the drama, VIII. 135—their love of speculative inquiries, IV. 211—their mode of life unfavourable to the formation of eccentric characters among them, VIII. 141—their war with the Sicilians, IV. 205—their religion, 216—their personal beauty not remarkable, XIX. 850—funeral rites, X. 344—their attacks on Syracuse, XX. 899

ATHEONODORUS, IV. 159.

ATHEURY, Irish town, IV. 159.

ATHEUS, IV. 159—Academy of, II. 59—choicest monument of Lysicrates at, III. 442, 444, 462, of Thrasylus, 462—Stuart and Revett's Antiquities of, 456—the Parthenon, 461—Propyleum, 462—Acropolis, II. 116; III. 466—army of, 625—taken by Xerxes, IV. 200—rebuilt and fortified, *ib.*—plague at, 204—captured by the Spartans, 208—restored to liberty by Thrasylus, 210—commerce of, VII. 185—the Thirty tyrants, IV. 208—dials on the Tower of the Winds, VII. 774—dials of Phaedrus, *ib.*—tragic writers of, VIII. 138—comic writers, 139—Elgin marbles brought from, 632—monarchy of, XV. 412—coinage of, XVI. 359, 371—state of philosophy in, in the time of Plato, XVII. 793, 795—works on its topography, IV. 159, a 172—improved by Pericles, XVII. 412—decline of art in, XIX. 868—its condition in the time of Socrates, XX. 370—war with Sparta, 501—hostility between Athens and Thebes, XXI. 177.

—(Modern), XI. 17, IV. 174—sieges in the late revolutionary war, *ib.*

—several towns in US so named, IV. 174.

Atherna, genus of fishes, XII. 291-2

Atherna, family of fishes, XII. 291.

Atherinidae, family of fishes, XII. 292.

Atherin, genus of insects, IX. 232.

ATHEROMA, in surgery, IV. 174.

Atherospermaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 204.

ATHENSTON, in Warwickshire, IV. 174, XXI. 738.

ATHERTON, in Lancashire, IV. 174—battle of Atherton Moor, V. 404

Atherura, genus of mammals, XIV. 187

ATHIAS (Joseph), IV. 175—his edition of the Hebrew Bible, 697.

ATHLETES, IV. 175

ATHLOXIE, in Ireland, IV. 175; XIX. 422; XXI. 839, 841—taken by the English in 1690, V. 443.

ATHLOS, in Perthshire, IV. 175—deer forest of, XX. 212.

—(Duke of), Isle of Man purchased from, XIV. 248—salmon caught by, IX. 598.

Athor, Egyptian deity, VIII. 437; XI. 384, a. 11.

Athyrobia, genus of zoophytes, XXI. 1006

ATROS, IV. 175; XI. 11.

Atrothia, Egyptian king, VIII. 454.

Atrothia, in Egypt, VIII. 497.

ATRU, in Kildare, IV. 175; XIII. 83

Athyria, fossil mollusks, XVII. 103, 104.

ATULIA, Spanish town, IV. 175

ATULIA (M.), Roman poet, IV. 175

ATULIA, IV. 175.

ATINA, Neapolitan town, IV. 175.

Atnlan, lake, XI. 76.

ATKINS (Sir Robert), IV. 175—his son, 176

Atkinson (Stephen), his work on the gold mines of Scotland, XV. 233, a.

—on the Altai mountains, XVII. 599.

—(Mr), on Mesmero-phrenology, XX. 440.

Atkinson's melon-pit, XI. 734.

Atkoo, Egyptian lake, XVII. 429.

ATKINS (Richard), IV. 176; XVIII. 634.

ATL—ATM

Atlanta, genus of mollusks, XV. 363, 375—fossil, XVII. 109.

ATLANTIDES, IV. 176.

ATLANTIC OCEAN, IV. 176; XVII. 576—methods of sounding, XX. 26—commencement of steam-navigation across, 639—basin of the North Atlantic, XVII. 574, 575—temperature of, 577—Atlantic islands, volcanoes of, XXI. 603 See Gulf Stream.

—telegraph, XXI. 113, 94, 95, 99, 109.

Atlantidae, family of mollusks, XV. 375.

ATLANTIDES, the seven stars, IV. 177.

ATLANTIS, IV. 177.

—the New, title of one of Lord Bacon's works, IV. 177.

ATLAS, king of Mauritania, IV. 177; XIV. 360—inventor of astrology and the doctrine of the sphere, 361.

—mountains in Africa, IV. 177; XV. 593, XVII. 596—height of, 644.

—book of maps, IV. 177.

—one of the vertebrae, IV. 177; III. 5, 75—its motions, 8.

—a kind of silk, IV. 177

ATMOMETER, IV. 177; I. 769; XIII. 344.

ATMOSPHERE, IV. 178—discovery of its elasticity, I. 597—experiments to ascertain its density at different heights, 729—its action on the spectrum, 915, XVI. 598—sound transmitted by the, II. 98, 103—velocity of sound, 104—schemes for navigating the, 168—diminution of its temperature at increasing heights, 182; XIV. 640—its composition everywhere essentially the same, II. 184, VI. 464—its refrigerent power, IV. 9—of the sun, 30; XIV. 639—moon, IV. 43—Venus, 66—Mars, 67—Ceres, Pallas, and Vesta, 68, 69—its pressure, 450, 451; VI. 464; XIV. 638; XVIII. 26—graduation of its density, IV. 462—G. Beccaia on its electricity, 500—its composition, VI. 463—why warmest in its lowest strata, 778—its capacity for heat at different degrees of rarity, *ib.*—circulation of air between the poles and the equator, 783—Cavallo on, 345—Cavendish on, 352—air discharged from water in the act of freezing or boiling, VII. 103—ammonia in, VI. 462, II. 376—carbonic acid in, VI. 464; II. 375; oxygen in, VI. 464—a source of the organic constituents of plants, II. 375—quantity of, necessary for respiration, VIII. 65—remarkably dry and clear in Egypt, 422—electricity of the, 577, I. 962; XIV. 660; XXI. 116—influence of its density on evaporation, IX. 412—no muriatic acid in sea air, 415—resistance to projectiles, XI. 106, 115 *et seq.*, XVII. 67; to the motion of the pendulum, I. 853—specific gravity of, XII. 89—absorbs and retains aqueous vapour, 186—Ingenhous's experiments on, 380, 381—terrestrial magnetism supposed to reside in, XIV. 66—influence of its purity and hygrometric state on health, 443—descent of stones from, 629; theories as to their formation, 633, 634—mobility of, 636; XVIII. 623—nature and constitution of, XIV. 638—mass and extent, 639—decrease of temperature on ascending, 640, 641—relation between the temperature and pressure of, 641, 642—atmospheric waves, 650—hygrometric state of, 674—distribution of moisture through, 675—dependency of atmospheric pressure, &c., on the direction of the wind, 677—analysis of, from Cornish mines, XV. 225—refraction of, I. 823—unusual refraction and reflection of, XVI. 691—colours of, *ib.*—polarization of, 692—its influence on the pendulum, XVII. 387—its relation to physical geography, 672—total mass of, *ib.*—refraction of, in the polar regions, 584—its influence on the nature and quantity of food, 658—mechanical properties of, XVIII. 22 *et seq.*—height of, 27, 58—compressibility, 28, 51 *et seq.*—laws of hydrostatics applicable to, 29—

ATM—ATT

elasticity, 23, 30, 53—expansibility, 31, 56—heterogeneous nature of, 53—abrial pulses, 70—effects of respiration on, 73; XVII. 662—Priestley's researches, XVIII. 514, 515—effects of the different states of, on health, XIX. 608, 609—poisons disseminated by, 609—source of air for ventilation, XXI. 540; ingress and egress of, *ib.*; amount of, necessary for, *ib.*; purity of, *ib.*—temperature, *ib.*, evil effects of a vitiated, 539; wholesome effects of a pure atmosphere, *ib.* See Meteorology, Pneumatics, Projectiles, Acoustics, Climate, Cloud, Ventilation. Atmospheric dust, III. 210.

Atmospheric steam-engine, I. 867, 868; XX. 575 *et seq.*

Atna languages, XIII. 220.

Atolls, XIV. 109; XVII. 583; XXI. 1003.

ATOM, IV. 184—the simplest extended particle consists of four atoms, XX. 754

ATOMIC THEORY, IV. 185; VI. 443—atomic volumes, 448—originated with Dalton, VII. 637, I. 935, 936—its importance to the progress of chemistry, 937—its reception in England and France, 938.

ATOMICAL PHILOSOPHY, IV. 185—its superiority to all other conjectures of the ancient philosophers concerning the material universe, I. 71—first advanced by Leucippus, XIII. 846—in the Epicurean philosophy, IX. 272.

ATONEMENT, IV. 185. See Theology.

ATROU, island, IV. 185.

Atractocerus, genus of insects, IX. 112.

ATRATO, river, IV. 185—line of canal across the Isthmus of Panama, II. 712

ATREBATIO, IV. 185, 666.

ATREUS, IV. 185.

ATRI, or Atria, Neapolitan town, IV. 185.

ATRIENSES, IV. 185.

ATRIUM, IV. 185, III. 471, 472

Atropatene, XIV. 420

ATROPA, a genus of plants, IV. 185; V. 201, 202. See Nightshade.

Atropaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 201.

ATROPHY, IV. 185; XVII. 663, 690.

Atropia, alkaloid, V. 202, XIV. 458.

ATROPOS, IV. 185; XVII. 272.

Atropa, fossil mollusks, XVII. 104, 108.

Atta, genus of insects, IX. 194

ATTACHMENT, in law, IV. 185.

ATTACOTTI, IV. 186, V. 375, VI. 74.

Attagenus, genus of insects, IX. 115

ATTALANDER, in law, IV. 186—corruption of blood by, VII. 416.

ATTALIA, genus of palms, IV. 187.

ATTALIA, now Adalia, city of Pamphylia, IV. 187.

Attalus, XVII. 410; XIX. 315.

ATTAR, or Otto of Roses, IV. 187; V. 191; XIII. 71; XVI. 466—preparation of, in Bulgaria, V. 760.

Attelabides, tribe of insects, IX. 138.

Attelabus, genus of insects, IX. 138.

ATTENTATES, IV. 187.

ATTENTION, IV. 187; XIV. 574; XIX. 116, 118.

ATTENTATION, IV. 187.

Atterbon, Swedish author, XIX. 700.

ATTEBURY (Dr Francis), IV. 187—his trial, 607—his share in answering Bentley's work on the Epistles of Phalaris, 658—his friendship with Pope, XVIII. 332—his letters opened at the post-office, 409—his intimacy with Swift, XX. 873.

Attic, in architecture, III. 479, 507.

—weights, XXI. 806.

ATTICA, IV. 191; XI. 12, 18—institution of castes in, VI. 815—names of months, 666—climate of, XI. 13—coinage of, XVI. 371—invaded by the Spartans, XX. 499—silver mines of, XV. 280.

ATTIUS (Herodes), an Athenian, IV. 218.—(TITUS POMPONIUS), a Roman, IV. 218.

ATTIGNY, French town, IV. 213.

ATTILA, king of the Huns, IV. 218; XII. 28.

ATT—AUD

Attiret (Frère), VI. 593.
 Attitudes of man, III. 40, 41.
 ATTLEBOROUGH, town in Norfolk, IV. 218.
 ATTROCK, in Hindustan, IV. 218; XII. 378.
 ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, IV. 218.
 ATTORNEY-GENERAL, IV. 219.
 ATTRACTION, IV. 219—attractive force of cohesion, II. 140—capillary, VI. 207, XII. 90, 102; I. 890—theory of, XII. 96—chemical, VI. 439, 450—electrical, VIII. 536, 554, 556; I. 889—law of, VIII. 549—of spheres, II—of planes, II—of ellipsoids, I. 823—mutual, of floating bodies, XII. 95—magnetic, XIV. 19—committee of, I. 834—theorems about attractions, 823, 989, 994—Cavendish on, VI. 354. See Dynamics, Gravitation, Tides.
 —OF MOUNTAINS, IV. 233; I. 834, XIV. 335.
 ATTRIBUTE, IV. 233.
 ATTRIBUTES, in theology, IV. 233; XXI. 189—divine attributes ascribed to Christ, 209; to the Holy Spirit, 217—names of God from his, 189—in logic, IV. 233.
 ATTRIBUTIVES, IV. 233; X. 745, 790.
 ATTURCK, Persian river, IV. 233.
 ATUO, an Aleutian island, IV. 233.
 Atum, Egyptian deity, VIII. 437.
 Aturia, fossil mollusks, XVII. 110, 112.
 Atwell (Mr), his explanation of the cause of intermittent springs, XVIII. 81.
 Atwood (George), IV. 233—on evaporation, IX. 407.
 Atwood's machine, IV. 234—observations on moving bodies made by, XVII. 378.
 Atyade, XIII. 747.
 Atychia, genus of insects, IX. 210.
 Atypus, genus of arachnides, III. 378.
 ATYS, IV. 234—son of Cressus, VII. 507.
 AUBAGNE, French town, IV. 235.
 AUBAINE, IV. 235.
 AUBE, in France, IV. 235.
 Aubé (C), his entomological works, IX. 19.
 AUBENAS, town in France, IV. 235.
 AUBIGNÉ (Théodore Agrippa d'), IV. 235—(d'), on Luther and Melancthon, XIV. 478.
 AUBIGNY, town of France, IV. 235.
 Aubin (Stephen), his work on insects, IX. 19.
 AUBREY (John), IV. 235—his anecdotes of Lord Bacon, I. 289—his notices of Milton, IV. 20, 21, 31, 34; of Sir William Petty, XVII. 502—on Surrey, XX. 836.
 Aubry (M.), on iron bridges, XII. 578.
 AUBURN, a colour, IV. 235.
 —a town in New York, IV. 235—penitentiary or state prison at, XVIII. 571.
 AUBUSSON, in France, IV. 235.
 AUCH, city in France, IV. 235.
 Auchenia, genus of mammalia, XIV. 205.
 Auchenipterus, genus of fishes, XII. 262.
 Anchinese, ruins of, III. 215.
 ANCHERARDER, IV. 236.
 ANCHERMOUCHET, IV. 236.
 Auckland (Lord), governor-general of India, XI. 667—his opinion as to whether all treaties are annulled by war, V. 588.
 —capital of New Zealand, IV. 236; XVI. 234.
 —province of New Zealand, XVI. 233.
 —BISHOPS, town in Durham, IV. 236, 784.
 —islands, IV. 236, 268.
 AUCTION, IV. 238.
 AUDREUS, IV. 237.
 AUDE, in France, IV. 236.
 AUDEBERT (Jean-Baptiste), IV. 236.
 Audinet-Serville (M.), his works on insects, IX. 19.
 AUDITORIUM, IV. 237.
 AUDRONS, IV. 236, 237.
 Auditory nerve, III. 47; XVII. 675.
 Audley (Lord James), at the battle of Poitiers, VI. 614.
 AUDUBON (Jean Victor), French naturalist, IV. 237—his works on insects, IX. 16.

AUD—AUL

AUDRAN, several engravers of that name, IV. 237, 238—Gerard, 237; VIII. 806.
 AUDUBON (Jean Jacques), naturalist, IV. 238, XXI. 424—his work on the quadrupeds of America, XIV. 240—on North American birds, XVI. 732, 775, 812, 814—on the turtle, XIX. 18—on the alligator, 25, 26—on the harlequin snake, 56.
 Auerberg, German poet, XVIII. 119.
 AUERSTADT, in Prussia, IV. 239—battle of, X. 143; XII. 720.
 Audius (Cornelius), a blind Roman author, IV. 779.
 AUGER, IV. 239.
 AUGEREAU (Pierre François Charles), Marshal of France, IV. 239; X. 104 *et seq*.
 Angite, XV. 81—rock, 135.
 Angitic lavas, XV. 133.
 AUGRE, or anger, IV. 239.
 AUGSBURG, IV. 239, 518—railway from, 517—diet of, XIII. 736—early printing at, XVIII. 532—treaty of, 827.
 —CONFESSION, IV. 240; XIII. 736; XVIII. 823.
 AUGUR, IV. 240, 251—place in Rome consecrated to the augurs, 721.
 AUGURY, IV. 240. See Divination.
 AUGURY, IV. 240—gardening calendar for, XI. 760.
 AUGUSTA, city in the state of Maine, N. A., IV. 240; XIV. 99.
 —city in the state of Georgia, IV. 240, X. 565.
 —city in Sicily, IV. 240; XX. 244.
 AUGUSTALES, IV. 240.
 AUGUSTALIS PRÆFECTUS, IV. 240.
 AUGUSTAN AGE, IV. 240—of English literature, VIII. 714.
 —CONFESSION. See Augsburg Confession.
 Augustenberg (Prince), XX. 859.
 AUGUSTIN, or Austin (St), first bishop of Canterbury, IV. 240—Christianity introduced into England by, VIII. 656; IV. 646.
 —of Venice, engraver, VIII. 800.
 AUGUSTINE (St), bishop of Hippo, IV. 240—on the freedom of the will, I. 267—his doctrines and character, 325—his opinion respecting apparitions, III. 311—on beauty, IV. 537—58—on the disrepute of stage-players among the Romans, VIII. 142—resolves all virtue into love to God, XV. 562—on predestination, XVIII. 478—on theology, XXI. 181 *et seq*.
 —(St), town in Florida, IX. 687.
 AUGUSTINS, order of, IV. 241.
 AUGUSTO, or Augustow, in Poland, IV. 241.
 AUGUSTULUS (Romulus), last Roman emperor of the West, IV. 241.
 AUGUSTUS, fort, IV. 241; XII. 440.
 —CÆSAR OCTAVIANUS, Roman emperor, IV. 241; XVI. 408—reign of, XIX. 330, 333—his friendship with Horace, XI. 628—mausoleum of, III. 473—his improvements in the city of Rome, XIX. 360—Egypt under, VIII. 472—sculpture encaptured by, XIX. 858—libraries established by, XIII. 885—senate in his reign, XX. 44—Spain under, 458.
 —king of Poland, XVIII. 144; XIX. 478; XX. 853, 854.
 AUKS, birds, XVI. 810; XVII. 176.
 AULA, IV. 241—regia, II.
 Aulacanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII. 117.
 Aulacoccephalus, genus of fishes, XII. 276.
 Aulacus, genus of insects, IX. 184.
 Aulostoma, genus of annelides, XI. 307.
 AULSTETER, town in Warwickshire, IV. 241.
 Auldern, battle of, V. 408.
 Auldjo (Mr), his ascent of Mont Blanc, II. 628.
 AULMOR, IV. 241.
 AULUC, IV. 241.
 AULUS, in Enchea, IV. 241; XXI. 418.
 Aulolepis, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 347.
 Auloporidae, zoophytes, XXI. 1005.

AUL—AUS

Aulopus, genus of fishes, XII. 248.
 Aulostoma, genus of fishes, XII. 805—of fossil fishes, 344.
 Aulostomata, family of fossil fishes, XII. 344.
 Anlostomidae, family of fishes, XII. 805.
 AULUS GELLIUS, IV. 241; X. 446—on the distinction between annals and history, XXI. 4.
 AUMALE, town in France, IV. 241.
 —(duke d'), governor of Algiers, II. 578, X. 230.
 AUMONE, tenure in, IV. 241.
 AUNCIEL WEIGHT, IV. 241.
 AUNE, French cloth measure, IV. 241.
 AUNGMYE (Richard), IV. 241, XIII. 388.
 AURIS, in France, IV. 242; X. 277.
 Aurantaceae, nat order of plants, V. 185.
 AURAY, French town, IV. 242.
 AURELIA, IV. 242. See Chrysalis.
 Aurelian road, XIX. 228.
 AURELIANUS (Lucius Domitius), Roman emperor, IV. 242—reign of, XIX. 349—walls of, 362—his expedition against Palmyra, XVII. 221.
 —(Cælius), physician, IV. 242.
 AURELIUS (Victor), IV. 242. See Victor.
 —Marcus Antoninus, IV. 242; III. 279.
 AUREOLA, IV. 242.
 AUREUS, Roman gold coin, IV. 242; VII. 68, XV. 433; XVI. 383.
 AURICH, in Hanover, IV. 242; XI. 211.
 Aurichalcite, mineral, XV. 103.
 Auricle of the ear, III. 45.
 Auricles of the heart, III. 63.
 Auricula, V. 203—culture of, XI. 753.
 —genus of mollusks, XV. 875.
 AURIOLAR CONFESSION, IV. 242; XVIII. 336.
 Auriculidae, family of mollusks, XV. 875.
 AURIFLAMMA, or ornamant, standard, IV. 242.
 AURIGA, constellation, IV. 242, 79.
 AURILLAC, French town, IV. 242.
 AUROCHS, XIV. 214; IX. 387.
 AUROREA, goddess, IV. 242.
 —BORREALIS, IV. 242; XIV. 633—its electrical origin, I. 738; VIII. 578—on Greenland, XI. 42—magnetic influence of, XIV. 14, 54, 55; I. 911—Dalton's views respecting its magnetism, XIV. 66, 67—on Orkney, XVI. 721—Polar regions, XVII. 584.
 AURUM CORONARIUM, IV. 250.
 —MUSIVUM, IV. 250.
 AURUNGBAR, in Hindustan, IV. 250.
 AURUNGZEB, Mogul sovereign, IV. 250; III. 746; XI. 479—mosque of, at Benares, IV. 644.
 AUSA, lake of, II. 40.
 AUSCULTATION, IV. 250; XIII. 150, 151.
 AUSSENSES, IV. 250.
 AUSONIA, IV. 251.
 AUSONTIUS (Decimus Magnus), IV. 251—on fishes, XII. 239, 240, 242, 254, 256.
 AUSPEX, IV. 251. See Augur.
 AUSSERRODEN, in Switzerland, IV. 251.
 AUSZEN (William), IV. 251.
 —(Captain Horatio), his northern expedition, XVIII. 173.
 —(Godwin), granite boulder described by, XV. 215, n.—on pleistocene fossil mammalia, 216.
 —(JANE), novelist, IV. 251—her novels, XIX. 279.
 AUSTER, IV. 251.
 AUSTERLITZ, IV. 251—battle of, V. 599; X. 139—Pont d'Austerlitz, XII. 581.
 Austin (Prof.), on federal government, IX. 497.
 AUXTLE (St), Cornish town, IV. 251.
 Austral islands, XVIII. 281.
 AUSTRALASIA, IV. 251—British colonies in, VII. 147—evidences of volcanic action in, XVII. 590—map of, IV. P1. See Australia, New Holland, New Zealand, &c.
 AUSTRALIA, or New Holland, IV. 270, 252—successive explorers of, 252—258; VII. 340, X. 474, 475—general view of, IV. 258—aborigines, 258—natural history, 260—British condition of the

AUS—AUV

aborigines, I. 450—claims of, to self-government, V. 671, 672—emigration to, VIII. 650, XXI. 677—trade with England, VIII. 732, 733; Liverpool, XIII. 618—insects of, IX. 69—deserts of sand in the interior of, XV. 150—metallic produce of, 248—gold districts of, 232—copper mines of, 238—Mutual Provident Society of, XII. 413—fossil animals of, XVII. 174—former volcanic agency in, 530—mountains of, 600—their height, 646—rivers, 608—flora of, 629; V. 239—mammalia of, XIV. 174 *et seq*; XVII. 631—birds, 633, 634—number of serpents, 634—prevalence of marsupial animals, both recent and fossil, 638—supplies of gold from, XVIII. 463—wages in, 467—presbyterianism in, 492—convicts in, 576 *et seq* reptiles, XIX. 81 *et seq*—duration of voyage from Britain to, XX. 19—timber trees of, 173, XXI. 278—weights and measures of, 810—imports of wool from, 911; prices of, 912—culture of the vine in, 882, wines of, 887—exports to, from America, 427—map of, IV. Plate.
 AUSTRALIA (South), IV. 293.
 —(Western), IV. 298.
 Australian Colonies Act, XXI. 33.
 AUSTRIA, IV. 302, IX. 401—army of, III. 644—Joseph II's plan for exchanging the Austrian Netherlands for Bavaria, V. 516—designs of, against France in 1791, 540—mercantile policy of, VII. 194—value of the produce of its mines, XV. 248—crown of, XI. 335—war with France in 1809, X. 151; in 1813, 162—newspapers of, XVI. 201—heights of mountains, XVII. 642, 643—trade with France, X. 259—her Italian possessions, XII. 634; XIII. 643—wars in Italy, XII. 653 *et seq*—annual production of coal in, VII. 126—law of copyright in her Italian states, 359—stereotyping in, XVIII. 532—work on the plants of, in nature printing, 555—regulation of births, &c., in, 842—coins, XV. 441, 443—railway statistics, XVIII. 787—postal system, 424—insurance offices in, XII. 413—operations against Hungary in 1849, 24, 25—iron ores of, 541—wars with Prussia, XVIII. 652—production of the precious metals, 461, XV. 248—war with Sardinia in 1859, XIX. 643 *et seq*—savings-banks in the German provinces of, 674—dominion in the Two Sicilies, XX. 264—silk produced in, 278—conduct of, in regard to the slave trade, 323—war with Sweden, 850—Austrian rule in Switzerland, 834—proportion of suicides in, 800—weights and measures of, XXI. 809—war with Turkey, 370—wines of, 885—universities of, 492—map of, IV. Plate.
 Authares, Lombard king, XIII. 639; XII. 642.
 Authenticity of the Scriptures, XIX. 829.
 Authors, their copyright, VII. 855—dramatic, XXI. 172; their emoluments, II. 173.
 Autobiography, IV. 725.
 AUTOCHTHONES, IV. 320.
 AUTOCROT, IV. 320.
 AUTO DA FÉ, IV. 320; II. 116; XII. 390.
 AUTOGRAPHE, IV. 320.
 Autography, in lithography, XIII. 512.
 AUTOLYCHUS, ancient robber, IV. 320.
 —astronomer, IV. 320; III. 789.
 AUTOMATON, IV. 320; III. 137.
 Automolite, mineral, XV. 87.
 AUTONOMY, IV. 320.
 Autos sacramentales, VIII. 145—Calderon's, VI. 72.
 AUTUMN, IV. 321.
 AUTUMNAL EQUINOX—point—signs, IV. 321.
 AUTUN, IV. 321.
 AUVERGNE, in France, IV. 321; X. 277—extinct volcanoes of, IX. 384; XVII. 589, 596—culture of the vine in, XXI. 883.

AUV—AVI

AUVERNAS, wine, IV. 321.
 AUXERRE, in France, IV. 321; XXI. 955.
 AUXESIA, IV. 321.
 AUXESIS, IV. 321.
 AUXILIARY, IV. 321.
 —VERBS, IV. 321; X. 765, 793; XIII. 189, 191.
 AULX, genus of fishes, XII. 296.
 AUKONNE, city in France, IV. 321.
 Auzout (M.), his micrometer, XIV. 749—his pneumatic experiment, XVIII. 25—telescope made by, XXI. 119.
 AVA, capital of the Burman empire, IV. 321; V. 779 *et seq.*; XVII. 367—language of, XIII. 206—production of the precious metals, XVIII. 461—printing press at, XIII. 206.
 AVADOUTAS, sect of Indian Brahmins, IV. 322.
 AVAIL, or AWAL, IV. 322; III. 343.
 AVALANCHE, IV. 322—in the Alps, II. 625—in the Caucasus, VI. 341—not found among the Andes, III. 130.
 AVALLON, in France, IV. 322; XXI. 955.
 AVANTURINE, mineral, XV. 69.
 AVANCE, not an original principle of human nature, I. 382—a vice of the Duke of Marlborough, VI. 715.
 AVATAR, IV. 322; XI. 468.
 AVATCHA, a bay, IV. 322.
 AVEBURY, village in Wilts, IV. 322—Celtic burrow at, XXI. 879.
 AYEIRO, Portuguese town, IV. 322.
 AYEIRON, or AVEYRON, IV. 322, 328.
 AVELLA, town of Naples, IV. 322; II. 27.
 AVELLINO, Neapolitan city, IV. 322.
 AVE-MARIA, IV. 322.
 AYENA, a genus of grasses, IV. 322—spikelet of, V. 113—flower, 125.
 AVERNBERGER (Leopold), physician, IV. 322.
 AYENCHES, Swiss town, IV. 323.
 AYENOR, in feudal law, IV. 323.
 AYENTINUS (Johann Turnayr), IV. 323—MONS, one of the seven hills of Rome, IV. 323; XIX. 356, 357.
 Aventureine felpsar, XV. 71.
 AVENUE, IV. 323; XVII. 773, 775.
 AVENZOAR, Arabian physician, IV. 323; XIV. 457—his surgical skill, XX. 815.
 AVERAGE, IV. 323; XII. 423.
 Averages, determination of meteorological, XIV. 664.
 AVERNUS, now Averno, lake, IV. 327; XII. 637; XV. 779; XX. 239.
 AYERBOS, Arabian philosopher, IV. 327; III. 795; XIV. 457; XV. 306; XX. 816.
 AYERBUNCI DEI, IV. 323.
 AYERSA, Italian town, IV. 323.
 Ayerson, XIX. 111, 112, 116.
 Aves, fossil, XVII. 154.
 AVEVBURY (Robert of), IV. 323.
 AVENTES, in France, IV. 323.
 AVESTA, village in Sweden, IV. 323.
 AVEYRON, in France, IV. 323—river, XXI. 24.
 AVEZZANO, town in Naples, IV. 323.
 AVIANUS (Flavius), IV. 323.
 AVIARX, IV. 323.
 AVICENNA, Arabian physician, IV. 323; XIV. 456; XV. 306—his surgical skill, XX. 816.
 Avicula, genus of mollusks, XV. 347, 348.
 Aviculidae, family of mollusks, XV. 348—fossils, XVII. 106.
 AVIENTUS (Rufus Festus), Latin poet, IV. 323.
 AVIGLIANO, town of Naples, IV. 323.
 AVIGNON, in France, IV. 329; XXI. 530—population, X. 277.
 AVILA, Spanish city and province, IV. 329.
 —(GIL GONZALEZ D'), Spanish author, IV. 329.
 AVILES (San Nicolas d'), Spanish town, IV. 329.
 Avilez (Melendez d'), founder of St Augustine, XXI. 432.
 Avisa, house of, Portuguese dynasty, XVIII. 392.
 AVISON (Charles), IV. 330.
 AVISSE, a blind French author, IV. 730.

AVI—AYT

AVIZ, Portuguese town, IV. 330.
 AVLONA, town in Albania, IV. 330.
 Avocets, birds, XVI. 806.
 AVOUDOUIS WRIGHT, IV. 330—table of, III. 584, XXI. 808—articles sold by, 807.
 AVOLA, Sicilian city, IV. 330.
 AVON, name of three English rivers—Upper Avon, IV. 330; XVI. 297; X. 681; XXI. 738, 879—Lower Avon, IV. 330; XX. 410; XXI. 879—Avon, in Hampshire, IV. 330; XI. 203.
 AVRANCHES, in France, IV. 330.
 AVRANVEL (Isaac), II. 46.
 Avrilly (Chanoine d'), his entomological work, IX. 21.
 Awadh, ancient city in Oude, XVII. 18.
 AWARD, in law, IV. 330.
 AWE (Loch), IV. 330; XIX. 794—trout of, III. 156, 157.
 Ax. See Acoqs and Dax.
 AXAMENTA, IV. 330.
 Axan, VII. 316.
 Axayacatl, Mexican king, XIV. 702.
 AXBRIDGE, town in Somerset, IV. 330.
 AXE, IV. 330.
 —Ladies of the, Spanish order, XIII. 120.
 —river in Somersetshire, XX. 410.
 AXEL, Dutch town, IV. 330.
 AXELM, island, IV. 330.
 AXILLA, IV. 331; III. 1—axillary flowers, V. 114.
 AXIM, town in Africa, IV. 331.
 Axinite, mineral, XV. 86—its pyro-electricity, VIII. 560.
 AXINOMANCY, IV. 331.
 AXINURUS, genus of fishes, XII. 304.
 Axinus, genus of mollusks, XV. 349—fossil, XVII. 105, 106.
 AXIOM, IV. 331—geometrical axioms, X. 508, 509, 517, 530; XIV. 598—logical axioms, XIII. 572, 575, XIV. 597.
 AXIS, in geometry, &c., IV. 331, 1; X. 430—in zoology, XIV. 209—in mechanics, 387, 388, 389 (see Rotation)—one of the vertebrae, III. 5—of the eye, 95; XIII. 461—of plants, V. 76, 78 *et seq.*
 AXIUS, river, IV. 331; XI. 11.
 Axle, wheel and axle, XIV. 388—hollow preferable to solid axles, XX. 778—degree of resistance of, ib.
 AXMINSTER, town in Devon, IV. 331.—carpets, VI. 271.
 Axolotus, genus of reptiles, XIX. 84.
 AXUM, old capital of Abyssinia, IV. 331; II. 66.
 Ax, or Al, French town, IV. 331.—wines of, XXI. 883.
 AYACUCHO, plain in Peru, IV. 331; XVII. 474—battle of, IV. 819; XVII. 468.
 AYAMONTE, Spanish city, IV. 331.
 Aye-aye, animal, XIII. 791; XIV. 179—denotation of, XVI. 455.
 AYENB-ALBERT, IV. 331.
 Ayien (Mr), his anchor, III. 119—his mode of anchoring a ship when out of soundings, 118; VI. 225.
 AYLESBURY, town in Buckinghamshire, IV. 331; II. 420—vale of, V. 722.
 AYLESFORD, village in Kent, IV. 331.
 AYLMER (John), bishop of London, IV. 331.
 AYLHAM, town in Norfolk, IV. 332.
 Aydestrey limestone, XV. 198.
 AYORA, Spanish town, IV. 332.
 AYR, town, IV. 332—river, ib.—Newton upon, IV. 332.
 AYROS (Sir John), VI. 626.
 AYSRINE, IV. 332—breed of cattle, II. 342—cow, its excellence for the dairy, VII. 621—agricultural statistics, XIX. 796, 797, 798—population, 799—Cheddar system of cheese-making introduced into, XXI. 864—trigonometrical survey of, 332, 333.
 —Agricultural Association, their report on cheese-making, VII. 625.
 AYRY, or Aery, IV. 333.
 AYSOUB (Sir George), IV. 333; V. 422.
 Aysgarth Force, waterfalls of, XXI. 957.
 AYTON (Sir Robert), IV. 334.

AYT—BAB

AYTON, in Berwickshire, IV. 334.
 Ayur Veda, Hindu medical work, XIV. 450.
 AZAMOR, town in Morocco, IV. 334.
 AZANI, ancient city of Phrygia, IV. 334.
 AZARA, IV. 334 See Azzara.
 AZARIAH, king of Judah, IV. 334.
 AZERBIJAN, in Persia, IV. 334.
 AZMUTE, IV. 334; 1—use of, in the trigonometrical survey, XXI. 336.
 —CIRCLES, IV. 334.
 —COMPASS, IV. 334; XIV. 79.
 —dial, VII. 792.
 —MAGNETICAL, IV. 334.
 AZOGA SHIPS, IV. 334.
 AZOPH, IV. 334.
 —sea of, IV. 334.
 AZORES, islands, IV. 335; XVIII. 382—height of mountains in, XVII. 644.
 AZOTE, IV. 337 See Nitrogen.
 Azotized and unazotized constituents of plants, V. 94, 95.
 AZOTUS, city of Palestine, IV. 337.
 AZURELLA, Spanish town, IV. 337.
 Azpilcueta (Martin de), III. 762.
 AZTECAS, XIV. 699.
 AZTECS, IV. 337; II. 683, 684, 696—their skill in spinning cotton, XIV. 717.
 AZUNI (Domenico Alberto), IV. 337.
 AZURE, in heraldry, IV. 337; XI. 324.
 Azurite, mineral, XV. 73, 103.
 AZZARA (Don Felix de), naturalist, IV. 337; XVI. 732 and n. 2—on the vampire bat, XIV. 149.
 —(Don Jose Nicolas de), IV. 337.

B

B, letter of the alphabet, IV. 338—in abbreviations, II. 17—the most frequent initial letter of English surnames, XVIII. 836.
 BAAL, IV. 338—worshipped by the Phoenicians, XCI. 906.
 BAALBEC, ancient Syrian city, IV. 338—ruins of, III. 470; XX. 910.
 BAAL-BERITH, IV. 338.
 BAAL-PEOR, IV. 338.
 BAAL-ZEBUB, IV. 338.
 BABA, Cape, IV. 340.
 BABATAG, Turkish city, IV. 340.
 Babbage (Charles), his works on Life Contingencies and Assurance Institutions, III. 223—misled by a table in Morgan's work on Life Assurance, ib.—his calculating machines, I. 880—on magnetism, XIV. 10, 32, 33, 35—on the deposits of rivers, XV. 140—his calculation of life assurance, XII. 403—on the fallacy of Hume's argument on miracles, XVIII. 612.
 —(Mr), his discoveries in Australia, XXI. 315.
 BABEL, IV. 340—the confusion of tongues at, VII. 245—most likely not a confusion of language, but a discussion about religious worship, I. 466.
 BABELMANDEB, strait of, IV. 340.
 BABER, founder of the Indian Mogul or Tatar empire, IV. 340; II. 208; III. 746; XI. 478—site of his tomb, VI. 49—translation of his Memoirs by Dr Leyden, XIII. 335.
 Babinet (M.), on optics, XVI. 556, 667, 669, 692.
 BABINGTON (Gervase), bishop, IV. 340.
 —(C), his edition of an oration of Hyperides, XII. 192.
 —(Dr), on the oil of the blood, II. 781.
 Babingtonite, mineral, XV. 82.
 Babington's conspiracy, XIX. 788.
 BABOON, IV. 340; XIV. 140, 141.
 BABRUS, a Greek fabulist, IV. 340.
 BABYLON, IV. 340—ruins of, III. 438—history of, 741—taken by Alexander, XIII. 768—walls of, IX. 814—paintings at, XVII. 46—Jewish captivity at, XII. 767—Jewish patriarchate of, 775—76—bricks of, V. 842; XVIII. 431—school of Jewish learning at, XVII. 521—

BAB—BAC

sculpture at, XIX. 846—Rich's explorations of, 157.
 BABYLONIA, or Chaldaea, IV. 345. See Chaldaea.
 Babylonian monarchy, XI. 542; XV. 412—hours, VII. 736.
 BABYLONIAN, or astrologer, IV. 347.
 —Talmud, XXI. 15, 16.
 BABYLONICA TEXTA, IV. 347.
 Babytussa, in zoology, XIV. 197.
 BACCALAUREATE, IV. 347.
 BACCARAT, a French town, IV. 347.
 Baccha, genus of insects, IX. 239.
 BACCHAE, priestesses of Bacchus, IV. 347.
 BACCHANALIA, festivals in honour of Bacchus, IV. 347.
 BACCHIGLIONE, river, IV. 347.
 BACCHUS, ancient Greek author, IV. 347.
 BACCHUS, IV. 347; XVII. 3—mysteries of, XV. 753—found by Acates, II. 95—espoused to Ariadne, III. 527—statue of, VIII. Pl. CCXI.
 BACCHYLIDES, Greek poet, IV. 348.
 BACCIO, or BACCUS (Andrea), physician, IV. 348.
 —DELLA PORTA (Bartolomeo), painter, IV. 348.
 BACH (J. Sebastian), musician, IV. 349; XV. 739.
 —(C. P. EMANUEL), IV. 349; XV. 729.
 —(M.), his work on insects, IX. 23.
 Bachaumont, Mémoires de, XVI. 193.
 Bache (Prof), on the depth of the basin of the Pacific, XVII. 575.
 Bacheller (M.), on encaustic painting, VIII. 684.
 BACHELOR, IV. 349; XXI. 447 and n. 2—taxed in Rome, II. 185—number in Britain, VIII. 756—degree of bachelor, IV. 349; XXI. 448, 458 *et seq.*—knights-bachelors, IV. 349; VI. 619.
 BACHAN, island, IV. 349.
 Bachoffner's plan for preventing smoke in grates, XX. 354.
 BACILLARIA, family of infusoria, IV. 349; III. 211, XVII. 94, 95.
 Back (Sir George), on the magnetic influence of the aurora, XIV. 15, 55, 56—his arctic expedition of discovery, XVIII. 171, 172.
 —Bay, in Timcomalie, XXI. 350.
 —how to swim on the, XX. 880—spray of, in animals, XXI. 560.
 —of birds, III. 84.
 —pressure, in steam-engines, XX. 600, 619.
 —raking, in veterinary science, XXI. 565.
 —RAFT, IV. 351.
 —STIFF, IV. 351.
 BACKER (Jacob), painter, IV. 349.
 BACKERGUNGE, in Bengal, IV. 349.
 BACKHAMMON, IV. 349.
 BACKHUYSEN (Ludolf), painter, IV. 351.
 Baccmeister, on the Imperial library of St Petersburg, XIII. 425.
 BACON (Francis), Viscount St Albans and Baron Verulam, IV. 351—his outline of the various departments of human knowledge, I. 1—his classification of the arts and sciences according to a logical division of our faculties unsatisfactory, 5, 6—his attempt at this, however, productive of great benefits, 7—his estimate of Paracelsus, 18—his merits as the father of experimental philosophy, 32—his definition of poetry, 33—the precision and accuracy of his ideas on topics connected with the philosophy of mind, ib.—on the mutual influence of thought and language on each other, 34—his sagacious views on universal grammar, ib.—his adoption of some of the prevailing prejudices of his day; among others the erroneous notion that the faculties of man are declining, as the world grows older, 35—his ethical disquisition almost entirely of a practical nature, ib.—character of his Essays, 36—on philosophical jurisprudence, ib.—his distinction between "deep and vulgar laws," 37—his notions with respect to commercial

BAC-BAC

policy specially erroneous, *ib*—the paramount importance attached by him to the education of the people, 38—his merits failed, for a century and a half, to attract general attention, 38—his works little read in France till after the publication of D'Alembert's preliminary discourse, 56—his philosophical fame in this country may be dated from the establishment of the Royal Society of London, 241—Condorcet's estimate of his powers, 56—character of, by Ben Jonson and others, 239, 240—on human reason, 58—his admiration of the Epicurean physics, 71—analysis of his *Novum Organon*, 570 *et seq*, 588 *et seq*—low state of physics in his time, 670—on the causes of vagueness and sterility in all the physical sciences, *ib*—causes of error enumerated under four heads called "Idols," 571, 572—does not charge the ancients with being absolutely regardless of experiment, 572—reduces the periods during which science had been cultivated to three, Grecian, Roman, and that of the western nations after the revival of letters, 573—considers the end and object of knowledge to have been very generally mistaken, *ib*—reverence for antiquity has retarded the progress of science, *ib*—common physical laws the most important for us to understand, 574—the nature of induction, *ib*—classes all learning relatively to memory, reason, and imagination, *ib*—distribution of knowledge under these heads, 575—his views of natural history, *ib*—explanation of the latent process, and the latent schematism, *ib*—method of exemplifying the process of induction relative to the form or cause of anything, 576—regarded his method as applicable to all investigations where experience is the guide, *ib*—all facts not of equal value in the discovery of truth, 577—enumeration of twenty-seven species of facts, or *insensitæ*, with examples, *ib*, 578 *et seq*—quotation from, on those experiments which most immediately tend to improve art by extending science, 583—remarks on philosophical instruments, *ib*—sagacious conjectures regarding light, which have been since verified, 584—general estimate of his genius, *ib*—Hume's comparison between him and Galileo, 585—his superiority to Galileo as well as to all other philosophers, 586—the perfection which he ascribed to philosophy may never be attained, 590—his views on heat less intelligible than those of Aristotle, 756—his confused ideas on astronomy, II 169—on the nourishment of plants and animals, III 179—his philosophy compared with Aristotle's, 538-59, 542, 551—treats Aristotle unjustly, 556—on the balance of power, IV 888—on heat, XI 280—his division of human knowledge, 536—on the compressibility of water, XII 77—on knighthood, XIII 110—on mnemonics, XV 285—on the knowledge necessary to cure law of its defects, XII 263—on Machiavelli's Prince, 782, n. 5, 783—a reformer in education, XV 809—on the topiary art, XXI 311—his idea of a trade museum, 322.

BACON (John), founder of the British School of Sculpture, IV 367; XIX 867. (Sir **NICHOLAS**), IV 358.

—(**ROBERT**), IV 358; XIV 458—his claim to the respect of posterity, I 670—pursued the path of true philosophy amidst ignorance and error, 632—his diligent study of optics, *ib*; XVI 524—his knowledge of the use of lenses, *ib*; XIII 449—his fondness for the marvellous, 624—on the art of flying, II 166—his ignorance of the denary notation, III 681—the invention of gunpowder erroneously ascribed

BAC-BAG

to him, *ib*, n. 2, XI 150—on astronomy, III 796—on the calendar, VI 82—on the rainbow, XIV 679—his knowledge of geometry, X 504.

BACON, curing of, VIII 238; IX 761, 762.

BACONTHORP (John), IV 358.

BACTISHUA (George), physician, XIV 456.

BACTRIA, now Bokhara, IV 359, 395; V 757—coins of, XVI 390.

BACTRIS, genus of American palms, IV 359.

Bactrites, fossil mollusks, XVII 112.

BACULARTUS, IV 359.

BACULE, in fortification, IV 359.

Baculites, genus of mollusks, XV 394, XVII 113.

BADAJOS, IV 359, IX 389—siege of, V 609, 611, IX 825—Wellington repulsed at, XXI 824—capture of, by Wellington, 825.

BADAKSEAN, or **Baduschan**, IV 359.

BADALOCCHIO (Sisto), IV 359.

BADALONA, Spanish town, IV 359.

Baddeley (Mr), on the means of escape from fire, XIII 435.

—on dust-storms, XIV 635.

BADEN (Grand Duchy of), IV 359—army of, III 652—coins of, XV 443—postal system, XVIII 424—weights and measures of, XXI 810—universities in, 492.

—or **Baden-Baden**, IV 361.

—a Swiss town, IV 361.

—an Austrian city, IV 361.

—**WEILER**, in Baden, IV 361.

BADENOCH, IV 361; XII 438.

BADENS (Francis), painter, IV 361.

Badge, XIII 524, XI 338.

BADGER, IV 361, XIV 155; XXI 548—its power of enduring want, III 180—denutation of, XVI 462—its hair and fur, K 349.

Badham (G D.), his works on insects, IX 22.

BADIA Y LEBLICH (Domingo), Spanish traveller, IV 361.

BADILE (Antonio), painter, IV 361.

Badis, genus of fishes, XII 277.

Badister, genus of insects, IX 94.

BADJUS (Jodocus or Josse), printer, IV 361.

BADKU, IV 361.

BADNA, Spanish town, IV 361.

BADYNA, in Spain, IV 361; XX 458, 459.

BADYLLA, IV 361.

BADZA, in Spain, IV 361.

—(**Beccerra de**), painter, XVII 75.

BAFFA, town in Cyprus, IV 362; XVII 261.

BAFFIN (William), navigator, IV 362; XI 40; XVIII 188.

BAFFIN'S BAY, IV 362; XVII 576.

BAFRA, town of Asia Minor, IV 362.

BAGARIUS, genus of fishes, XII 262.

BAGE (Robert), his novels, XIX 278.

BAGGESEN (Jens), Danish author, XIX 694.

BAGHADA, IV 362—cultivation of science at, under Almanon and the Abbassides, II 597, 755; III 794—the khalfis of, 743.

—a Turkish pashalic, IV 364.

Baghailcund, Indian state, XIX 100.

BAGHERAM, African country, IV 364; II 228—partially explored by Dr Barth, X 478.

BAGLIVI (Giorgio), Italian physician, IV 364.

BAGMUTTY, river, IV 364, 367.

BAGNARA, Neapolitan city, IV 364.

BAGNERES-DE-BIGORRE, in France, IV 364.

—**DE-LUCRON**, in France, IV 365.

Bagnes, places for convicts in France, XVIII 575—at Brest, V 316; Toulon, XXI 317.

Bag-nets, for fishing, IX 617, 610, 627.

BAGNOLES, French village, IV 365.

BAGNOLS, French town, IV 365.

Bagnus, genus of insects, IX 140.

BAGRIE, IV 365; XVII 714.

Bagration (Prince), X 154, 155, 157.

Bagrationite, mineral, XV 90.

Bagnus, genus of fishes, XII 261.

Bagshot, coene rocks, XV 212.

Bagster's Polyglot Bible, XVIII 266.

BAG-BAI

Bagtchi-Serai, in the Crimea, VII 505.

BAGHMAS, or **Lucayas**, islands, IV 365; XXI 837.

BAGHAR, in Hindustan, IV 367, 651.

BAGHAWULPOOR, in Northern India, IV 367.

BAGHA, province, IV 367, V 287—climate of, 293—population, 295.

—town, foundation of, V 281—taken by the Dutch, 282—commerce of, 289.

BAHR, IV 367.

Bahrûch, town in Oude, XVII 18.

BAHREIN, islands, IV 367—pearl fishery of, XVII 357, 444.

—province of Arabia, III 341, 343.

Bahr-el-Abyad See **Abud**, **Bahr el**.

Bahr-el-Azrek, II 55, 214, V 689; XVI 269, XVII 607; XX 51.

Bahr-es-Saffi, sand gulfs of, III 357-8.

Bahr-Yousuf, canal, VIII 430.

BALE, in Italy, IV 368; XX 240.

BALBOUT, Turkish town, IV 368.

BAIER, or **Bayer** (Gottlieb Siegfried), IV 368.

BAIKAL, lake, IV 368; XIX 549.

BAIL, in law, IV 368.

BAILEX, Spanish town, IV 368.

BAILEY (Nathan), IV 368.

—on syllogisms, XIII 624.

—(Rev. R. R.), on the operation of the poor-laws, XVIII 313, a. 1.

BAILIE, IV 368.

BAILIFF, IV 368.

BAILIE, or **Bailly (David)**, painter, IV 368.

BAILIOWICK, IV 368.

Baillarger (M.), on epilepsy, XIV 536.

BAILLET (Adrien), IV 369—on pseudonymous books, 711.

BAILLEUL, ancient French town, IV 369.

Bailie (Colonel), XI 492.

—(**JOANNA**), IV 369—as a dramatist, VIII 168.

—(General), defeated by Montrose, V 406.

—(Dr **MATTHEW**), IV 369.

—(**ROBERT**), IV 370.

BAILLY (Jean Sylvain), IV 373—his estimate of Leibnitz's philosophical character, I 262—his views on the antiquity of Indian astronomy, II 488, III 786—his eulogium on Clairaut, I 738—on mesmerism, XX 419.

BALIMENT, IV 375.

BAILY (Francis), IV 375; I 852—founder of the Astronomical Society, *ib*—his writings on eclipses, *ib*—his star-catalogues, *ib*; IV 95—his astronomical papers, III 816—on the motions of the fixed stars, IV 83—on the pendulum, I 822; IX 573—his repetition of Cavendish's experiment on the earth's density, I 835, 833—results obtained by him as to the earth's oblateness, 853—on life annuities and assurances, III 222; XII 400.

Bain (A. G.), fossil reptiles discovered by, XVII 142, 143.

—(Mr), his electric telegraph, VIII 544, I 986; XXI 101, 106—his receiving instrument, 107—transmitting apparatus, *ib*—his electric clock, I 986; XXI 644.

BAINBRIDGE (Dr John), IV 375.

—(Mr), on angling, III 150 *et seq*—his *Fly-Fisher's Guide*, 164.

Baines (Edward), XVI 186, XXI 958—his estimate of the production of wool in United Kingdom, 907—his estimate of the woollen manufactures, 918—his report on the rate of wages in the Leeds woollen district, 919.

BAIOLINIANS, sect of heretics, IV 375.

Bairactar (Mustapha), XXI 372, 378.

BAIRAM, Mahometan feast, IV 375.

BAIRD (Sir David), IV 375; XXI 618, 821—Cape of Good Hope taken by, X 712.

—(Dr), on the medusa, XXI 998—on physics, 999.

BAIREUTE, in Bavaria, IV 376.

BAIROUT, or **Beyrout**, Syrian town, IV 376, 691.

Bait-fishing, III 148—for trout, 155—for pike, 159.

BAI-BAL

BATING, IV 376.

BAIZE, IV 376.

Bajarzid, Turkish city, IV 372.

BAJAZET I., sultan of the Turks, IV 376; VII 320; XXI 368—defeat and treatment of, by Timur, XXI 283.

—II, sultan, IV 376—his reign, XXI 369.

Bajee Rao, prince of Poona, XI 507.

BAJULUS, IV 376.

Bakel, forts on the Senegal, XX 49.

BAKER, IV 376—diseases of bakers, XIV 443—number in London, XIII 660.

—(**HINER**), IV 376—on animalcules, III 199, 202—on the stickleback, XII 281.

—(Sir **RICHARD**), IV 377.

—(**THOMAS**), mathematician, IV 377.

—(**THOMAS**), antiquary, IV 377.

—(Mr), on the number of mill operatives in Leeds, XIII 313—on the statistics of Leeds' woollen manufacture, XXI 919.

BAKEWELL (Robert), agriculturist, IV 377; XIII 320—his improvement of live stock, II 268—produced the Leicester breed of sheep, 345, XIII 820.

—(Mr), his travels in the Tarentaise, XIX 587.

—town in Derbyshire, IV 377—chalybeate spring at, VII 755.

Bakewellia, fossil mollusks, XVII 106.

BAKING, IV 378—of pottery, XVIII 441—of meat, IX 766—of timber, XXI 279.

Bak-thuan, Chinese city, VI 49.

BAKU, or **Badku**, IV 381.

BALA, town in Wales, IV 382, XIV 544.

—lake of, 543—Cambro-silurian rocks of, XV 196.

BALAAH, IV 382.

BALADAN, IV 382.

BALENA, IV 382; XIV 233. See **Whale**.

Balenodon, fossil whales, XVII 165.

Balenoptera, jaw and baleen-plates of, XVI 442.

BALAGHAT DISTRICTS, IV 382.

Balgny, VI 626.

BALAGUER, Spanish city, IV 382.

Balaklava, in the Crimea, VII 505; IV 744—battle of, XIX 504.

BALAMBANGAN, island, IV 382.

BALANCE, IV 382; XIV 415; XX 541—Chinese, IV 385—Danish, *ib*—bent lever, *ib*—hydrostatic, 386—of torsion, *ib*; VIII 549, I 835, 873, 988—statical, IV 452—electrical, VIII 624—magnetic, XIV 43.

—in watch-work, VII 29—compensated balances, *ib*—Dent's compensation, 31—Loseby's mercurial, *ib*—Dent's prismatic, *ib*—Elfe's compensation, 30.

—OF **POWER**, IV 387, V 538, 536.

—**MI FOX** on, 528.

—of trade, IV 382; XVIII 214.

—of a constitution, VIII 284.

—sheet, in book-keeping, V 27.

Balanidae, fossil, XVII 101.

Balaninus, genus of insects, IX 140.

Balanophoraceæ, nat order of plants, V 209.

Balanus, genus of cirripedes, XV 319.

BALAS RUBI, IV 389; XV 87.

BALASIKORE, town in Western India, IV 382.

Balason handkerchiefs, manufacture of, VII 449.

BALASORE, town in Hindustan, IV 382.

BALATON LAKE, IV 383; XII 10—peculiar fish of, 17.

BALBI (Adrian), geographer, IV 383.

BALBOA (Vasco Nufiez de), IV 383; X 472; XVII 462.

BALBRIGGAN, Irish sea-port, IV 383; VIII 214, 216.

Balcarae (General), IV 383.

Balconies, III 488.

Bald (William), on the use of diving bells in the Clyde, XVI 70—on the weight of deposits from the bed of the Clyde, 85.

BALDI (Bernardino), IV 383.

BAL—BAL

BALDINGER (Ernst Gotfried), IV. 398
BALDINGUOT (Filippo), IV. 398.
Baldo (Guido), XX. 30 See Ubaldi.
BALDOCK, town in Hertford, IV. 393.
—— (RALPH DE), bishop, IV. 393.
Baldoon, in Wigtownshire, XXI. 863, 864
BALDRIK, IV. 393.
BALDWIN (Thomas), archbishop of Canter-
bury, IV. 393.
—— the name of nine counts of Flan-
ders, IV. 394.
—— emperor of the East, VII. 818, 826
—— kings of Palestine, XVII. 196.
BALE (John), bishop of Ossory, IV. 394,
XXI. 165—his commendation of Bellen-
den, IV. 635—on libraries, XIII. 389.
BALBARIO ISLANDS, IV. 394; XIV. 102
BALCHOU (Jean Jacques Nicolas), IV. 394.
BALEN (Hendrick Van), painter, IV. 394.
BALES (Peter), IV. 394
BALEY (Walter), physician, IV. 394.
BALFOUR (Sir James), president of the
Court of Session, IV. 394; XX. 813.
—— (Sir James), IV. 394—his MSS,
XIII. 401.
—— (ROBERT), IV. 395.
—— (Prof.), on the number of plants,
XVII. 625—on the equatorial zone of
vegetation, 626—on the botany of Scot-
land, XIX. 811, 795.
BALFROOSH, Persian town, IV. 395.
BALGUY (John and Thomas), IV. 395
BALHARRY, in Hindustan, IV. 395.
BALI, or Bally, one of the Sunda islands,
IV. 395.
Balingier, kind of vessel, XX. 123
BALIOL, or Balhol (Sir John de), IV. 395.
Balistapus, genus of fishes, XII. 313.
Balistes, genus of fishes, XII. 312, 313—
teeth of, XVI. 421, 422
Balistidae, family of fishes, XII. 313.
Balitora, genus of fishes, XII. 258.
BALIZE, IV. 395, XI. 609.
BALK, or Balkh, IV. 395
—— ruins of, IV. 396
BALKAN, mountains, IV. 396; IX. 383;
XVII. 596, XXI. 376, 377—height of,
XVII. 642.
—— gulf of, VI. 811
Ball, printer, XVIII. 546, 547.
—— (Mr), on the soil and situations
fitted for the tea-plant, XXI. 84—on
tea, 86 *et seq.*
BALLAD, IV. 396—Spanish, XVIII. 112;
XX. 494—ballad poetry of Scandinavia,
XIX. 691.
Ballaghkeen (North and South), baronies
in Wexford, XXI. 846
Ballanophyllia, fossil corals, XVII. 97.
Ballantyne (James and John), their con-
nection with Sir Walter Scott, XIX. 821,
822.
Ballantyne's salve for sheep, II. 351
Ballarat, gold diggings at, IV. 289—
largest mass of native gold yet found
at, XVII. 622.
Ballard (Mi), on the flow of water over
weirs, XII. 121, 125.
BALLAST, IV. 397.
BALLATER, village in Aberdeenshire, IV.
397.
BALLENDEEN (John), IV. 397. See Bell-
enden.
BALLENSTEDT, IV. 397.
BALLER, IV. 397; VII. 646.
BALLINA, town in Ireland, IV. 398; XIV.
372.
Ballinacor (North and South), baronies in
Wicklow, XXI. 859.
BALLINAHINCH, in Ireland, IV. 398—m-
neral waters near, VIII. 122.
BALLINASLOE, Irish town, IV. 398—its
cattle fair, XII. 619; X. 391; IX. 468,
XIX. 422.
BALLINROBE, Irish town, IV. 398; XIV.
372.
Balliol (John), XIX. 754.
—— College, Oxford, XVII. 85; XXI.
459
BALLISTA, military engine, IV. 398.
BALLISTEA, IV. 398.
BALLISTIC PENDULUM, IV. 398; XI. 111.
BALLISTRARIA, IV. 398.

BAL—BAM

Ballium of a castle, VI. 327
Ballochmyle viaduct, over the river Ayr,
XVIII. 763, 764.
BALLOON, IV. 399—ascend of Biot and Gay-
Lussac, I. 399—invention of, by the
Montgolfiers, II. 173—first public ascent
of a, 174—useful purposes for which
balloons may be employed, 184—true
theory of, 170—buoyant force of, 1b—
celerity of their ascent, 171—stability of
their suspension at a given height, 172
—— employed in war, X. 93, n. 2, II.
180; XI. 165—smoke balloons, II. 171-
72—gases best fitted for, VI. 458—
ascents of Messrs Green, Rush, and
Welsh, XIV. 640—observations on the
decrease of atmospheric temperature
derived from balloon ascents, 642.
—— chemical vessel, IV. 399.
—— kind of game, IV. 399
BALLOT, IV. 399—its successful operation
in Tasmania, XXI. 33
BALLSTON, town in New York, IV. 400.
BALLYBAY, Irish town, IV. 400
BALLYCASTLE, Irish town, IV. 400.
BALLYMENA, Irish town, IV. 400
BALLYMONEY, Irish village, IV. 400
Ballymore, in Ireland, most at, XXI. 840
Ballynahinch, river and lake, X. 389
BALLYSHANNON, Irish town, IV. 400, VIII.
103
Ballyspellan, mineral spring at, XIII. 85.
BALM OF GILEAD, IV. 400.
—— of Mecca, IV. 401.
—— tree of Arabia, III. 344
—— of Gilead fir, V. 209.
Balma (Jacques), ascent of Mont Blanc
by, II. 627.
BALMERINO, in Fife, IV. 402.
BALMEZ (Jayme Lucien), IV. 402.
BALMORAL, residence of the queen in
Aberdeenshire, IV. 402, II. 34.
BALNAVES (Henry), IV. 402.
BALNEARI SERVII, IV. 402
BALOGNES, IV. 402. See Valonges
BALSAM, IV. 402—of Copaiva, V. 190, VII.
845—of Umiri, V. 187—of Peru, 190—
of Tolu, 1b—of Jencho, XVII. 187
Balsamifera, nat. order of plants, V. 207
BALSAMINEAE, or Balsaminaceae, nat. order
of plants, IV. 402; V. 188
Balsamo (Joseph), impostor, VI. 59.
BALSAMODENDRON, genus of plants, IV.
402; V. 190
Balsham (Hugh), founder of St Peter's
College, Cambridge, XXI. 461, 465
Balsora. See Bussora.
BALSOVER, or Bolsover, IV. 402, 839.
BALTA, Russian town, IV. 402
BAL TIC SEA, IV. 402; IX. 385; XVIII.
662—specific gravity of its water, XVII.
573
BALTIMORE, in Ireland, IV. 404.
—— in Maryland, IV. 404; XIV. 331—
attempt of the British on, in 1814, V.
617—suicides in, XX. 800—temperature
at, XXI. 421.
BALTINGLASS, Irish town, IV. 405; XXI.
859
BALUE (Jean), IV. 405.
BALUSTER, IV. 405; III. 489, 507.
BALUSTRADE, IV. 405; III. 479.
BALUZE (Etienne), IV. 405—his collection
of capitularies, VI. 221.
BALZAC (Honore), French novelist, IV.
406.
—— (JEAN-LOUIS-GUEZ DE), IV. 406.
BAMBA, in Africa, IV. 406.
BAMBARRA, African country, IV. 406; II.
228.
BAMBERG, town of Bavaria, IV. 406—early
printing at, XVIII. 582.
BAMBOCCIO, painter, IV. 406.
BAMBOO, IV. 406; V. 216—its cells, 66—
paper made from, XVII. 249—used as
an instrument of punishment in China,
VI. 564; and in Cochinchina, VII. 49
—— abundance of silica in, V. 97.
BAMBOURGE, village in Northumberland,
IV. 408—castle, XVI. 900.
BAMBOUT, African country, IV. 408; XX.
51.
Bambridge, prison-keeper, XVIII. 567, 568.

BAM—BAN

BAMTAN, in Afghanistan, IV. 408.
Bamulte, mineral, XV. 86
BAMPTON, town in Oxfordshire, IV. 408—
in Devonshire, 1b
BAN, or Banus, IV. 408
—— or Bann, IV. 408.
BANAGHER, Irish town, IV. 408
BANALBUFAIR, town in Majorca, IV. 408
BANANA, IV. 408; V. 79, 84, 294, 211—
fibre of, XXI. 783—in Mexico, XIV.
716.
—— order of plants, V. 211.
Banar, or Bunass, river in Gujerat, XI. 91
BANAT, in Hungary, IV. 408, XII. 10.
BANBRIDGE, Irish town, IV. 409
BANBURY, town in Oxfordshire, IV. 409.
—— bridge, XII. 600.
BANCA, island, IV. 409; XX. 803—tin
mines of, XV. 240.
—— Strait of, XX. 803
Bancalari (M.), his discovery of the dia-
magnetism of flames, I. 981
Banchus, genus of insects, IX. 191.
BANCOORA, town in Hindustan, IV. 409.
Bancroft on the art of dyeing, VIII. 274,
277 *et seq.*
—— (Archbishop), library founded by,
XIII. 395
Band, in architecture, III. 507.
BANDA, in Hindustan, IV. 409.
—— ISLANDS, IV. 409.
—— ORIENTAL, IV. 410. See Uruguay.
BANDALIER, IV. 410.
BANDANNA, IV. 410—handkerchiefs, manu-
facture of, VII. 449
BANDELLO (Matteo), Italian novelist, IV.
410—his romances, XIX. 284.
BANDINELLI (Baccio), sculptor, IV. 411;
XIX. 863.
BANDINI (Angelo Maria), IV. 411—on
political economy, XVIII. 220.
BANDITTI, IV. 411.
BANDON, Irish town, IV. 412.
—— river, VII. 371.
BANDORE, IV. 412
BANDROL, IV. 412
BANDUSIE FONS, IV. 412.
BANSE, IV. 412
—— (Donald), XIX. 749
BANFF, town, IV. 412—herrings, IX. 639
BANFFSHIRE, IV. 412—agricultural statis-
tics, XIX. 796, 797, 798—population,
799.
BANG, or Banga, IV. 413; XX. 804
BANGALORE, in Hindustan, IV. 413—
stormed by Lord Cornwallis, V. 541.
BANGKOK, in Siam, IV. 413; XX. 232, 233,
234.
BANGOR, in Wales, IV. 414—in Ireland,
1b—in Maine, 1b, XIV. 98.
BANGOR-YB-COED, in Flintshire, IV. 414
BANGORIAN CONTROVERSY, IV. 414; XI.
549—Butlers' supposed share in, VI. 29.
BANG-FA-SO, in Siam, IV. 414.
BANQUEY, island, IV. 414.
BANIAN, island, IV. 414.
BANIAN, IV. 414.
—— or Banyan tree, IV. 414; V. 77,
206; IX. 536.
BANIAS, town in Palestine, IV. 414.
BANIER (Antoine), IV. 414.
BANISTER (John), IV. 414.
—— (Capt), his explorations in Austra-
lia, IV. 255.
BANJARMASSIN, in Borneo, IV. 415; V. 47.
BANK, IV. 415—of Venice, XV. 488—
Amsterdam, 1b.—Hamburg, 489—
Royal Bank of Scotland, 484—British
Linen Co. 1b.—of Bengal, VI. 70—of
Athens, XI. 17—Western Bank of
Scotland, XV. 488; its bankruptcy, 486
—— City of Glasgow, 486 and n. See
Banks, Banking
—— of England, XIII. 663; XV. 455,
founder of the, XVII. 340—its
charter, XV. 455; renewals of, 457—
crises of 1745, 1780, 1797, 456—letter
from its directors to the government in
1857, 468, n.—mode of printing its
notes, VIII. 810, n. 2.—Bamamah's
machine for numbering and dating its
notes, V. 274—its difficulties in 1796 and
1797, 559, 561—acts of Parliament

BAN—BAN

respecting, in 1826, 645—renewal of its
charter in 1764, 469—act of 1844, 462;
its suspension in 1847 and 1857, 467—
the only importer of gold bullion, VII.
84—importation of gold by, 85—man-
agement of, XV. 470—its connection
with the government, 470, 473—tabular
view of the issues, securities, bullion,
&c., of, 475 *et seq.*
Bank of France, X. 262; XV. 489.
—— of Ireland, VIII. 226; XV. 488.
—— of Scotland, XV. 483—constitution
and objects of, 484.
—— notes, XV. 426, 446; VII. 489, 200—
numbering and dating of, V. 274—sup-
pression of small notes in England,
644—their influence on commerce, VII.
189, 199, 200—when they first became
general in England, 189—depreciation
of their value, 199, 200; XV. 428—
steel-engraving of, VIII. 809—distinc-
tion between them and bills of ex-
change, XV. 448—their conversion into
coin, 447, 448, 449—issued by the Bank
of England monthly, 478, 479; by pri-
vate banks in England and Wales, 482;
by the bank of France, 490—expediency
of suppressing L. 1 notes, 487—printing
of, XVIII. 557; XVII. 810, n. 2.
BANKER, IV. 415—act of 1857 against
fraudulent returns by bankers, XV.
449—advantages afforded by, 450—
bankers of Greece and Rome, 454
BANKING, IV. 415—Irish, XII. 527; XV.
487—in the United States, 491—ap-
plication of limited liability to, XVII.
323; its disadvantages, XV. 453—in
Prussia, XVIII. 671—Spain, XX. 491—
a branch of statistics, 550 See Bank,
Banks, Credit, Exchange.
—— See Embankment.
Bankiva cock, XVI. 789.
BANKRUPTCY, IV. 415—Lord Brougham's
Act on, 417—Irish system of, 1b.—
Scotch, 1b.—puts an end to the inden-
tured of apprentices, XIV. 346—old
Roman law against bankrupts, VI. 740
a disqualification for sitting in the
House of Commons, XVII. 295—origin
of the name, II. 7.
Banks—in London, XIII. 662—Glasgow,
X. 656—Edinburgh, VIII. 408—Irish,
XII. 529; XV. 488—Scotch, 483, 485,
486—in Canada, VI. 155—United
States, XXI. 427, 441—Toronto, 314—
New York, XVI. 228; their condition in
1857, 1b 229—in Portugal, XVIII. 398
—numerous failings of, in 1825, V.
643; XV. 480; in 1814-15-16, 480—
Bank Restriction Act, II. 263—their
tendency to encourage gambling and
overtrading, XV. 451.
—— private, XV. 459—notes issued by,
482.
—— joint-stock, XV. 459, 448—mea-
sures for establishing, in 1826, 461—
progress of the system, 1b.—list of, in
England and Wales, 480, 481.
—— of deposit and issue, XV. 450, 454.
—— Savings. See Savings Banks.
—— (JOHN), dramatist, IV. 418
—— (SIR JOSEPH), IV. 418—his obser-
vations on a spider, III. 375—catalogue
of his library, IV. 714; VIII. 201—
accompanies Captain Cook, VII. 340—
on luminous crustacea, 539.
—— (THOMAS), sculptor, IV. 421; XIX.
867.
BANKS' ISLAND, IV. 421.
BANN, river in Ireland, IV. 421; III. 284;
XII. 505; VIII. 122; XXI. 845—fish-
eries of, IX. 626.
Bannatyne, port, in Bute, VI. 26.
—— MSS, XIII. 401.
—— Club, XXI. 414.
BANNER, IV. 421—armorial insignia
borne on banners, XI. 322.
BANNERS, knights, IV. 421, VI. 621.
BANNISTER (John), comedian, IV. 421.
BANNOCKBURN, IV. 421—defeat of Ed-
ward II. at, VIII. 681; XIX. 766.
Bannow, Irish river, XXI. 845.
BANQUETING room or house, IV. 421.

BAN—BAR

Banquette, IX. 819.
 BANTAM, town in Java, IV. 422.
 BANTY, Irish seaport, IV. 422—barony of, XXI. 846
 — Bay, IV. 422; VII. 371—general Hoche's arrival at, X. 104.
 BAONAB tree, IV. 422; V. 184; II. 226; XVII. 628 See Adansonia.
 BAPAUME, French town, IV. 422
 BAPHETES, genus of fossil reptiles, XVII. 136.
 BAPHOMET, IV. 422.
 BAPTISM, IV. 422; XXI. 219—by fire, IV. 425—of the dead, 426—hypothetical, ib.—Solemn, and lay, ib.—of bells, &c., ib.—one of the religious rites instituted by Christ himself, I. 482—catechumens, or candidates for, VI. 338—of children by Roman Catholic missionaries, XV. 276—registration of, XVIII. 831—how regarded by quakers, 718—Robinson's History of, XIX. 237. See Baptists, Anabaptists
 BAPTISMAL VOW, IV. 426—Presents, ib.
 BAPTISTE, or Jean Baptiste Monnoyer, painter, IV. 426
 BAPTISTERY, IV. 427.
 BAPTISTS, IV. 426; II. 741—number of their places of worship in England and Wales, VIII. 743; in Scotland, XIX. 801.
 BAR, in courts of justice, IV. 427.
 — in heraldry, IV. 427; XI. 328.
 — in music, IV. 427.
 — in rivers, IV. 427; XVII. 585, XIX. 215—how formed, XI. 225—theories on their formation, XVI. 80—conditions under which formed, ib.—confederacy of, XVIII. 146.
 — a Turkish town, III. 278.
 BAR-LE-DUC, French town, IV. 427.
 BAR-SUR-AUBE, in France, IV. 428.
 BAR-SUR-SEINE, in France, IV. 428.
 BARA, a festival, IV. 428.
 BARABA, in Siberia, IV. 428.
 BARBABA, African people, II. 219.
 BARABOA, in Cuba, IV. 428.
 BARAHAT, in Hindustan, IV. 428.
 BARALPTON, in logic, IV. 428.
 BARANGI, IV. 428.
 BARANYA, in Hungary, IV. 428.
 BARANZANO, philosopher, IV. 428
 BARATARA, island, IV. 428.
 BARATHERUM, IV. 428
 BARATHÈRE (John Philip), IV. 428.
 BARBACAN, IV. 429; VI. 327.
 BARBACOUS, birds, XVI. 778.
 BARBADOS, IV. 429—sugars of, XX. 795.
 BARBARA, IV. 431.
 BARBARELLI (Giorgio). See Giordione.
 BARBARIAN, IV. 431
 BARBARIN (Chev. de), his spiritual school of magnetism, XX. 423.
 BARBARISM, IV. 431.
 BARBARO on architecture, III. 451.
 BARBAROSSA, IV. 431; II. 567.
 BARBARY, IV. 431; II. 223; XXI. 380—dynasty of the Almohades, II. 601—wars with Spain and Portugal, 619—French trade with, X. 259—slavery in, XX. 821.
 BARBASTRO, a Spanish city, IV. 431.
 BARBATELLI (Bernardino), IV. 431.
 BARBAUTO, VII. 305.
 BARBAUD (Anna Letitia), IV. 431; II. 428—on the poetry of Collins, VII. 129—on Richardson's novels, XIX. 159.
 BARBE, IV. 432.
 BARBEL, fish, angling for, III. 161.
 BARBELS in fishes, XII. 221.
 BARBER, IV. 432—origin of barber's pole, III. 324.
 — surgeons, III. 114; VIII. 223.
 BARBERINI VASE, IV. 432. See Portland vase.
 — library, XIII. 412.
 BARBERINO (Francesco da), IV. 432.
 — town in Tuscany, IV. 432.
 BARBERY, plants, IV. 432, 660; V. 153, 181, 128—embryo in the seed of, 76. See Berberis.
 — order of plants, V. 181
 BARBEYRAC (Je'n), IV. 432—his transla-

BAR—BAR

tion of Cumberland's work, De Legibus Naturæ, VII. 580
 BARBEZIEUX, in France, IV. 432.
 BARBICAN, IV. 429
 BARBICANS, birds, XVI. 779.
 BARBICORNIS, genus of insects, IX. 208.
 BARBIER (M), on anonymous books, IV. 712; III. 257
 BARBIERI (Giovanni Francesco), IV. 432; XVII. 73.
 — (PAOLO ANTONIO), IV. 432.
 BARBITOS, IV. 432
 BARBON (Nicholas), on political economy, XVIII. 219.
 BARBOTEAU on ants, III. 261.
 BARBOUR (John), IV. 432—his poetry, IX. 796.
 BARBUDA island, IV. 436
 BARBUS, genus of fishes, XII. 257.
 BARBUT (James), his work on insects, IX. 7.
 BARCA, in Africa, IV. 437; VII. 610, XXI. 352, 353.
 — Soranus, IX. 578.
 BARCAROLLE, IV. 437.
 BARCELONA, in Spain, IV. 437; VI. 331; XX. 467—taken by the Earl of Peterborough, V. 449—counts of, XX. 462.
 — New, in Venezuela, IV. 437
 BARCLAY (Alex), English poet, IV. 437.
 — (JOHN), IV. 439
 — (JOHN), M.D., anatomist, IV. 442—on ancient opinions concerning the soul, III. 810
 — (ROBERT), quaker, IV. 442.
 — (WILLIAM), M.D., IV. 438
 — (WILLIAM), LL.D., IV. 439.
 — de Tolly, Russian commander, X. 164, 155
 BAR-COCHERAS, or Bar-cochab, IV. 443; XII. 734, 775; XVII. 195
 BARD, IV. 443—bards of ancient Germany, X. 574—northern, XIX. 264
 BARDA, IV. 443, 456.
 BARDESANES, IV. 443; X. 639—his imitation of the psalms of David, XII. 189
 BARDELI (Christoph Gottfried), IV. 443.
 BARDESEY, island, IV. 444
 BARDYLIA, the Myrian, XII. 364.
 BAREBONE's parliament, V. 416.
 BAREGES, French town, IV. 444.
 BAREILLY, city in Hindustan, IV. 444—sepoj insurrection at, XVI. 309.
 BARENTZ (William), his voyage of discovery, XVIII. 165.
 BARETTI (Giuseppe), IV. 444.
 BARETTIER (John Philip), IV. 428
 BARF (John), on wool, II. 353
 BARFLEUR, French town, IV. 444.
 BARELLE (Bayle), his works on insects, IX. 11.
 BARGE, IV. 444, 800, XX. 123.
 BARGE, barony in Wexford, XXI. 846.
 BARI, Terra di, IV. 444
 — Neapolitan town, IV. 444; XX. 242
 BARIDUS, genus of insects, IX. 140.
 BARILLA, IV. 444.
 BARNUM, VI. 488.
 BARK of trees, IV. 444; V. 82, XXI. 267—effect of marshy soils on, 269—oak-bark, 278; its use in tanning, XIII. 306—paper made from, XVII. 249.
 — (Peruvian.) See Cinchona.
 — in navigation, IV. 445.
 BARKER (Robert), IV. 445.
 — (Thomas), on salmon-roe as a bait, III. 166—his book on the art of angling, 163.
 BARKER'S MILL, IV. 445; XII. 172; XI. 350; I. 589.
 BARKING, town in Essex, IV. 445
 BARKLY (Sir Henry), governor of Jamaica, XII. 675-76
 BARCOMETER, XIII. 306
 BARLAAM on sexagesimals, III. 578.
 BARLEUS (Gaspard), IV. 445.
 BAR-LATHES, XXI. 390.
 BARLETTA, Neapolitan seaport, IV. 445.
 BARLEY, IV. 445; II. 379, 384, 386, 417; IX. 759; V. 320; XVII. 680—culture and varieties of, II. 310—analysis of, V. 324—brewing from, 320—species of, ib.—qualities of the different varie-

BAR—BAR

ties, ib.—Dr Ure's analysis of, 324—malt of, 321—inorganic constituents of, 96—its use in distillation, VIII. 48. See Corn-Laws.
 Barley hummeller, II. 282
 — OORN, a measure, IV. 445.
 — sugar, XX. 795, 797
 BARLOCCI (Saverio), on the electricity of the solar rays VIII. 569, XIV. 13—on solar magnetism, XVI. 596
 BARLOW (Francis), painter, IV. 445.
 — (JOEL), IV. 445
 — (P. W.), his cast-iron sleepers, XVIII. 758—his rail, ib.
 — (THOMAS), bishop, IV. 446.
 — (WILLIAM), bishop, IV. 446
 — (WILLIAM), mathematician and divine, IV. 446.
 — (W. H.), on the strength of beams, XII. 591
 — (Prof), his contrivance to counteract the local attraction of the needle on ship-board, I. 745, 990; XIV. 9, 90, XX. 27—on magnetism, XIV. 10, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 40, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53 & seq—his electro-magnetic globe, 65—his method of magnetizing bars, 73—his essay on the strength of timber, XX. 717—on the strength of beams, I. 878—cohesive strength of timber, XX. 171—strength of materials, 748—his telescope, XXI. 123—his lens, ib.
 BARM, IV. 446 See Yeast
 BARMEN, town in Prussia, IV. 446.
 BARMOOR, in Derbyshire, intermittent spring at, VII. 755
 BARMOUTH, Welsh town, IV. 446.
 BARN, IV. 742. See Varna.
 BARNABAS (St), IV. 446; IX. 490; XVII. 346, 347—epistle of, IV. 446—gospel, ib.
 BARNABITES, IV. 446.
 Barnaby Googe, his work on agriculture, II. 256
 Barnack oolite, as a building-stone, XX. 712
 BARNACLE, IV. 446—Scaliger's notice of Boyce's story concerning, V. 254, n. 4—fossil, XVII. 101.
 BARNACLES, in fattery, IV. 446.
 BARNARD-CASTLE, town in Durham, IV. 446, VIII. 267.
 Barnard (Wm. Henry), his discovery of caoutchouc, VI. 204
 — (General Sir H.), XVI. 303.
 Barnard's Inn, XII. 335
 BARNARD, in Siberia, IV. 447—meteorological observations at, XIV. 687.
 BARNES (Joshua), IV. 447
 BARNET, town in Hertford, IV. 447—battle of, VIII. 692.
 BARNVELDT (Jan d'Ouden), IV. 447, XI. 573.
 BARNSELY, town in Yorkshire, IV. 447.
 BARNSTAPLE, in Devonshire, IV. 447.
 — in Massachusetts, IV. 447.
 BARO, or Baron (Peter), IV. 447
 BAROCCHIO (G. da Vignola), architect, IV. 447.
 BAROCCHI (Fredengo), painter, IV. 447.
 BAROCO, IV. 447.
 BAROMETER, IV. 448—first applied to measure the heights of mountains by Mariotte, I. 658—further improvements by Bouguer, De Luc, &c., 730—rule of modern practice, ib.—height of, in connection with atmospheric refraction, IV. 148—mountain, 466—portable, 466—method of computing the depression of the mercury in, VI. 216—its periodic fluctuations, XIV. 687—horary variations of, VI. 775—diurnal and annual variations of, 773, 774; XIV. 687, 688, 670—barometric pressure, 639, 666—barometric fogs, 654—Fascal on the suspension of mercury in the tube of, XVII. 325—indicates the variations of the weather, XVIII. 26—use of, in measuring heights, 27—height of mercury in, 26—marine, XX. 27; use of, at sea, ib. See Barometrical Measurements.
 BAROMETRICAL MEASUREMENTS, IV. 402—Laplace on, I. 820.

BAR—BAR

Barometrical areometer, XII. 87
 BARON, IV. 468—barons of the exchequer, 469—of the Cinque-ports, ib.—in English law, and in heraldry, ib.—coronet of a, XI. 336.
 — (MICHEL), French actor, IV. 469
 — (ROBERT), English author, IV. 469
 BARONET, IV. 469; VI. 622—arms of, XI. 340.
 BARONETS of Scotland, or of Nova Scotia, IV. 469
 — of Ireland, IV. 470; XII. 480.
 BARON (Leonora), IV. 470
 BARONIUS (Cæsar), IV. 470.
 BARONY, IV. 470.
 BARQUIMETO, in Venezuela, IV. 470.
 BARRA, island, IV. 470, 471, XI. 278
 — or Vana, in commerce, IV. 470.
 — African state, XX. 51.
 BARRACAN, IV. 470
 BARRACKPORE, in Hindustan, IV. 470—outbreak of the mutiny of 1857 at, XVII. 302.
 BARRACKS, IV. 470—British, III. 664—Turkish, 659—London, XIII. 679—royal artillery, at Woolwich, XXI. 926.
 BARRADAS, his invasion of Mexico, XIV. 712.
 BARRAMAHAL, in Hindustan, IV. 471
 BARRAS (P. J. F. Nicolas), Comte de, IV. 471; X. 106, 115 & seq
 BARRATOR, or Barretor, IV. 471, 472.
 BARRATREX, IV. 471.
 BARRAUX, French fortress, IV. 471.
 BARRAT, or Barra, island, IV. 471.
 BARRE (L. F. Joseph de la), IV. 471.
 BARREL, IV. 471—of a watch, ib.—in anatomy, ib.—going-barrel in clocks, VII. 14.
 — of guns, IV. 471; XI. 96; XX. 213—proof of, XI. 97—browning of, 101—rified, 127—boring of, V. 44—bronzang, 677
 BARREN CAPE, island, IV. 471.
 — ISLAND, IV. 471.
 BARRÈRE DE VIEUZAC (Bertrand), IV. 471; X. 82 & seq.
 Barreto (Pedro), VI. 122
 BARRETX, in law, IV. 472.
 Barrett (George), his calculations of annuities, III. 222; XII. 402.
 — (Dr), palimpsest discovered by, IV. 705—his edition of the gospel of St Matthew from a palimpsest, XVII. 200.
 — (Mr), his method of protecting the surface of building-stone, XX. 735
 — and Co., their steam-engines, XX. 608, 609, 614.
 BARRHEAD, in Renfrew, IV. 472.
 BARRICADE, IV. 472.
 BARRIER, in fortification, IV. 472.
 BARRINGTON (Hon. Daines), IV. 472
 — (JOHN SAUTE), Viscount Barring-ton, IV. 472.
 BARTINGTONACEA, nat. order of plants, V. 192.
 BARRISTER, IV. 473; VII. 465; II. 157.
 BARRITOS, IV. 473.
 Barton's lock, XIII. 533.
 BARROS (Joao de), IV. 473; V. 280—on the Japanese, XII. 705, 706, 707.
 BARROSA, battle of, V. 608.
 Barrot (Odille), X. 214 & seq., 238, 236.
 BARNOW, tumulus, IV. 473—in America, II. 696—in Dorsetshire, VIII. 112
 — Insh river, IV. 474; XIII. 84; XVIII. 728; XXI. 845.
 — (Dr ISAAC), IV. 474—his unjust depreciation of Ramus, I. 30, n. 2—his character as a theologian and philosopher, 45—anecdote relative to his sermons, ib., n. 2—inconsistency of his opinions on certain ethical questions, 46—estimate of his lectures on optics, 680—his scale of velocities, VIII. 352—Newton's obligations to, 854—on the pursuit of happiness, XV. 573—on wealth, XVIII. 211—on industry, 226, 228.
 — (Sir JOHN), IV. 474—northern voyages of discovery promoted by, XVIII. 171—on the consequences of the battle of Trafalgar, XX. 121.

BAR—BAS

Barrow (John), on the clergy of Iceland, XII. 199.
 BARROW'S STRAITS, IV. 475.
 Barry (Sir Charles), his improvement of street architecture, III. 506—iron roofs designed by, XIX. 386—new palace of Westminster designed by, XIII. 668.
 —(Alexander), on the decomposing effects of electricity, VIII. 588, 597.
 —(Du), his Revalenta, IX. 769.
 —(Edward), iron roof erected by, XIX. 399.
 —(GIRALD DE), IV. 475—on the climate of Ireland, XII. 504.
 —(JAMES), painter, IV. 476—on Raphael's pictures, XII. 708—his character as a painter, XVII. 79, 80, 84.
 —(Dr Martin), his microscopical observations on different parts of structure, II. 769—his ascent of Mont Blanc, 628—on the formation of ova, XVII. 682.
 —(Mr), actor, XXI. 175.
 —(Mrs), actress, XXI. 174.
 —in heraldry, IV. 478; XI. 328.
 BARRY-BENDY, in heraldry, IV. 478.
 BARS, in Hungary, IV. 478.
 BARSAC, French town, IV. 478.
 Barsowite, mineral, XV. 72.
 Barsumas, XVI. 152.
 BARTAS (G. de Salluste du), poet, IV. 478.
 —(Du), on zoophytes, XXI. 991.
 BARTER, or truck, IV. 478.
 BARTFIELD, town in Hungary, IV. 478.
 BARTH (Jean), IV. 478.
 —(Dr), his discoveries in Africa, II. 211; X. 478, 479—his visit to Baghem, II. 229—his account of Houssa and Sokoto, XI. 776, 778, of Bornou, V. 50, 51, 53—on the Tschadda, affluent of the Niger, XVI. 266—his visit to Lake Tchad, XXI. 80; to Timbuctoo, 280.
 Bartholom (M), V. 558.
 BARTHÉLEMY (Jean-Jacques), French writer, IV. 478.
 —DR GROAIN (St), French village, IV. 480.
 BARTHEZ (Paul Joseph), IV. 480.
 BARTHIUS (Gaspard), IV. 481.
 BARTHOLOMEW (Gaspard), IV. 482—on anatomy, II. 761.
 —(Erasmus), double refraction discovered by, XIII. 452; XVI. 631.
 —(Thomas), IV. 482; II. 761—on the period of human utero-gestation, XIV. 423.
 BARTHOLOMEW (St), IV. 482.
 —island, IV. 482.
 —massacre of, X. 32; XI. 625.
 —hospital, London, XIII. 673.
 BARTIZAN, IV. 482.
 BARTOLOCCI (Johus), IV. 482.
 BARTOLOMEO (Francesco), painter, IV. 482—his style of painting, XVII. 66.
 BARTOLOZZI (Francesco), engraver, IV. 482; VIII. 809.
 BARTON (Benjamin Smith, M D), naturalist, IV. 482.
 —ON-HUMBER, in Lincoln, IV. 483.
 —(Elizabeth), impostor, II. 42.
 —(Sir John), on microscopic lines, XIV. 801.
 —(Mr), on the population and mortality of the United States, XV. 805.
 —Bridge, aqueduct at, III. 338.
 Barton's coining-machine, VII. 90.
 —lamp, XIII. 171.
 BARTSCH (Adam von), IV. 483.
 BARUCH, the prophecy of, IV. 483.
 Barystrontianite, XV. 95.
 Baryta, genus of birds, XVI. 748.
 BARYTES, or Baryta, IV. 483; VI. 486; XV. 65, 94—Dr Crawford on its medical properties, VII. 486—specific gravity of, XII. 88—used to adulterate white lead, XIII. 302—its poisonous qualities, XIV. 434—optical properties of, XVI. 647.
 Baryto-calcite, XV. 95.
 —celestine, XV. 95.
 BARYTORE, IV. 483.
 BARYTONIUM, IV. 483.
 BAS (Jacques Philippe le), IV. 483.
 BAS-RELIEF, IV. 483, 482.

BAS—BAS

BASALT, IV. 483, XV. 133, 135, 155—specific gravity of, XII. 88—region of, in Syria, XX. 903—contains phosphoric acid, II. 391—Dolomieu on the origin of, VIII. 95—in Ireland, XII. 504—Palestine, XVII. 189—melting and moulding of, XV. 132, n. 2—its columnar structure explained, 165—water in, 151—dyke of columnar, 165—form of, 190.
 BASAN, or Bashan, IV. 483—kingdom of, XX. 903—mountains, ib.
 Basaniste, genus of zoophytes, XXI. 982.
 BASCINET, IV. 483.
 Basco (Michael de), bucaner, V. 711.
 Base, in architecture, III. 507.
 —of operations, in war, XXI. 708—change of, 706.
 BASEDOW (Johann Bernhard), IV. 483.
 Baseggio (G.), on birds, XVI. 781.
 BASEL, or Basle, in Switzerland, IV. 483, 484; XX. 882—silk manufacture in, 278—battle near, 884—average temperature of, 889—its libraries, XIII. 424.
 Basellaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 203.
 Basement, in architecture, III. 507.
 Bases, in the trigonometrical survey of Britain, XXI. 334.
 Basette, game with cards, IV. 491.
 BASHAN, IV. 484. See Basan.
 BASHARANS, a Mahometan sect, IV. 484.
 BASHAW, or Pashá, IV. 484.
 BASHEE ISLES, IV. 484.
 Bashford (Mr), his endeavours to improve the silk-worms of India, XX. 295.
 BASHKIRS, IV. 484—in Russia, XIX. 522.
 BASIGHANA, city of Piedmont, IV. 484.
 BASIL THE GREAT, IV. 484.
 —plant, IV. 485; V. 202, XI. 745.
 —in joinery, IV. 485.
 BASILAN, island, IV. 485.
 BASILEUS, IV. 485.
 BASILIAN MONKS, IV. 485.
 BASILIC, or Baslica, IV. 485—early Roman, III. 446—in modern Rome, XIX. 364, 368—ancient Christian, 445.
 BASILICA, a Greek digest of laws, IV. 485; VI. 747, XIX. 827—Fabrot's translation of, IX. 466.
 BASILICATA, in Naples, IV. 486; XX. 287.
 BASILIC, IV. 486.
 Basilides, Gnostic teacher, X. 687.
 BASILIDIAN, a sect of heretics, IV. 486—worshipped Abraxas, II. 48.
 Basilidsens (Codex), XIX. 838.
 Basiliscus, VII. 311; VIII. 474.
 —genus of reptiles, XIX. 34. See Basilisk.
 BASILISK, a fabulous serpent, IV. 486, XIX. 34—symbol of, in hieroglyphics, XI. 392.
 —a species of ordnance, IV. 486.
 BASILUS I., IV. 486—his code, See Basilica.
 —II., emperor, VII. 313.
 Basilovitz (John), XIX. 472.
 Basing house, VII. 511.
 BASINGSTOCKS, in Hants, IV. 486—canal, XX. 837.
 —(John), said to have introduced the Greek numerals into England, III. 579.
 BASKERVILLE (John), IV. 486—his types, XVIII. 539—his printing ink, 545.
 BASKET, IV. 486.
 BASKET-MAKING, IV. 487—ancient Britons excelled in, V. 376.
 —OF EARTH, IV. 489.
 BASKING-SHARE, IV. 489; XII. 322, 324—fishing for, on the Irish coast, IX. 634.
 Basmaric version of the Scriptures, XIX. 839.
 BASNAGE (Jacques), IV. 489.
 —(HENRI), IV. 490.
 BASON, IV. 490.
 BASQUE LANGUAGE, IV. 490; IX. 390; XIII. 214.
 —PROVINCES, IV. 490; XX. 493—people, IX. 350, 357; XVIII. 700; XX. 493.
 Basra. See Bussora.
 BASS, or Base, in music, IV. 490; XV. 720—double, 709—bass-drum, 713.
 —ROCK, IV. 490; XI. 177.

BAS—BAT

BASS, kind of matting, XX. 490.
 —STRAITS, IV. 490—discovery of, 253, 286, XXI. 80.
 —VIOL, IV. 490.
 BASSANI (Giovanni Battista), IV. 491.
 BASSANO (Giacomo da Ponte), IV. 491.
 —city in Lombardy, IV. 491.
 BASSANTIN (James), IV. 491.
 Basse, or sea-perch, XII. 274.
 BASSE TERRE, IV. 491, VI. 643.
 —or Guadeloupe, island and town, XI. 72.
 BASSEIN, Burmese town, IV. 491—treaty of, XI. 504, 506.
 BASSET, or Basette, IV. 491.
 —in geology, XV. 168.
 —HORN, IV. 492; XV. 710.
 —(PETER), IV. 492.
 BASSETING, IV. 492.
 BASSI (L. M. Caterina), IV. 492.
 —(Angustino), his work on the silk-worm, IX. 23.
 BASSIA, genus of plants, IV. 492, V. 199.
 —butter, XVI. 496.
 BASSO-BILIEVO, IV. 492; XIX. 5.
 BASSOOK, IV. 492; XV. 711.
 BASSORA, IV. 492; VI. 24—its commerce, XI. 460.
 —gum of, XI. 94.
 BASSORIN, V. 73.
 BASSUS, genus of insects, IV. 492, IX. 191.
 BASTARD, IV. 492—duties between parents and, XVII. 276.
 —sugars, XX. 795.
 BASTARDS, a kind of banditti, IV. 494.
 BASTARDY, arms of, IV. 494—bastardy law, XVIII. 313.
 BASTARNÆ, IV. 494.
 BASTARNÆ ALPES, IV. 494.
 Baster on zoophytes, XXI. 990, 992 n., 996 n. 6.
 BASTERNA, IV. 494.
 BASTIA, town in Corsica, IV. 494; VII. 417—siege of, XVI. 133.
 BASTIAT (Frédéric), IV. 495.
 BASTILLE, IV. 495—its destruction, X. 52.
 BASTINADO, IV. 495.
 BASTION, IV. 495—demi-bastions, IX. 809—bastioned forts and lines, ib.—bastioned system of fortification, 831.
 BASTON, or Baton, IV. 496.
 —(ROBERT), IV. 496.
 BASTWICK (Dr John), IV. 496.
 BAT, IV. 496; XIV. 146, 150; XVII. 632; XXI. 647—hybernation of, III. 180; XII. 62—teeth of, XVI. 452—in Egypt, VIII. 432—precision of their actions when deprived of sight, XX. 498—in Java, XII. 704.
 —or Batz, coin, IV. 496; XV. 445.
 Batalha, conventual church of, III. 449.
 BATAVI, IV. 496, 497.
 BATAVIA, town in Java, IV. 496; XII. 709—attack of, III. 675—Dutch trade at, 757—Captain Cook's visit to, VII. 340.
 Batavians, XI. 561.
 BATAVORUM INSULA, IV. 497.
 BATE (George), IV. 497.
 —ISLE, IV. 497.
 Bateman (Dr), on the diseases of London, XV. 608.
 BATENITES, IV. 497.
 BATES (William), D.D., IV. 498.
 BATH, in Somerset, IV. 498—in Maine, ib.
 —or lower oolite, XV. 206, 207—as a building-stone, XX. 712, 717.
 —KNIGHTS OF THE, IV. 498; XI. 340; XIII. 119—Knight companion of, 114.
 BATH-KOL, a species of oracle, IV. 499.
 BATHGATE, in Lunithgowshire, IV. 499.
 Bathiergus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 185.
 BATHING, IV. 499—of sheep, II. 349—Egyptians fond of, VIII. 448—promotes health, XIV. 440. See Baths.
 BATHES, IV. 505—ancient, ib.—modern, ib.—Roman, III. 470; XIX. 813—number of, in Cadix, VIII. 448—mud, XV. 89—of Pompeii, XVIII. 287—in London, XIX. 608. See Bathing, Buxton, Carlsbad, &c.

BAT—BAU

BATHURST (Allen, Earl of), IV. 507.
 —(RALPH), M.D., IV. 508.
 —county in New South Wales, IV. 508, 282, 284, 289.
 —town in Western Africa, IV. 508.
 —island, on the north coast of Australia, IV. 508.
 —island in the Arctic Seas, IV. 508.
 BATHYANI, IV. 508.
 BATHYLGES of Magnesia, sculptor, IV. 508.
 Bathynathus, fossil reptiles, XVII. 141.
 BATHYLLUS of Alexandria, dancer, IV. 508, 393.
 BATILUS, musical instrument, IV. 508.
 BATISTE, kind of cloth, IV. 508.
 BATMAN, a kind of weight, IV. 508.
 BATMANSON (John), IV. 508.
 BATNÆ (Sarrug), ancient city of Mesopotamia, IV. 508.
 BATNEARS, or Batnes, a people of Hindustan, IV. 508.
 Batoana, African tribe, XVI. 241.
 BATON ROUGE, town in Louisiana, IV. 509.
 BATON, or Baton, IV. 509, 496.
 BATONI (Pompeo Girolamo), painter, IV. 509.
 Batory (Ladilaus), his Magyar translation of the Bible, XII. 19.
 —king of Poland, XVIII. 143.
 Batrachia, reptiles, XVII. 634—fossil, 153—distribution of, 154, 634.
 BATRACHIANS, IV. 509; XIX. 73—teeth, XVI. 490—fossil, XVII. 132—their bones, III. 86 *et seq.*—cochlear aperture, 99—vocal organs, 102—heart, 112—gills and lungs, 113—fecundation, XIX. 14—respiration, 74—reproduction, 75—eggs, 74—number known, 51, n.
 Batrachite, mineral, XV. 89.
 Batrachiocephalus, genus of fishes, XII. 262.
 BATRACHOMYOMACHIA, IV. 509.
 Batrachopys, fossil reptiles, XVII. 132.
 Batrachus, genus of fishes, XII. 311, 312.
 BATSCHE (A. J. George Charles), naturalist, IV. 509.
 BATTA, IV. 510.
 Battallion (Dr), on the manner in which Roman Catholic missionaries baptise pagan children, XV. 277.
 BATTALIA, IV. 510.
 BATTALION, IV. 510; III. 640 *et seq.*—of artillery, 655 *et seq.*; XXI. 715 *et seq.*
 BATTAS, country in Sumatra, IV. 510; XX. 806—inhabitants of, III. 749; XX. 805—their cannibalism, III. 270; XX. 805—their language, XIII. 207—mode of writing, XX. 805.
 BATTLE, IV. 510; III. 323; VIII. 230.
 Battle's account of the orang-outang, XIV. 137.
 BATTEN, IV. 510; V. 750.
 Batter, in architecture, III. 507.
 BATTERING, IV. 510—ram, ib.
 Battersea Park, London, XIII. 668—bridge, 676.
 BATTERY, IV. 510; III. 685 *et seq.*—different kinds of, IV. 511—floating iron batteries, XX. 138—electrical, VIII. 611—galvanic, I. 739; XXI. 611 *et seq.*—in law, IV. 511.
 Batthany (Count Casimir), XII. 23, 24.
 BATTICHALOA, island, IV. 511.
 BATTIE, or Battiy, IV. 511. See Batnears.
 BATTLE, town in Sussex, IV. 511.
 —engagement, IV. 511—Roman battles, III. 638—plan of, XXI. 698.
 —(Naval), XXI. 719 *et seq.*—rules concerning, 707.
 —trial by, IV. 510; VIII. 230.
 —axe, IV. 512; VI. 616, III. 636.
 —of the Four Days, V. 422.
 BATTLEMENT, IV. 513; III. 507.
 Battoni (Pompeo), painter, XVII. 69.
 BATTORAY, IV. 513.
 BATTUR, island, IV. 513.
 BATTUR, IV. 513.
 BATUM, town in Asiatic Turkey, IV. 513.
 BAUCIS, IV. 513.
 BAUDLOQUE (Jean-Louis), IV. 513.

BAU—BAY

- BAUDELOT DE DAIRVAL (Charles Cesar), IV. 513.
 Baudet-Lafarge (M. T.), his works on insects, IX. 11.
 BAUDIER (Michel), IV. 513.
 Baudin (M.), his account of a meteorolite, XIV. 630.
 — (Capt.), his voyage of discovery to New Holland, IV. 253.
 BAUDINUS (Domimicus), IV. 513.
 Baudrun, V. 10.
 Bauer (M.), his microscopic observations on the spleen, II. 802—on the brain, 819—on the muscular filament, 821—on the optic nerve, 808—on blood-globules, XIV. 762.
 — (J. J.), on rare books, IV. 709.
 BAUGE, in France, IV. 513.
 — a kind of druggist, IV. 513.
 BAUMIN (Jean), botanist, IV. 513.
 — (GASPARD), IV. 513.
 Baumius, a colossal tree of Venezuela, XXI. 536.
 Bautille, mineral, XV. 70.
 Baumann (C. Jacob), on human mortality, XV. 601.
 BAUMANN'S HOELE, natural caverns, IV. 514.
 Baume, in France, VIII. 114.
 — (ANTOINE), IV. 514—his mode of manufacturing sal-ammoniac, II. 722—his areometer, III. 391—on clays, V. 344.
 BAUGARTEN (Alex. Gottheb), IV. 514; IX. 188.
 Baumgartner (M.), on magnetism, XIV. 13—on solar magnetism, XVI. 596.
 Baumhauer, his work on insects, IX. 11.
 Baur (F. C.), on ancient mysteries, XV. 754.
 — (JOHANN WILHELM), painter, IV. 514.
 Bauschius (J. L.), Academy of Nature Curiosi founded by, II. 62.
 BAUTZEN, in Saxony, IV. 514—battle of, X. 161.
 BAVARIA, IV. 515—army of, III. 652—Joseph II.'s plan of exchanging the Austrian Netherlands for, V. 516—monarchy of, XV. 412—Bavarian dialect, X. 587—presbyterianism in, XVIII. 485—coins of, XV. 441, 443—postal system, XVIII. 424—weights and measures, XXI. 810—universities in, 492—trade schools of, 823.
 Bavarian beer, V. 335—brewed in Edinburgh, 336.
 Baverstock (Mr.), on brewing, V. 319.
 BAVIUS and MAVIUS, IV. 520.
 BAWTRY, town in Yorkshire, IV. 520.
 BAXTER (Andrew), IV. 520—Warburton's eulogy on his work on the Nature of the Human Soul, I. 205—estimate of his merits, 206—his theory of dreams, VIII. 176.
 — (RICHARD), IV. 520—made chaplain to Charles II., V. 420—Calamy's Abridgment of his history of his Life and Times, VI. 66.
 — (WILLIAM), IV. 522.
 Baxterian scheme of predestination, XVIII. 479.
 BAT, IV. 522; X. 483.
 — tree, IV. 522; V. 204.
 — colour, IV. 522—salt, ib.
 — window, IV. 522; III. 507.
 Baya, bird, XVI. 760.
 BATAKERE, Indian dancing girl, IV. 522; VII. 646.
 BAYAN-KHARA, mountains, IV. 522.
 BAYARD (Pierre du Terrail), Chevalier de, IV. 522; VI. 615.
 BAKAZID, or Bajazid, Turkish city, IV. 523.
 BAYEN (Pierre), chemist, IV. 523.
 Bayer's catalogue of stars, IV. 80.
 Bayes (Rev. Mr.), on probability, XVIII. 589.
 BAYEUX, town in France, IV. 523—tapestry, ib.; XXI. 20—lace, XIII. 142, 143.
 Bayezed, VIII. 486.
 Baylounda, desert of, XVI. 268.
 BAYLA, or Bela, IV. 523.
 BAYLE (Pierre), IV. 523—Condillac's re-

BAY—BEA

- marks on his refutation of Spinoza, VII. 235—the first writer who led to the misapplication of the term *Spinozism*, I. 147—character of his writings, 151—opinions of the learned at the time of his appearance divided between Aristotle and Descartes, 152—his scepticism and ironical humour, ib.—probable reasons for the omission of Montaigne from his dictionary, 152, 153—motives for copying the spirit and tone of the old academic school, 153—his character by Warburton and Liebnitz, ib., 2; and by Gibbon, ib., 3; 151, 2, 3—his critical acumen unparalleled, but his portraits of persons defective, 154—causes which contributed to unsettle his opinions, ib.—fluctuations of his religious creed, ib.—his propensity to indecency, ib.—mischievous tendency of his writings, 155—benefits which have resulted to literature from his labours, ib.—his leaning to the system of the Manichaeans apparent, but not real, ib.—estimate of his genius and acquirements, 156—lessons of historical scepticism to be learned from, ib.—his *Commentaire Philosophique*, 156, 2, 4—on anonymous books, IV. 711—his scepticism, XIX. 709.
 Bayley (John), his story of Pope Joan, XII. 786.
 BATLY (Lewis), IV. 524.
 Baynes on logic, XIII. 576, 585.
 Baynton (Mr.), on the cure of ulcers, XX. 828.
 BAYONET, IV. 524—its value in war, XXI. 726.
 BAYONNE, IV. 524.
 BAZA, a city in Spain, IV. 524.
 BAZAAR, IV. 524—bazaars of Damascus, VII. 639—of Baghdad, IV. 362—of London, XIII. 663—Morocco, XV. 597—Jerusalem, XII. 746—Persia, XVII. 424.
 BAZAS, in France, IV. 525; X. 632.
 BAZAT, or Baza, a kind of cotton, IV. 525.
 BAZREGURA, tribe of Indians, IV. 525.
 BAZZENGDES, IV. 525.
 Bazoché, kingdom of the, an order, XIII. 122.
 BAZZANO, Italian city, IV. 525.
 Bdella, genus of arachnides, III. 368.
 — genus of annelides, XI. 306.
 BDELLIUM, IV. 525.
 Beaches, XVII. 585—raised, in geology, ib.; XV. 216—in Norway, XVI. 322.
 BEACHEY-HEAD, IV. 525—naval action off, in 1690, XX. 840.
 BEACON, IV. 525.
 BEACONAGE, IV. 525.
 BEACONSFIELD, IV. 525.
 BEAD, IV. 526—in architecture, III. 468, 507—bead-proof, IV. 526—bead-roll, ib.—bead areometer, III. 392.
 BEADLE, IV. 526.
 BEAGLE, IV. 526; XI. 771.
 Beah, river in the Punjab, XVIII. 687, 688.
 BEAK, or beak-head, of a ship, IV. 526.
 BEAKED, in heraldry, IV. 526.
 BEALE (Mary), painter, IV. 526.
 — (Mr.), on the sperm-whale, XIV. 232.
 — (Mr.), aviary and gardens of, at Macao, XVI. 767.
 BEAM of a loom, IV. 526.
 Beam-compass, IV. 526.
 Beam-engines, stationary, XX. 603—modified arrangements of, 607—compound, ib.
 Beaming, in weaving, XXI. 784.
 BEAMINSTER, town in Dorset, IV. 526.
 Beamish (Major), on the military character of the French, III. 642.
 Beams, strength of, VI. 260; XIX. 375 *et seq.*; XX. 760 *et seq.*—building up of, VI. 261—fishing a beam, 263—flexure of, I. 875—beams of a ship, IV. 526; XX. 186, 194—in the construction of iron bridges, XII. 586, 590—iron-beams, XX. 177.
 BEAN, IV. 526, IX. 760—cultivation and

BEA—BEA

- varieties of, II. 312; XI. 738—bean-staw as fodder, II. 313—inorganic constituents of, V. 96.
 Bean, kidney, or French, IV. 526, IX. 760; XI. 738.
 — caper, order of plants, V. 188.
 — COD, small fishing vessel, IV. 527.
 — FLX, IV. 527.
 BEAR, IV. 527, XIV. 153; XVII. 632—denotation of, XVI. 462—in Lapland, XIII. 235—fossil, XVII. 172—fur from different species of, X. 349—hunting of in Sweden, XX. 211—shooting, ib.—a constellation, IV. 527—order of the, a Swiss military order, 527.
 Bearberry, V. 198.
 BEAR-ISLAND, IV. 527.
 BEAR-LAKE (Great), IV. 527.
 BEARD, IV. 527—of the Egyptians, VIII. 434—Persians, XVII. 421—kissing the, IV. 529—women with, ib.—of a comet, ib.
 Beardmore (Mr.), on hydraules, XII. 127, 135, 141.
 BEARING, in navigation, IV. 529, X. 482—starboard and larboard line of, XXI. 919, 720.
 — in heraldry, IV. 529.
 — in mechanics, XIV. 405, 406.
 Bearn, French province, X. 277.
 BEAST, IV. 529.
 — fights, among the Romans, X. 399, II. 731.
 BEAT, IV. 529—of drum, ib.
 — (St), French town, IV. 529.
 BEATERS, IV. 529 See Gold-beating.
 BEATIFICATION, IV. 529.
 BEATING THE WIND, IV. 529—beating time, ib.—beating, in navigation, ib.
 BEATTITUDE, IV. 529—mount of beatitudes, XVII. 183.
 BEATON (David), cardinal, IV. 530; XIX. 773, 776—assassination of, III. 135; XIX. 777.
 — (James), XIX. 769, 773—St Mary's College at St Andrews founded by, XXI. 473.
 Beaton (Dr), on naval signals, XVI. 109.
 BEATTIE (James), LL.D., IV. 530—on Locke's views concerning innate ideas, I. 117—effect of his writings in diffusing a taste for enlightened criticism, 232—on dreams, VIII. 176—on grammar, X. 766 and 2, 772—poetry of, XVIII. 125.
 — (Joseph), his plan for preventing smoke in locomotives, XX. 368.
 BEAUGRES, a French town, IV. 532—Canal de, X. 244.
 Beauchamp (M.), his survey of the Black Sea, IV. 740.
 Beaufort (Admiral Sir Francis), on the surveys of the African coast, II. 510.
 — (Cardinal), IV. 532, VIII. 688, 689.
 — French town, IV. 532.
 — (Dr), on the words that enter into the composition of Irish names of places, XII. 524.
 Beaufoy (Mr.), his attempt to procure the repeal of the test and corporation acts, V. 522.
 — (Colonel), on the variation of the needle, XIV. 53, 54—his variation transit, 81—his ascent of Mont Blanc, II. 627—Society for the Improvement of Naval Architecture instituted by, XX. 134—his experiments on the resistance of water to vessels, 158, 163, 662.
 BEAUCHARNOTS (Eugene), IV. 532; X. 151 *et seq.*
 Beaujolas, wines of, XXI. 883.
 BEAULIEU (Sébastien de Pontault de), IV. 532—his expedition against Algiers, II. 569.
 BEAULY, in Inverness-shire, IV. 532.
 Beaumanoir (Philippe de), on French feudal law, IX. 524.
 BEAUMARCHAIS (Pierre A. Caron de), IV. 532.
 BEAUMARIS, in Anglesey, IV. 533; III. 146.

BEA—BEC

- Beaumé (M.), on the composition of gunpowder, XI. 152—his hydrometer, III. 391.
 BEAUMONT (Sir G. Howland), IV. 533; XVII. 86.
 — (Sir John), IV. 533.
 — (Mr.), his lead mines, XV. 193, 2, 243.
 — (Dr), his experiments on digestion, IX. 768, XVII. 659, 660.
 — (Sir George), his liberality to Wordsworth, XXI. 931—his influence on art, 887, 388.
 — and FLETCHER, IV. 533—their merits as dramatists, VIII. 159—lines of the former on the royal tombs in Westminster, XV. 415.
 — (M. de), on the Deluge, VII. 720.
 Beaumontite, mineral, IV. 534.
 BEAUNE, in France, IV. 534.
 Beaumont (M. de), on American penitentiaries, XVIII. 571.
 BEAUPRÉAU, in France, IV. 534.
 BEAUSOBRE (Isaac de), IV. 534.
 Beautiful, signification of the word in Plato's works, I. 317.
 BEAUTY, IV. 534—elements of, in architecture, III. 483—sensibility of the Greeks to, XVII. 49, XIX. 860, 861—ideal, 851—emotions of, in the processes constituting eloquence, 137, 138—article on, in this work, written by Jeffrey, XII. 717.
 BEAUVAIS, in France, IV. 555—carpet-manufactory at, VI. 271.
 BEAVER, IV. 555, XIV. 185, XVII. 632—bones of its tail, III. 76—pairing of, 181—its fur, X. 348—mode of manufacturing the skin, 351—instincts of, XII. 391—denotation of, XVI. 454, 456.
 — hats, XI. 240-1.
 — part of a helmet, IV. 555.
 Bébé, a dwarf, VIII. 271.
 Bebeerne, alkaloid, V. 204.
 BECAFOU, species of bird, IV. 555.
 BECCAFUMI (Domenico Mecherrino), IV. 555.
 Beccamoschino, bird, XVI. 766.
 Beccari, Italian poet, XVIII. 111.
 — on ignis fatuus, XIII. 457.
 BECCARIA (C. B. Marquis of), IV. 555—his objection to the right of property, XVIII. 228—on law, XIII. 270.
 — (GIAMBATTISTA), IV. 550—on aurora borealis, 250—on electricity, VIII. 528—measurement of a degree by, IX. 550—on the cause of the formation of clouds, VII. 39—on the electricity of the atmosphere, VIII. 578—on the magnetic effects of electricity, 600.
 BECCLES, in Suffolk, IV. 561.
 — (Mr), fossil mammals discovered by, XVII. 161.
 BECCERRA (Gaspard), IV. 561, XVII. 75.
 Beche (Sir H. de la), his report on coal for the steam navy, X. 319—on the bars at the mouth of rivers, XI. 225—on the value of the produce of British mines, XV. 247—on the transportation of detritus by rivers, XVI. 85—on the formation of deltas, 86—museum of economic geology promoted by, XXI. 323.
 BECHER (Johann Joachim), IV. 561.
 Bechtermunze (Henry and Nicholas), early printers, XVIII. 532.
 BECK, or Beke, IV. 561.
 — or Beek (David), painter, IV. 561.
 — (Dr), his work on medical jurisprudence, XIV. 424.
 BECKER (Thomas de), IV. 562; VIII. 671—his murder, 673.
 — (St Thomas), brotherhood of, XXI. 908.
 BECKFORD (William), IV. 563.
 — Lord Mayor of London, his address to George III., V. 471; XXI. 308.
 — (Mr), on hounds and hunting, XI. 664, 765 *et seq.*; XII. 84.
 Beckford's fuse for blasting rocks under water, IV. 756.

BEC-BEE

- BECKMANN (Johann), Professor at Göttingen, IV. 563—his history of coaches, VII 42—on the burning of books by the clergy, IV. 712—on the diving-bell, VIII. 60
- Beclard (Mons.), on adipose tissue, II 787—on arterial tissue, 790—on erectile tissue, 799—on the spleen, 801—on exhalants, 803—on lymphatics and lymphatic glands, 805—on the ligaments, 823, 824—on fibro-cartilage, 832—on the mucous membranes, 836—on the skin, 834—on the villi of the ileum, III. 61—on the classification of the organs of the human body, 3.
- Bequerel (M.), on diamagnetism, I. 980, 981—on the pyro-electricity of tourmaline, VIII 559—on the influence of heat on the electric fluid in metals, 561—on electricity produced by pressure, 563; and by combustion, 569—on magnetism, XIV 23, 28, 29, I. 981—on the composition of the blood, XVII. 664; of the urine, 666—on the spectrum, XVI 550, 595—his decomposing cell, XXI 690—on electrical currents, 623, n 1—discoveries of, 632—experiments in voltaic electricity, 621, 633, 635, 637—his work on electricity, 655.
- BECHASSE, Turkish sect, IV. 564.
- BED, IV. 564—dimmg-bed, ib; II. 80—of justice, IV. 565.
- in geology. See Strata.
- BED-CHAMBER, Lords of the, IV. 565; XI. 775—ladies of the, 776—bed-chamber women, 776.
- Bed-lathes, XXI. 830.
- Bed-mould, in architecture, III. 598.
- Bed-work irrigation, XII. 612.
- BEDA, Venerable Bede, IV. 565—his Saxon-English Bible, XIX. 840
- BEDARRUX, French town, IV. 565.
- BEDDOES (Thomas), physician, IV. 565—Sir Humphry Davy's connection with, VII 667; I. 967, and n. 1.
- BEDA, IV. 567. See Beda
- BEDFELL (Dr William), bishop of Kilmore and Ardagh, IV. 567—Burnet's Life of, V. 792.
- BEDFORD, IV. 567.
- LEVEL, IV. 567; VI. 114; II. 363; VII. 510; XII. 48; XIX. 12—pauperism in, XVIII 304, n. 2
- NEW, seaport in Massachusetts, IV. 568—free library at, XIII. 430
- (Duke of), on peace with France in 1800, V. 570
- castle, VI. 327.
- willow, XVII. 759.
- BEDFORDSHIRE, IV. 568—population and value of property in, VIII. 754.
- BEDLAM, IV. 569.
- BEDLOS (William), IV. 569
- BEDNORE, in Hindustan, IV. 569—treasures taken m, XI. 494.
- Bedos (F. de Celles), on the organ, XVI 709.
- BEDOUINS, IV. 569; III. 343 *et seq.*—of Hadhrumaut, 358—moral character of the, 354—in Idumaea, XII 359; Syria, XXI. 907. See Arabs
- BEDRACUM, village of Cisalpine Gaul, IV. 569—battle of, XIX. 339.
- Beds of rivers, XIX. 204, 205, 207.
- BEDWORTH, in Warwickshire, IV. 569
- BEDWYN (Great), in Wiltshire, IV. 570.
- BEE, IV. 570; XVII 637—Butler's work on bees, II. 257—bees—wax, IV. 572—feeds on poisonous plants, III. 180—stingless species in Jamaica, XII. 682—instincts of, 391—construction of combs, 391, 392—mode in which the three different kinds are produced, XVII. 688—its sting poisonous, XIV. 440—leaf-eating, IX. 199—mason, 200—solitary, 201—honey, 208—humble bees, 201. See Apilary.
- BEE-EATER, bird, IV. 588; 585—common, XVI. 772—crowled, knob-fronted, and poe, 764.
- BEECH, IV. 588; XVII. 758—timber, XXI. 274—strength of the wood, XX. 757—specific gravity of the wood, XII. 89.

BEE-BEI

- BEECH-MAST, IV. 588—oil, ib
- BEECHER (Sir William), painter, IV. 588.
- (Admiral), his arctic expedition, X. 473, 296; XVIII. 171, 172—on the bore of the Severn, XVI. 65, 66—on the low water-line of the Severn, 73, n. 2—on the specific gravity of sea-water, XVII. 573
- Beeching (Mr), his life-boat, XIII. 446.
- BREDER, in India, IV. 589.
- BEEF, IV. 589; IX. 761—loss of weight in roasting, 765, in boiling, 766—imports and exports of, VIII. 734, 736
- BEEF-EATER, yeoman of the Guard, IV. 589, XI. 74—origin of the name, III. 324.
- bird, IV. 589; XVI. 762.
- Beefwood order of plants, V. 209
- BEELS, a kind of pickaxe, IV. 589
- BEELZEBUL, IV. 589, 338—oracle of, XVII. 515.
- BEEMAH, river in Hindustan, IV. 589
- BEER, or BIR, town in Asiatic Turkey, IV. 589, 726
- IV. 589; IX. 759—discovery of, assigned to the Egyptians, V. 315—among the ancients, ib—in France, X. 256—brewing, storing, and fining, V. 318 *et seq.*, 330—Bavarian, 335; IV. 517—Prussian, XVIII. 669—Mr Stevenson's mode of analysis for, V. 336—the distillation process of analysis for, 337—quantity brewed in England, VIII. 731—value of exports of, from the United Kingdom, 736—beer measures, XXI. 808—Irish trade in, XII. 521—in Scotland, XIX. 805
- machine, Braham's, V. 273.
- (Dr E.), on Sinaic inscriptions, XVII. 535
- BEERALESTON, in Devonshire, IV. 589.
- BEER-REGIS, in Dorsetshire, IV. 589.
- BEERSHEBA, IV. 589.
- BEES (St), in Cumberland, IV. 589.
- BEESTINGS, IV. 589, VII. 152.
- BEET, or BETA, genus of plants, IV. 589, V. 74, 203, XI. 740, 741, IX. 760—its culture in Belgium, IV. 624—different kinds of, XX. 796—inorganic constituents of, V. 96
- root sugar, its manufacture, II. 83; IV. 589; XX. 791, 792, 796 *et seq.*—in France, X. 248, 256, II. 335—in Germany, ib—Belgium, IV. 625—in England and Ireland, II. 334, 335—Prussia, XVIII. 666.
- BEETHOVEN (Ludwig Van), IV. 590—his education in music, XV. 703—on recitative, 718—his opera *Fidelio*, XXI. 795.
- BEETLE, an order of insects, IV. 590, IX. 26—found in sarcophagi, IV. 473—their tenacity of life, III. 176—meaning of, in hieroglyphics, XI. 881—of the turnip, II. 319. See Coleoptera.
- a wooden instrument, IV. 590.
- BEEVES, IV. 590
- BEFORT, or Belfort, in France, IV. 590.
- BEGA (Cornelius), painter, IV. 591.
- BEGARELLI (Antomo), IV. 591.
- BEGGAR, IV. 591.
- Begging friars, XIV. 497.
- See Mendicancy, Alms.
- BEGLERBEQ, or Beglerbey, IV. 591.
- Begoniaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 204.
- BEGUARDS, IV. 591.
- BEGUINES, IV. 591.
- Begums of Oude, XI. 495.
- BEHABAN, IV. 591.
- BEHEADING, IV. 591; IV. 445.
- BEHEM (Martin), IV. 591.
- BEHEMOTH, IV. 591.
- BEHMEN (Jacob), IV. 592. See Boehm
- BEHN (Aphara), IV. 592—her novels, XIX. 270—plays of, XXI. 171
- BEHRING'S ISLAND, IV. 592; II. 464.
- STRAIT, IV. 592.
- voyages, II. 464; XVIII. 170.
- Behut, river, XII. 785.
- Beighton (Henry), his improvements on the steam-engine, I. 770; XX. 575.
- BEILAN, in Syria, IV. 592.
- BEDASCHI (Giovanni Battista), IV. 592.
- Being, Aristotle's notion of, III. 847—

BEI-BEL

- Buddist opinions of, X. 723—philosophy of, XIV. 603—Plato on, XVII. 798, 801
- Beirout, IV. 691. See Beyrout.
- BEIT-EL-FAKIH, in Arabia, IV. 592.
- BEITH, IV. 592.
- BEJA, in Portugal, IV. 592.
- BEJAPOUR, in India, IV. 592.
- Beke (Dr), his researches in Abyssinia, II. 57—on the mountains of the moon, 213.
- BEKES, in Hungary, IV. 593
- BEKKER (Balthasar), IV. 593—his work against witchcraft, III. 313—persecuted for it by the clergy, 314, 315, n. 1—his life and writings, 313, n
- BEL (Matthias), IV. 593.
- or Belus, the supreme god of the Chaldeans, IV. 593—temple of, at Babylon, 341.
- AND THE DRAGON, an apocryphal book, IV. 593
- Bela, or Bayla, IV. 523.
- BELAY, sea-term, IV. 593.
- BELBEIS, Egyptian town, IV. 593; VIII. 498.
- Belcher (Sir Edward), his searching expedition, XVIII. 171, 173
- BELMONT, fessel, IV. 593; XV. 398, XVII. 114.
- Belomutidae, family of extinct mollusks, XV. 398
- Belemnoid, fossil cuttle-fish, XVII. 114
- BELENTESE, town in Hungary, IV. 593.
- BELERUM, IV. 594.
- BELESIS, IV. 594.
- BELFAST, IV. 594—cotton manufacture of, VII. 458—linen manufacture of, XIV. 285—societies in, XX. 388.
- Belford, in Northumberland, IV. 594.
- Belfort, or Belfort, IV. 595, 590.
- Belfour (J. Daniel), his rope machinery, XIX. 406, 408.
- BELFRY, IV. 595.
- Belgic skull, III. 29.
- BELGICA GALIA, IV. 595.
- BELGNUM, IV. 595.
- BELGIUM, IV. 595, IX. 399—its separation from Holland, XI. 580—Devonian rocks of, XV. 199; carboniferous, 204; eocene, 213, miocene, 214—monarchy of, 412—French intervention in, X. 205—works on the population of, XV. 620—duties on British fish in, IX. 641, n. 2—annual production of coal, VII. 126, and extent of coal area in, 127—British consul in, 337—iron ores of, XII. 541, 574—Jews in, 738—Belgian versions of the Bible, IV. 702—libraries of, XIII. 423—newspapers of, XVI. 202—coins of, 388—lace manufacture, XIII. 143—proportion of insane, XIV. 536—paper-making, XVII. 261—metallic produce of, XV. 248—railway statistics, XVIII. 787—postal system, 424—beet-root sugar, XX. 798—weights and measures, XXI. 810—universities in, 492. See Holland.
- BELGOROD, Russian city, IV. 627.
- BELGRADE, IV. 627; XX. 61, 62—Prince Eugene's victory at, IX. 370—siege of, by the Turks, XXI. 369—taken by Solymann the Magnificent, ib; XX. 407—taken by the Austrians, XXI. 371.
- Belgrano (General), IV. 627.
- Belhaven (Lord), on agriculture, II. 261.
- Belhelve links base, in trigonometrical survey, XXI. 332, 334
- BELLAI, IV. 627.
- BELIDOR (Bernard Forest de), IV. 627—on hydraulics, XII. 107—on the strength of beams, VI. 269—experiments on the strength of timber, XX. 772
- BELIER, IV. 627—different degrees of, I. 477—how produced, XIX. 119.
- BELIEVERS, IV. 627
- BELION, river, IV. 627.
- BELISARIUS, IV. 627; VII. 812; XII. 641; XIII. 28; XIX. 363.
- Belize or Bahza. See Honduras.
- town, XI. 610.
- BELL, IV. 627—curfew, VII. 591—church bells, IV. 628—foundry of, IX. 844—great bell of Moscow, XV. 654—baptism of, IV. 426.

BEL-BEL

- Bell in architecture, III. 508
- (ANDREW), D.D., IV. 630—founder of Madras College at St Andrews, ib; III. 136—his schools, XV. 822
- (BENJAMIN), surgeon, IV. 630.
- (Sir CHARLES), IV. 630—his anatomical labours, II. 767, 768—his work on the brain, 814—on the distinction of the nerves of sensation and motion, 814; XVII. 676—on the nerves between the brain and muscles, II. 815—his Bridge-water Treatise, V. 364.
- (Dr), of Manchester, VII. 594.
- (GEORGE JOSEPH), professor of law, IV. 631.
- (HENRY), mechanist, one of the first who employed steam in navigation, IV. 631.
- (Capt. Henry), his translation of Luther's Colloquia Mensalia, II. 740
- (JOHN), of Anternomy, IV. 631.
- (JOHN), anatomist and surgeon, IV. 631.
- (Lieut.), his method of shooting a rope from a wrecked vessel, XIII. 440.
- (M.), on *lizards*, XIX. 30
- (Rev Patrick), his reaping-machine, II. 276
- (Thomas), on the teeth, III. 26—on the three-toed sloth, XIV. 121, n—on the dentition of the mole, XVI. 450.
- Bell-bird, XVI. 750.
- Bell-glass, XI. 248, 249
- Bell-metal, IV. 627; V. 277; VI. 497—cannons of, 181.
- BELL-ROCK LIGHTHOUSE, IV. 632, XIII. 465; XX. 695—carrier-pigeons employed at, VI. 275—ravages of *Limnoria terebrans* at, VII. 542—force of waves at, XI. 216.
- Bell-towers, III. 449.
- BELL'S REAPING-MACHINE, IV. 632; II. 276.
- BELLA (Stefano de la), IV. 632.
- Belladonna. See Nightshade
- BELLAGEO, town in Lombardy, IV. 632.
- BELLAI (Guillaume du), IV. 632
- BELLANO, town in Lombardy, IV. 632.
- Bellarmin on theology, XXI. 205
- BELLARMINO (Roberto), cardinal, IV. 632.
- BELLASPOOR, in Northern India, IV. 632
- BELLEAU (Remi), poet, IV. 632.
- BELLEGAARDE, French fortress, IV. 632.
- BELLE-ISLE, French island, IV. 632—capture of, by the British in 1760, V. 465.
- American island, IV. 632.
- straits of, XVI. 171.
- BELLENDEN (John), IV. 632—his translation of Boece's Chronicle, XVIII. 538.
- (WILLIAM), IV. 635.
- BELLEROPHON, IV. 637.
- genus of mollusks, XV. 375—fossil, XVII. 109.
- BELLES-LETTRES, IV. 638—academies of, II. 70.
- BELLEVOS, painter, IV. 638.
- BELLER, French town, IV. 638.
- Belling (C. F.), on the spinal chord, II. 768—on the nerves of motion and sensation, 814.
- BELLINI (Gentile), painter, IV. 638; XVII. 70.
- (GIOVANNI), IV. 638.
- (JACOPO), IV. 638.
- (LORENZO), anatomist, IV. 638; II. 782.
- (VINCENTIO), composer, IV. 638.
- Bellinurus, fossils, XVII. 101.
- BELLIS, genus of plants, IV. 638; XI. 748.
- Bellman (Carl Michael), Swedish poet, XIX. 699.
- Belloquet (Baron de), on the Celtic language, XVII. 530.
- BELLONA, IV. 638.
- BELLORI (Giovanni Pietro), IV. 638
- Bellot (Lieut.), XVIII. 171, 173, 174.
- BELLOVACI, IV. 638.
- BELLOWS, IV. 638, 795; XVIII. 81—common, IV. 795—single and double, ib—wooden, ib—circular, ib—anchor-smith's, III. 119—contrivance to prevent the noise of, 137—glass-blowers', IV. 782—water-bellows, XII. 183—hydrostatic, 81.

BEL—BEN

- Bells, electrical, IV. 630; VIII. 537, 554.
 —hawk's, XI. 248, 249.
 BELLUNO, in Lombardy, IV. 638.
 Belly See Abdomen.
 Belodon, fossil reptiles, XVII. 141.
 BELOMANCY, IV. 638.
 BELON (Pierre), French naturalist, IV. 638—on fishes, XII. 204, XIV. 124—on birds, XVI. 725.
 Belone, genus of fishes, XII. 264.
 Belonostomus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 336.
 BELOOCHISTAN, IV. 639.
 Beloptera, fossil cuttle-fish, XVII. 114.
 Belostoma, genus of insects, IX. 165.
 BELPER, in Derbyshire, IV. 642.
 BELSHAM (Thomas, LL.D.), IV. 642, —(William), IV. 642.
 BELSHAZZAR, IV. 642.
 BELT (Great and Little), IV. 642, 402, —a kind of military girdle, IV. 642.
 BEL-TEIN, or Bel-tane, IV. 643.
 BELZS, in astronomy, IV. 643, 69—in mechanics, XIV. 397—friction of, 407.
 BELZURBET, Irish town, IV. 643.
 Beluga, genus of mammalia, XIV. 228. See Whale.
 BELUNUM, IV. 643.
 BELUS, now Nahr Naman, river, IV. 643, —temple of, at Babylon, IV. 341, 344, 345.
 BELVEDERE, in architecture, IV. 643, —Neapolitan town, IV. 643.
 Belvisiacea, nat. order of plants, V. 193.
 BELZONI (Giovanni Battista), IV. 643—his explorations in Egypt, VIII. 503, 512—in Nubia, XVI. 349.
 BEN (Joseph), Hungarian general, IV. 643; XII. 24, 25.
 BENBIA, or Bamba, IV. 643, 406.
 Benbecudes, tribe of insects, IX. 195.
 BENBO (Pietro), cardinal, IV. 643.
 Bembra, genus of fishes, XII. 282.
 Bembridge eocene rocks, XV. 211, 212.
 —Down, Isle of Wight, XXI. 861.
 BEN, or Benni, IV. 643.
 BENACUS LACUS, now Lago di Garda, IV. 643.
 BENARES, in Hindustan, IV. 643; XVI. 301—trade of, XI. 459—sepoxy insurrection at, XVI. 809—luminous meteor seen near, XIV. 631.
 BENAVIDIUS (Marcus Mantua), IV. 644.
 BENBECULA, island, IV. 644; XI. 278.
 Benbow (Admiral), his gallant exploit and death, V. 447.
 BENCH, IV. 644—Free, ib.—Queen's, ib.—Common, 645; VII. 205—bribery of the, V. 341.
 BENCHERS, IV. 645.
 BENCOOLEN, IV. 645; XX. 806—Sir T. S. Raffles, governor of, XVIII. 750.
 BEND, in heraldry, IV. 645; XI. 327—bend sinister, ib.
 BENDER, town in European Russia, IV. 645—taken by Prince Potemkin, XIX. 486.
 BENDIDIA, festival, IV. 645.
 BENDING, IV. 645.
 BEND-KNOT, XIX. 90.
 Bendlets, in heraldry, XI. 327, 328.
 BENDS, in a ship, IV. 645.
 BENDY, in heraldry, IV. 645; IX. 328.
 BENE, Sardinian city, IV. 645.
 Beneditto, his work on geometrical analysis, I. 552.
 BENEDICTINE, IV. 645.
 BENEDICT (St.), founder of the Benedictine order of monks, IV. 645, XV. 408—his rules, IV. 646.
 —abbot of Peterborough, IV. 645.
 —XIV, pope, IV. 645.
 BENEDICTINE, IV. 645, VIII. 659—their love of learning and the arts, XIII. 387.
 BENEDICTION, IV. 646.
 Benec-Hasan, grottoes of, VIII. 504.
 —Survey, Egyptian town, VIII. 503.
 BENEFICE, IV. 646—number of benefices in England and Wales, VIII. 749—number of, in which the incumbents are resident and non-resident, 744—value of, ib.—in commendam, IV. 647.

BEN—BEN

- BENEFICIARY, IV. 647.
 BENEFICIARY, IV. 647, X. 309.
 BENEFIELD (Sebastian), IV. 647.
 BENEFIT OF CLERGY, IV. 647; VI. 764.
 —SOCIETIES, IV. 647, X. 309.
 BENEVENTO, Italian city, IV. 647; XX. 257—delegation of, XVII. 243.
 Beneventum, battle of, XIX. 308.
 Benevolence, sources of, I. 383—inward delight arising from the practice of, overlooked by Bentham's followers, 396—deficient in the Asiatics, III. 750—principle of virtue placed in, XV. 561, I. 357—sentiment of, XVII. 562—in the duty, XXI. 191, 215.
 Benevolent affections, difference between them and self-love, I. 360—views of different authors on the subject, 298, 297.
 Benezet (Anthony), his opposition to the slave trade, XCI. 321.
 Beney on philology, XVII. 534.
 BENGAL, IV. 647, XI. 463, 484, 523—North-Western Provinces of, XVI. 301—Royal Asiatic Society of, III. 759—Presidency of, XI. 529—English invested with the sovereignty of, 488, 515—military in the army of, in 1857, XIV. 471, XVI. 301—imports of silk from, XCI. 277.
 —BAY OF, IV. 652.
 —lights, XVIII. 707.
 Bengalee era, VI. 676—language, XIII. 207.
 Bengalees, XI. 464.
 Bengel on the original text of the New Testament, XIX. 835.
 BENGUELA, African country, IV. 652; II. 227.
 Ben-himmon, XI. 532.
 Beni, river, IV. 822.
 BENCARLO, Spanish city, IV. 652.
 Benier, affair of, X. 227.
 Beni Harb, Arabian tribe, III. 348.
 —Shammar, Arabian tribe, III. 348.
 BENIN, country of Western Africa, IV. 653.
 —Bight of, II. 212, 226; XIII. 181.
 Beningsen (General), X. 145, 146, 147.
 BENISH-DARS, IV. 653.
 BENJAMIN, youngest son of Jacob, IV. 654.
 —(of Tudela), IV. 654; X. 469.
 Ben-much-dhui, II. 32—botany of, V. 230.
 Bennadi (Dr Francesco), on the human voice, XV. 708.
 BENNET (Henry), Earl of Arlington, IV. 654.
 —(Dr Thomas), IV. 654.
 —(Mr), on electricity, VIII. 564, 566—his electrical doubler, 614—his gold-leaf electrometer, 617—on the serpent-eater, XVI. 745—on several other birds, 787, 783, 799.
 Bennett (Mr), on mollusks of the genus Glauca, XV. 370, 371.
 —(Prof), his observations on the capillaries of a frog's foot, XVII. 691.
 Ben-nuts and ben-oil, V. 190.
 BENOIT (René), IV. 654.
 BENSERADE (Isaac de), IV. 654.
 BENSHEIM, IV. 654.
 BENSON (George), IV. 654.
 Bentall's broadshare plough, II. 271.
 BENT-GRASS, a species of Agrostis, IV. 655.
 —sea (*Arundo arenaria*), its use in binding sand, II. 364.
 Bentham (General), on Brunel's block-machinery, IV. 783, 784—his improvements in dockyards, VIII. 76, 77, 83, 87.
 —(George), on forms of predication in logic, XIII. 585, n.
 —(JEREMY), IV. 655—on the law of nature, I. 92, 93—on blind veneration for antiquity, 95—his objections to the word *ought*, 299—his Deontology, 300—his supposed controversy between an ancient and modern moralist, ib.—on the word *utility*, ib.—on general rules for moral conduct, 303—Mackintosh's censure on him and his followers, 304—character of him and his followers, 392, 398—his Fragment on Government, 393—his tract on the Hard Labour Bill, ib.—his Letters on Usury, ib.—his writ-

BEN—BER

- ings on jurisprudence, 394—has not reached the most desirable distinction in ethical theory, 395—preaches the principle of utility with the zeal of a discoverer, ib.—confuses moral approbation with the moral qualities, ib.—his followers have overlooked the inward delight which arises from virtuous conduct, 396—his merit as a reformer of jurisprudence, 400—treats ethics too juridically, ib.—coincides with the Epicureans in some points, ib.—revolution which his style underwent, 401—Dumont's literary connection with, 402, VIII. 241, 242—his Book of Fallacies, IX. 476—criminal code of Brazil founded on his principles, V. 296—on English government and laws, VIII. 765 *et seq.*—on evidence, IX. 418—on the taking of oaths, XVI. 399—his definition of "police," XVIII. 183—on the security of property, 228—on penitentiaries, 570.
 BENTHAM (Thomas), bishop, IV. 656.
 BENTINCK (William Henry Cavendish), Duke of Portland, IV. 656.
 —(William G. F. Cavendish), Lord George, IV. 656; V. 671.
 —(Lord William), Indian newspaper press under, XVI. 204—his intervention in the affairs of Sicily, XX. 282.
 Benticles, fishes, XII. 281.
 BENTIVOGLIO (Giovanni), IV. 656.
 —(Guino), cardinal, IV. 656.
 BENTLEY (Richard), IV. 657, XVII. 524—his controversy respecting the Epistles of Phalaris, IV. 188, XXI. 933—his criticism on Le Clerc's edition of Menander, V. 787—his quarrel with Burman, 788—Cumberland's work on the laws of Nature revised by, VII. 579—his character as a scholar and critic, 586—on Homer—XI. 599, n.—Middleton's attacks on, XIV. 809—Cunningham's structures on his emendations of Horace, VII. 586—Sir Isaac Newton's letters to, XVI. 207, 208.
 —oak, XXI. 270.
 Benush, African river, X. 478—its identity with the Tchadda, ib.
 BENZOIC ACID, IV. 660, VI. 513.
 BENZOIN, IV. 660; V. 198; XX. 804.
 BÉON, Egyptian king, VIII. 457.
 Beranger, poetry of, XVIII. 117.
 BERAR, IV. 660.
 —Rajah of, XI. 504.
 Berard, his method of manufacturing alum, II. 641—on heat, XI. 263, 278—on the solar spectrum, I. 964, XVI. 593, 594—on the polarization of radiant heat, I. 966.
 —and Co, their purified coal, X. 320.
 Beraunite, mineral, XV. 101.
 Berberidaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 181.
 Berberia, V. 181.
 BERBERIA, a genus of plants, IV. 660; V. 181, 128, 153.
 Berbers, an African race, II. 219, 226, 506; IX. 351; XV. 594—language of, XIII. 225.
 BERSICK, IV. 660; XI. 61.
 —river in British Guiana, IV. 660; XI. 81.
 Berbir, Turkish town, X. 741.
 BERCHER (Nicholas), painter, IV. 660.
 BERCHERT (Peter), painter, IV. 660.
 BERCHTESGADEN, town in Bavaria, IV. 660.
 BERDASH, IV. 660.
 Bere, or Bigg, II. 810—cultivated in Argyleshire, III. 526.
 —Forest, XI. 203.
 BEREGYNTHIA, IV. 660.
 Berelaven, in Cork, copper mines of, XXI. 769.
 Berengar, XII. 644.
 BERENGARIANISM, IV. 660.
 BERENGARIO (Giacomo), IV. 661—his anatomical researches, II. 756, 760.
 Berengelite, mineral, XV. 124.
 BERENICE, IV. 661; XI. 391; VII. 471; XII. 773.

BER—BER

- BERENICE, name of several cities, IV. 661.
 Berenice's hair, constellation, VII. 160; IV. 80.
 Beresford (Marshal), V. 609.
 BERESINA, Russian river, IV. 661; XIX. 515—Napoleon's passage of, IV. 159; X. 159.
 Beresoi gold mines, XV. 280.
 BEREWICHA, IV. 661.
 Berezoff, gold mine, XIX. 550.
 BEREZOV, town in Siberia, IV. 661.
 BEREZOVSKOI, in Asiatic Russia, IV. 661.
 BERG, in Germany, IV. 661.
 BERGA, Spanish town, IV. 661.
 BERGAMO, in Lombardy, IV. 661.
 —the ancient Pergamus, a city in Anatolia, IV. 662. See Pergamus.
 BERGAMOT, IV. 662, V. 186—oil of, XVI. 496.
 Berge (F), his entomological works, IX. 22.
 BERGEN, in Norway, IV. 662, XVI. 329—climate of, 323.
 —in Pomeania, IV. 662.
 —(De), his contributions to anatomical knowledge, II. 765.
 BERGEN-OP-ZOOM, IV. 662—fortifications and sieges of, VII. 65—fortified by Cohorn, ib. IX. 815.
 BERGERAC, in France, IV. 662.
 —(Cyran de), his philosophical romance, II. 188.
 Bergeron, tried for an attempt on the life of Louis Philippe, X. 208.
 Berghaus, on the rivers of Asia and America, III. 780, n.
 BERCHER, IV. 662. See Berchem.
 Berger, on the persecution of Galileo, X. 377, n. 2.
 Beigund (G. H.), on insects, IX. 11.
 BERGMAN (Sir Torbern), IV. 662—on alum, II. 635—on the blowpipe, IV. 790, 791—on the nature of brutes, V. 702—his theory of crystallisation, VII. 546, 551—on drying blue, VIII. 304—on cubes of salt, XIX. 584.
 Bergmannite, mineral, XV. 73.
 Berg-mehl, or mountain-meal, XVII. 94.
 BERGMOTE, IV. 662.
 BERGMORUM, IV. 663.
 Bergstrasser (J. A. B.), his works on insects, IX. 7.
 Berhampore, mutiny at, in 1857, XVI. 302.
 BERIA, Berie, or Berry, IV. 663.
 BERING (Vitus), Danish poet, IV. 663.
 BÉIS, genus of insects, IX. 230.
 BERJA, in Spain, IV. 663.
 BERKELEY (George), bishop of Cloyne, IV. 663—his interview with Malebranche, I. 80—character of his genius, 163—Pope's admiration of, ib.—his sermons, ib., n.—his popularity made metaphysics fashionable, 164—chief aim of his work on Vision, ib.—his doctrine of acquired perceptions unknown to the ancients, ib.—merit of his new theory of vision not exclusively his own, 165—does not claim complete originality, 166—sense in which he employs the word *suggest*, 167 and n. 2—his object in denying the existence of matter, 168—value he attached to his system of idealism, and the impression it produced, 168, 169—his theory of vision contains a great discovery in mental philosophy, 365—his speculations not sceptical, ib.—refutation of a fallacy in his work on vision, 244—his talents and virtues praised by all, 366—his scheme for reclaiming the natives of North America, ib.—made bishop of Cloyne, ib.—his patriotism with regard to Ireland, ib.—his general principles of ethics, 367—his graceful and beautiful diction, ib., 368—his writings produced the scepticism of Hume, 368—notice of his Analyst, 850, 651, n. 1—his attack on the Newtonian calculus, IX. 676—on magnitude, XIV. 565—on abstraction, 591—on the non-existence of matter, 611, 612—theory of distance and magnitude, 573—Swift's letter to

BER-BER

- Lord Carteret regarding, XV. 552—his description of a man of pleasure, 560—on wealth, XVIII 226, n 1
- BERKELEY, town in Gloucestershire, IV 665—ship-canal, X. 680
- vale of, X. 679, 680.
- Castle, IV. 665; X. 682—murder of Edward II in, VIII 682
- Berkenhout (John), M.D., his work on natural history, IX. 8
- BERKHAMSTEAD (Great), IV. 665
- BERKSHIRE, IV. 665—breed of pigs, II 355-56—population and value of property, VIII 754—old clothing towns of, XXI 915.
- Berleze, his work on insects, IX. 16.
- BERLIN, IV 666—Royal Academy of Sciences at, II 64; XVIII 678—observatory of, III 819—Royal Library of, XIII 430—occupied by the French in 1806, X. 144—Napoleon's decree at, ib.—porcelain factories at, XVIII 436—manufactures of, 670—meeting of provincial parliaments at, 659—university, 673, XXI. 492—monument to Frederick the Great at, XVIII 811—savings-bank, XIX 673.
- BERME, in fortification, IV. 668; IX. 805
- BERMUDAS, IV 668—spiders webs in, III 375—Berkeley's project of a college in, IV 664
- Berna (M.), his experiments in magnetic somnambulism, XX. 429
- BERNADOTTE, king of Sweden and Norway, IV. 669, X. 101, 102 *et seq*—elected crown prince of Sweden, XX. 859—his accession to the throne, 860.
- BERNARD (St), abbot, IV. 669—crusade preached by, VII. 625.
- (Dr Edward), IV. 669—his translation of part of a treatise of Apollonius, III. 301
- (JAMES), IV. 669.
- (SMOON), IV. 670
- (St), la Trappe, order of, in Waterford, XXI 798, 770
- (the Great St), mountain in Switzerland, IV. 670; II 624, XXI 604—Napoleon's passage of, X. 118
- hospice of, IV. 670; II 625—meteological observations at, I 944.
- (Messers and Co), their method of purifying coal, X. 820.
- Bernardin (Genga), on anatomy, II 766
- BERNARDINE (St), of Siena, IV. 670
- BERNARDINES, order of monks, IV 670.
- Bernardo de Brita, on Lusitanian wools, XXI 910.
- BERNAT, in France, IV. 670.
- BERNBURG, IV. 670.
- BERNE, in Switzerland, IV. 670, 671; XX 882—average temperature of, 889—coins of, XV. 441, 443
- machine, IV 671.
- BERNERA, island, IV. 671.
- BERNERS (Juliana), IV 671; III 162
- Bernese Alps, XXI 504
- Bernesque poetry, XVIII 111.
- BERNEVILLE (Gilebert de), IV 671
- BERNHARDT (August Friedrich), IV 671
- BERNI (Francesco), IV. 671; XVIII 112.
- Bernida, genus of birds, XVI 816
- BERNICLE, bird, IV. 671; XVI 816
- shell, IV 671. See Barnacle
- BERNIER (Nicholas), IV 671.
- (FRANCOIS), IV. 671—his writings, I 108, n. 2—on burying treasure in the East, XVIII 471.
- Bernieres (M.), his large burning lens, VI. 14.
- BERNIER'S ISLAND, IV. 671.
- BERNINI (Giovanni Lorenzo), IV 671—his style of architecture, III 453; of sculpture, XIX 368.
- BERNIX, abbot, IV. 671.
- BERNOULLI, family of the, IV. 672; IX 675.
- (DANIEL), IV. 675—sketch of his life and character, I 728, n. 2—on hydrodynamics, 723; XII. 71, 72, 159—singularly happy in the sober application of analysis, 724—established the true theory of the vibrations of a

BER-BER

- musical chord, 728—on the gradation of atmospheric density, IV 464—on the resolution of forces, VIII 835—on the laws of motion, VI 254—his dipping needle, XIV 85—on probability, XVIII 603—on the elastic curve, XX. 762—on the theory of the tides, I 816.
- BERNOULLI (James), IV. 672—an able coadjutor of Leibnitz in illustrating the new analysis, I 636—difficult problems in the infinitesimal analysis solved by, 645—works of, 646—his ingenious mode of treating the problem of the centre of oscillation, 719—sketch of his life and character, ib., n. 4—his formulae for the chords of multiple arcs, II 555—in capillary attraction, XII 92—on probability, XVIII 589—his problem of the elastic curve, XX. 762—his experiments on lute-strings, 763—on the calculus of variations, VI 68.
- (JAMES), secundus, IV 676.
- (JOHN), IV. 673—an able coadjutor of Leibnitz in illustrating the new analysis, I 636—his judgment on the controversy between Newton and Leibnitz, 638—solution of questions by, 639—by the introduction of exponential equations, he materially improved a branch of the calculus, 645—works of, 646—was the first who fully enunciated the proposition of the equality of opposite momenta, 651—his prize essay on motion, 653—his part in the controversy respecting motion, 654, 655—simplified the science of equilibrium or statics by the principle of virtual velocities, 719—his principle styled the conservation of living forces, ib.—sketch of his life and character, ib., n. 1—quotation from his defence of Leibnitz's law of continuity, 133, n. 1—had perceived the truth of the law of continuity before communicating with Leibnitz, 258—his formula for the chords of multiple arcs, II 555—his barometer, IV 454—his singular boast as to the demonstration of the inverse problem of centripetal forces, VIII. 363—Keill and Brooke Taylor's challenge to, IX. 675—on hydrodynamics, XII 72—his intimacy with Euler, IX. 372, with Leibnitz, 675—on projectiles, XVIII 67, 68, 69—on the calculus of variations and exponentials, VI 68.
- (JOHN), secundus, IV. 676.
- (JOHN), tertius, IV. 676.
- (NICHOLAS), IV 674.
- (NICHOLAS), secundus, IV. 676.
- BERNSTADT, in Silesia, IV. 677
- Bernstorff, Danish family, VII. 742.
- BESOEZ, zoophyte, IV. 677; XXI 1000, 1001.
- BESGA, IV. 677.
- Beroidae, family of zoophytes, XXI 1001.
- Berosus, IV. 677—dial of, VII. 772.
- Berra (Signor) on Lombardy, XIII 651, 652.
- BERRE, French town, IV. 677.
- Berres (Joseph), his microscopical anatomy, II 769
- BERRETINI da Cortona (Pietro), Italian painter, IV. 677.
- BERRETTONI (Nicolo), painter, IV. 677.
- Berra (Duke of), assassination of, X. 181—funeral, 182.
- (Duchess of), X. 206, 207.
- Berry, in botany, V. 138—trees and shrubs producing, XVII. 768.
- French province, X. 277.
- Head, XXI 311.
- Berryer (M.), X. 197 *et seq*, 223—on the credit mobilier, XV. 290.
- BERSARIL, IV 677.
- Berther (General), X. 108 *et seq*.
- Berthierite, mineral, XV. 119.
- Berthier's analysis of ironstones, XII. 540.
- BERTHOLLET (Claude Louis), IV. 677—first to employ oxymuriatic acid in bleaching, I 589, IV 758, 759—on the composition of the atmosphere, 180—his work on dyeing, VIII. 274—his gunpowder from chlorate of potash, XI.

BER-BET

- 158—on the action of light on metallic oxides, XIII. 459—mesmerism rejected by, XX. 419.
- BERTHOLLETTA, genus of plants, IV. 677; V 192, 299.
- Berthon (Rev. E. L.), his life-boat, XIII. 447
- BERTHOUD (Ferdinand), IV. 678
- Bertan (M.), on diamagnetism, XIV. 30, 31; XVI. 675
- BERTINORO, IV 678.
- Bertoloni (G.), his works on insects, IX. 15
- Bertolotti, his work on the flea, IX. 18.
- Bertou (M.), on Tyre, XXI. 404.
- Bertram (Mr), his mode of welding iron beams, XX. 195
- Bertrand (General), X. 161, 164.
- (M.), his account of Deluze's work on animal magnetism, XX. 425, 426, 427, his work on, 428.
- Bertsch (M.), his microscopic photographs, XIV. 801
- Bervie, in Kincardineshire, XII. 437; XIII. 89
- Berwens, mountains in Wales, VII. 735
- BERWICK (the Duke of), IV 678
- (NORTH), IV 681—Law, XI 177
- ON TWEED, IV. 681—diminished mortality in, owing to sanitary improvements, XIX. 604.
- SHIRE, IV. 678—system of feeding horses, II 340—system of farming in, XIX. 798—agricultural statistics, 796, 797, 798—population, 799
- BERYL, IV 682; XV. 88; XVII. 623—specific gravity of, XIII. 88—dichroism in, XVI. 666—in Brazil, V. 293. See Emerald.
- Berytus. See Beyrouth.
- Beryx, genus of fishes, XII. 279—of fossil fishes, 343.
- Berzelite, XV. 96.
- BERZELIUS, mineral, IV. 683; XV. 118.
- BERZELITE, mineral, IV. 683; XV. 105.
- BERZELIUS (Baron Jan Jacob), IV. 683; I 969, n. 3—on electro-chemical decompositions, 968—on alum, II 635—his analysis of bone, 827; of marrow, 828—eminence of his school as analysts, I. 969—made no single discovery of commanding importance, 969, n. 3—his arrangement of minerals, XV. 67—first published an account of sealing-wax, XXI. 799—his method of increasing the power of a galvanic battery, 611
- BESANCON, French city, IV. 684, VIII. 114—canal of, X. 244—population, 277—Academy of, XXI 491.
- BESANT, or Bezan, gold coin, IV. 685, VII. 71.
- in heraldry, XI. 825.
- Beskow (Bernhard von), XIX. 700—on the literature of Sweden, 696.
- BESOZZI (Ambrogio), painter, IV. 685.
- BESSABARIA, IV. 685; XIX. 521—wine made in, XXI 886.
- BESSARION (John), archbishop of Nice, IV. 685.
- BESSEL (F. Wilhelm), IV. 685—his early labours, I 848—his *Fundamenta Astronomiae* and other works, ib., 849—his observations on the star 61 Cygni, 864; IV. 96—on the proper motion of the stars, 82, 83—on the planet Jupiter, 91 Saturn, 92—on the pendulum, I 853—on comets, 856, 857, 858—his connection with the Konigsberg Observatory, III. 819—on the parallax of fixed stars, I. 864.
- Bessemier (H.), his account of his system for manufacturing iron and steel, XII. 555—remarks on that system, 574.
- BESSER, IV. 685
- Bessus, XVII. 424—Darius killed by, XIII. 768—vanquished and put to death, 769.
- BESTAIL, or Bestial, IV. 685.
- BESTIAI, IV. 685
- Besztercebanya, town in Hungary, XVI. 155
- Betancourt (General de), his design for a roof, XIX. 394.

BET-BEY

- Betancourt (M.), his experiments on the force of steam, XX. 557.
- Betanzos, Spanish town, X. 373.
- BETCHIANA, nation in Southern Africa, IV. 685.
- BETEL, IV 685—betel-nut, V. 214—betel-pepper, XVII. 404.
- Betel-nut island, XVIII. 516.
- BETHABARA, IV. 686.
- BETHANY, IV. 686—residence of Lazarus, XIV. 329.
- BETHEL, IV. 686
- Bethell (Mr), his method of preserving timber, V. 173; VIII. 213, n; XXI. 279.
- BETHESDA, IV. 686.
- BETH-BORON, IV. 687.
- BETHEHEM, IV. 687; XII. 758—wine made at, XXI. 886.
- Hospital, London, XIII. 673.
- (star of), plant, V. 150, 212
- BETHEHEMITES, a kind of monks, IV. 687.
- BETHPAGE, IV. 687.
- BETHSAIDA, IV. 687; XVII. 186.
- BETHSEAN, IV. 687.
- BETHULLA, IV. 687.
- BETHUNE (Maximilien de), IV. 687. See Sully.
- town in France, IV. 687.
- (Sir H. Lindsay), XVII. 428.
- BETHULUS, genus of birds, IV. 687; XVI. 748.
- genus of insects, IX. 193.
- BETULIS, or Bitlis, in Turkish Armenia, IV. 688.
- Beton, artificial concrete for walls, XI. 221
- BETROTHMENT, IV. 688; V. 347.
- Betta, genus of fishes, XII. 290.
- BETTERTON (Thomas), actor, IV. 688; XXI. 171, 173, 174
- BETTINELLI (Xavier), IV. 688
- Betting-houses, law for the suppression of, X. 395
- BETULA, a genus of plants, IV. 689; V. 208.
- Betulaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 208
- BETULIUS (Sixtus), IV. 689.
- BETWAH, river in Hindustan, IV. 689.
- BEUDANT (Francois-Sulpice), IV. 689.
- Beudantite, mineral, XV. 102.
- Beukels, his discovery of the mode of curing herring, XI. 583.
- BEUTELSPACH, town in Wirtemberg, IV. 689
- BEUTHEN, in Silesia, IV. 689.
- Bevan (Dr Edward), on the honey-bee, IV. 688
- BEVEL, IV. 689—bevel-angle, ib.—bevel-wheels, XIV. 396—bevellings, in ship-building, XI. 184.
- BEVELAND (North and South), IV. 689.
- BEVERIDGE, IV. 689.
- BEVERIDGE (William), bishop, IV. 689—his work on canon law, VI. 189.
- BEVERLEY, town in Yorkshire, IV. 690.
- XXI 959—minster of, its architectural merits, III 481, 482, 483, 518.
- in Massachusetts, IV. 690.
- (JOHN OF), archbishop of York, in the eighth century, IV. 690.
- BEVILE, in heraldry, IV. 690.
- BEVIN (Elway), musician, IV. 690
- Bewdley, town in Worcestershire, IV. 690
- Bewick (Thomas), IV. 690—on British birds, XVI. 733, 818—his wood-engravings, XXI. 904.
- (John), his wood-engravings, XXI. 904.
- Bewits, in falconry, IV. 690.
- Bex, saltspring at, XXI. 531.
- Bey (Linnat), on the sources of the White Nile, XVI. 269.
- IV. 690—massacres of the Egyptian Beys, VIII. 489, 492.
- BETAE, river in India, IV. 690.
- Beybars, VIII. 484.
- Beyer on rare books, IV. 709.
- Peacock, and Co., goods locomotive engine made by, XX. 615.
- BETKANEER, in Hindustan, IV. 690, 509.
- BETRA, or Beira, IV. 691.

BEY—BIB

BEYRAMICH, in Asia Minor, IV 691.
 Beyrichia, fossils, XVII 101.
 BEYROUT, or Beirut, anciently Berytus, in Syria, IV 691; VI 746; XX 905—reduced by the allies in 1840, V 668.
 BEYS (Giles), printer, IV 692.
 BEZA (Theodore), IV 692—his life of Calvin, VI 107, 109, 111—his New Testament, IV 698; XIX 837—Codex Bezae, 838—on original sin, XXI 205.
 Bezant, gold coin, IV 685, VII 71.
 BEZIEERS, French city, IV 692.
 BEZOAR, IV 698—bezoar goat, XIV 211.
 Bezoardica glauca, mollusk, XV 356.
 Bezout (Stephen), notice of his life and writings, I 712, n 1—on problems in seamanship, XX 5, 9.
 BHADRAINATH, in Hindustan, IV 693.
 Bhageetettee, or Ganges, X 400.
 Bhanras, Nepanlese tribe, XVI 144.
 Bhars, Indian tribe, XVII 18.
 Bhascara, Hindoo algebraist, II 487.
 BHASGAN, in Hindustan, IV 693.
 Bhatas, Indian tribe, XI 91, 466; XVIII 691.
 BHEKIA, IV 693; XI 92, 466—mutiny of, in 1857, XVI 314.
 Bhooj, VII 598.
 Bhootas, Nepanlese tribe, XVI 144.
 Bhoral, animal in Tibet, XXI 247.
 BHUTPORE, in Hindustan, IV 693—sieges of, XI 505, 508; XII 701.
 BIAPRA, country in Africa, IV 694.—bight of, IV 694; II 212.
 BIATYSTOCK, IV 694.
 Biancamano (Umberto), XIX 641.
 BIANCHI (Francesco), IV 694.—and Neri, Italian faction, XII 649.
 BIANCHINI (Francis), IV 694—on the planet Venus, 65.
 Bianco, Cape, XX 245.
 Biar, Spanish town, IV 694.
 BIARCHUS, IV 694.
 Bias, one of the seven sages of Greece, IV 694.—of the mind, IV 694.
 Bialax crystals, discovery of, I 913—theory of, 905. See Crystals.
 Bib, fish, XII 269.
 Bibars, sultan, XVII 197.
 Bibbiena, Italian comic writer, VIII 148.
 BIBERACH, town in Wurtemberg, IV 694.
 BIBIENA (Ferdinando, Galli), IV 694.
 Bibio, genus of insects, IX 230.
 BIBLE, IV 694—Alexandrian MS, II 474—variations in the copies of Moses' writings as to antediluvian chronology, III 267—on the principle on which the Bible ought to be studied and understood, I 455—Apocrypha, III 297; XIX 838; XII 761—divination by means of, IV 717—first edition printed with moveable metallic types, 708; XVIII 529—Castellio's Latin and French translation, VI 321—Bowyer's Greek Testament, V 252—B. Boyle's exertions for translation and diffusion of, 259—its sufficiency as a guide to salvation maintained by the dissenters in 1772, 474—concordances of the, VI 66; VII 228, 523—the canon, VI 188; VIII 371—Walton's polyglot, IV 707; XXI 695—Douay edition of, VIII 113—chronological discrepancy of the Hebrew, Samaritan, and Greek texts, VI 668—Clermont's MS. of Paul's Epistles, 765—deutero-canonical books, VII 761—Sir W. Drummond on the historical books of the Old Testament, VIII 195—its persual first permitted and afterwards prohibited by Henry VIII, 706—opinions of the Ebionites concerning the canon, 369—Erasmus's edition of the New Testament, IX 322—Jerome's, or the vulgate version of, XII 728—Galileo on Science and Scripture, X 377, n 2—Geddes's translation of the, 444—Grotius's annotations on the, XI 69, 70—Origen's Hexapla, 364—the Septuagint, IV 698; XII 768; XVII 519—Kempcott's Hebrew Bible, XIII 64—collation of MSS, ib.—Kito's Pictorial Bible, 104—Geneva Bible, 127

BIB—BIE

—Lachmann's New Testament and Vulgate, 147—Luther's translation of, 729—Magyar versions of, XII 19—Mohammed had no real acquaintance with, XV 299—Rabbinical Bible, XIX 835—in reference to philology, XVII 518, 519—Pagninus's translation of, 44—palimpsest MSS. of, 208—polyglot editions, XVIII 266, XXI 951—poetical books of, XVIII 97—Popish opinions respecting, 337—Biblia Pauperum, or Poor Man's Bible, 523, 533, Plate, IV 708; Mazarine Bible, XVIII 529—early English editions, 537—incorrect English editions, 543—Hebrew editions, XIX 835—ancient Valdensian copy of the New Testament, XXI 510—Valdo's exertions to translate and circulate, ib.—Tyndale's, 400—Weststein on the various readings of the New Testament, 845—his New Testament, ib.—Wychffe's translation of, 946, extract from his version, VIII 795. See Old and New Testament, Holy Scriptures, Septuagint, Taigum, Theology, Revelation.
 BIBLE SOCIETIES, IV 703—in Dublin, VIII 225 London, XIII 686—New York, XVI 230—American Bible Society, XXI 422.
 BIBLIANDER (Theodore), IV 704.
 Biblical criticism, works on, XIX 823.
 BIBLIOGRAPHY, IV 704—booksellers' marks or signs, V 30—form of, and manner of writing ancient books, VIII 42—Dibdin on, 7—Dryander's Catalogue of Sir Joseph Banks' Library of Natural History, 201; IV 714—Gesner's Bibliothèque Universelle, X 597. See Books, Librarians, Printing.
 BIBLIOMANCY, IV 717.
 Bibliomania, IV 714.
 BIBLIOTHECA, IV 717.
 Bibliothèque Universelle, X 597.
 Bihls, genus of insects, IX 208.
 Bibrona, genus of fishes, XII 304.
 Bicanere, IV 690.
 BICE, or Bise, IV 717.
 BICESTER, or Bisseter, in Oxfordshire, IV 717.
 BICHAET (Marie-François-Xavier), IV 717—his anatomical works, II 707; III 73—on fat, II 788—on the arteries, 790—on the veins, 793, 794, 796—on the capillary system, 796, 798—on the exhalants, 802—on the lymphatics, 804—on the lymphatic glands, 806—on the nerves, 806 et seq.—on the ligaments, 823, 824—on cartilage, 832—on fibro-cartilage, 832—on the skin, 834—on the mucous membrane, 836, 837—on the serous membrane, 839—on the synovial membrane, ib.—on the heart, III 64.
 Bichromate process, in photography, XVII 550.
 Bickford's Devonshire system of irrigation, XII 614.
 Bicuspid teeth, in man, III 25.
 BIDAL, or Bidale, IV 718.
 BIDASOA, river, IV 718; XX 488.
 Bidder (Mr), iron-bridge erected by, XII 600—on railways, XVIII 798.
 BIDDING PRAYER, IV 718.
 BIDDLE (John), Scotian writer, IV 718.
 Biddle's scansion, II 272.
 BIDDOOMAS, or Biddumas, African tribe, IV 719—visited by Dr Overweg, II 214—Inhabit the islands of Lake Tchad, XXI 80.
 BIDFORD, in Devonshire, IV 719.
 BIDENS, genus of plants, IV 719.—genus of birds, XVI 745.
 BIDENTAL, IV 719.
 BIDET, IV 719.
 BIDLET, Spartan magistratus, IV 719.
 BIDLOO (Gottfried), IV 719—his anatomical publications, 764.
 Bidone (George), on hydrodynamics, XII 75, 152, 153.
 BIDPAI, or Pipai, Hindu author, IV 719.
 BIDSCROW (New), in Bohemia, IV 719.
 Biebetite, mineral, XV 98.
 BIDENHOOF, IV 719.
 Biela's comet, IV 76, 94.

BIE—BIN

BIELFELD, in Westphalia, IV 719.
 BIELITZ, in Silesia, IV 719.
 BIELLA, IV 719.
 Bienna (Lake of), XX 889.
 Biennial plants, XI 750; V 77.
 BIER, IV 719.
 Biesbosch, lake in Holland, XI 581.
 Biferno, river, XX 238.
 BIFRONS, IV 719.
 Big, species of bailey, V 320—its loss in maling, 324.
 BIGA, or Biga, ancient chariot, IV 719, VI 422.
 BIGAMY, IV 719.
 BIGBONE-LICK, a district in Kentucky, IV 720, XIII 69.
 BIGGAR, in Lanarkshire, IV 720.
 BIGGLESWADE, in Bedfordshire, IV 721.
 BIGHORN RIVER, in North America, IV 721.
 BIGHT, IV 721.
 BIGNON (Jerome), IV 721.—(M.), on the policy of Napoleon, X 128—on Napoleon's opposition to the Czar's views upon Turkey, 153—his motion on Poland, 205.
 BIGNONIA, a genus of shrubs, IV 721; V 200.
 Bignonaceae, nat. order of plants, V 200.
 BIGOT, IV 721.
 Bija Ganmita, Hindoo treatise on algebra, II 487, 488.
 BIJANAGUR, IV 721.
 BIBBAO, or Bibboa, Spanish city, IV 721—sieges of, in 1835 and 1836, XX 478, 479—river, 488.
 Bilberry, V 198.
 Bilbey, Egyptian town, VIII 498. See Belbeis.
 Bilbils, VI 66.
 BILBOES, IV 722.
 BILDERDYK (Willem), IV 722.
 BILDUGERD, or Bled-el-jereade, IV 722, 771.
 Bile, II 782; VI 520, 521—composition and functions of, XVII 666—of insects, IX 52.
 BILLINGER (Georg Bernhard), IV 722.
 BILGE, of a ship, IV 722—of a cask, ib.
 Bihn, polishing slate of, XVII 94, 588.
 Bilphim, colouring matter of bile, XVII 666.
 BILL, different applications of the word, IV 722, 723—of lading, 722—in Parliament, ib., XVII 301—in commerce, IV 722—distinction between real and accommodation bills, XV 471—bad effects of discounting those of long dates, ib.—discount charged on, by the Bank of England, 473—discounted by the Bank of France, 490.
 Billberg (J. G.), his entomological works, IX 15.
 Bill-book, in book-keeping, V 19.
 BILLERICAY, town in Essex, IV 723.
 BILLET, in heraldry, IV 723; XI 330.
 BILLETING, IV 723.
 BILLETON, East Indian island, IV 723.
 BILLIARDS, IV 723.
 Billings (R. W.), on the architectural remains of Scotland, III 503.—(Capt.), his voyage of discovery, II 465.
 Billingsgate market, XIII 664—fish sold at, IX 649, n 3.
 Billingsley's boring machine, V 43.
 BILLOX, IV 724, XVI 353.—(Thomas), II 745.
 BILLS, of Exchange, IV 722; V 19, VII 488—distinction between them and paper-money, XV 446—history of, IX 442—Acthouse, 429, VII 489—negotiation of, 443—laws of, 445.—Exchequer, IX 447.—of mortality, IV 722; XV 600.
 BILMA, African town, IV 724.
 BILSAH, town in Hindustan, IV 724.
 BILSTON (Thomas), bishop, IV 724.
 BILSTON, in Staffordshire, IV 724.
 Bluch tribes, XX 306.
 Bima, in Sumbawa, XX 806.
 Bimana, II 774.
 BIN, IV 724.

BIN—BIR

BINACLE, IV 724.
 BINARY ARITHMETIC, IV 724—measure, 725, system in France, XXI 811—number, IV 725—compounds of minerals with oxygen, XV 61—combinations of metals, in thermo-electricity, XXI 650.
 Binchester, Roman station at, VIII 267.
 Bindweed, V 201.
 BINGEN, IV 725.
 BINGHAM (Joseph), IV 725.—in Nottinghamshire, IV 725.
 BINGLEY, in Yorkshire, IV 725; XX 958.—(Mr), on the ox, XIV 214.
 BINK (Jacob), IV 725.
 Binkendon (Capt.), on fossil foot-prints, XVII 180.
 Binney (Mr), on fossil plants, V 235, 236.—on the minerals of Lancashire, XIII 179.—(Hon. Horace), on Washington's Farewell Address, XXI 769.
 Binning, his account of Persia, XVII 421 et seq.
 Binny, freestone of, XIII 497.
 Binocular perspective, XVII 449.—telescopes, XXI 153.
 BINOMIAL, IV 725; II 530, IX 285.
 Binodras, Egyptian king, VIII 454.
 BINTANG, island, IV 725.
 Biobio, river in Chile, VI 543.
 BIOGRAPHY, IV 725, XI 536—Boswell as a writer of, V 64.
 BIOLOGY, IV 725, II 748.
 BROS, of Smyrna, IV 725.—Borysthenites, IV 726.
 Biot (M.), his life and researches, I 916—character of his researches, 917—on the transmission of sound, II 99, 101—on the rotatory action of fluids, I 910—his ascent in a balloon, II 181, 184—his epigrammatic description of Cavendish, I 931—his allegation in reference to Galileo, IV 449, n 2—on the law of the tints in biacryl crystals, I 914—on barometrical measurements, IV 465—on chromatocs, VI 532 et seq.—on ancient Chinese books, VII 244—on electricity, VIII 531, 552, 556, 580—on the transmission of heat, XI 261; I 946—his connection with the measurement of the French arc of meridian, 837—on electrical light, VIII 546, 547—his explanation of Lichtenberg's electrical figures, 606—on muvage, XIV 683—on magnetism, 7, 23, 26, 27, 63—his artificial magnets, 71—his account of the meteoric stones of L'Aigle, 632—on optics, XVI 638, 627, 650, 651, 676, 680 et seq.; I 910, 917—his formula representing the relation of the pressure and temperature of steam, XX 564—on electro-chemical decomposition, XXI 628.
 Biotite, mineral, XV 78.
 Biophilus, Egyptian deity, XI 886.
 Bipartita, section of insects, IX 85.
 BIRPS, genus of reptiles, IV 726, XIX 39.
 BIQUADRATE, IV 726.
 BIQUADRATIC EQUATION, IV 726; II 520—Parabola—Power—Root, IV 726.
 Bir, or Beer, town in Asiatic Turkey, IV 726, 589.
 Birbeck (Mr), on the state of the small agriculturists in France, VII 433.
 BIRBROOM, in Hindustan, IV 726, 651.
 BIRCH (Dr Thomas), IV 726—his collection of works on human mortality, XV 602.—(Mr), on hieroglyphics, XI 409, 431—on Chersemon's work on hieroglyphics, 411.—(Mr), on ancient pottery, XVIII 431.—IV 726, V 208; XVII 759, 765—bark, in dyeing, VIII 308—oil of, XVI 496—its wood used for bobbing, XII 438—as a timber-tree, XXI 278.—order of plants, V 208.
 BIRD (William), IV 727; XXI 15.—IV 727—structure of birds, XVI 734—as articles of food, IX 762—plumage, XVI 735—poisonous species,

BIR—BIS

- XIV. 439—fossil, XVII. 154—number known, 631—injuries from, XXI. 548. See Ornithology.
- Bird (Dr Golding), on magneto-electricity, XXI. 648—his decomposing battery, 620.
- (Mr), on weights and measures, XXI. 799, 802
- (Mr), painter, Turner's kindness to, XXI. 387.
- Bird-catching spiders, III. 377
- Bird-cherry, XVII. 763.
- BRD-LIME, IV. 727
- BIRDS, in heraldry, IV. 727, XI. 333.
- Bird's astronomical instruments, III. 808
- BIRDS-EYE VIEW, IV. 727.
- tobacco, XXI. 295
- BIRDS-NESTS, edible, IV. 727; III. 125, XII. 710; VII. 48.
- BIRDS, IV. 727; III. 214, XIX. 481, 482
- Burge (Juste), XIII. 553.
- Burger Jari, founder of Stockholm, XX. 706.
- BROUS, a species of crab, IV. 727
- BIRKBECK (George), IV. 727—his share in the establishment of mechanics' institutions, XV. 824
- BIRKENHEAD (Su John), IV. 727; XVI. 181.
- town in Cheshire, IV. 727—docks, XIII. 619
- BIRKET-EL-KEROUN, the ancient lake Moers, IV. 729, VIII. 429
- MARROUTH, the ancient Palus Marceotis, IV. 729; II. 469; VIII. 429 and n. 1.
- Birket-el-Saba, viaduct, XII. 609, 610
- Birkmyre's estimate of the production of the precious metals, in different countries, XVIII. 461, n
- BIRMAH, IV. 729 See Burmah.
- BIRMINGHAM, IV. 729—Soho, near, V. 246
- riots at, in 1791, 539; XVIII. 514
- roof of the theatre of, VI. 266—Deaf and Dumb Asylum at, VII. 686—hardware manufactures of, VIII. 729—Birmingham and Worcester canal, XXI. 928—process of making gun-barrels at, XI. 96—roof over the joint railway station at, XIX. 399—gun-trade of, XI. 100—Leland's notice of, XIV. 284—steel-pens manufactured at, XVII. 400—post-office statistics, XVIII. 416—cruelness practised in the borough jail of, in 1853, 569—London and Birmingham Railway, 760, 774, 794; Birmingham and Gloucester, 795; XX. 928—canal, XXI. 738—rent of land in the neighbourhood of, 739—population, ib
- BIRON (Armand de Gontault), Lord of, IV. 732.
- (CHARLES DE GONTAULT), IV. 732.
- (Lord), V. 404
- BIRK, IV. 732. See Parsonstown.
- BIRSE NIMROD, IV. 732, 343.
- Birs, Swiss river, XX. 888
- Birt (Mr), on atmospheric waves, XIV. 651.
- Births, in England, in 1852, VIII. 756—rate per cent. in England, XV. 649—illegitimate, in various European states, IV. 494; and in large towns, ib.—proportion of males to females, XVIII. 588—registration of, 831—their number dependent on the number of deaths, 348—in Scotland, XIX. 800—Switzerland, XX. 890
- Birthwort order of plants, V. 205.
- plant, V. 127, 154
- Birtley, salt-spring at, VIII. 266
- BISACUA, Neapolitan city, IV. 732
- BISACUTA, IV. 732.
- Bisayan islands, XVII. 512.
- BISCARA, town in Algeria, IV. 732
- BISCAY, province in the north of Spain, IV. 732—language of, XIII. 214—wines of, XXI. 884 See Cantabria.
- BAY OF, IV. 733.
- BISCEGLIA, Neapolitan city, IV. 733.
- Bischof, on rocks, XV. 138, 142 et seq.—on pseudomorphism in rocks, 152.
- Bischoz, or Biskop (John de), IV. 733.

BIS—BIX

- BISCHWILLER, French town, IV. 733
- BISCUT, IV. 733—manufacture of, for the navy, 378.
- in pottery and porcelain manufacture, XVIII. 442
- BISHABEEN, IV. 733
- BISHOP, IV. 738—difference between the bishops of apostolic and of later times I. 526—universal bishop, XI. 33—identical with presbyter, XVIII. 482, 487—English, VIII. 743—their title to a seat in the House of Lords, 767—French, X. 243, 287—Godwin's catalogue of English bishops, 691 See Episcopacy
- BISHOP AUCKLAND, IV. 734, 236—castle of, VIII. 267.
- BISTORING, IV. 735.
- Bishoprics, English, VIII. 743—Irish, XII. 530—early Scottish, XIX. 749
- BISHOP'S COURT, IV. 734.
- Bible, the, IV. 703
- CASTLE, town in Shropshire, IV. 734
- STORTFORD, town in Hertfordshire, IV. 735
- WALTHAM, town in Hampshire, IV. 735.
- WEARMOUTH, in Durham, IV. 735. See Sunderland
- BISIGNANO, Neapolitan city, IV. 735
- Bi-Situn, sculptures on, XVII. 433
- BISLEY, in Gloucestershire, IV. 735
- Bismark (Count), on the military character of the French, III. 642
- BISMILLAH, IV. 735
- BISMUTH, IV. 735, VI. 496; XV. 65, 114—cupreous, 121—poisonous nature of the sub-nitrate of, XIV. 434—magnetism of, 27—specific gravity of, XII. 88—in Cornwall, VII. 407—cohesion of, XX. 577.
- Bismuth-ochre, XV. 112
- Bismuthic silver, XV. 121.
- Bismuthine, mineral, XV. 119
- Bismuthite, mineral, XV. 107
- BISOMUM, IV. 735.
- BISON, IV. 735; XIV. 214, XVII. 632—fossil, 170.
- BISSAGOS, African islands, IV. 735; V. 760
- BISSAT (Patrick), IV. 735.
- Busset (Charles), on fortification, IX. 816.
- BISSEXILE YEAR, IV. 735; VI. 77.
- BISTOURX, surgical instrument, IV. 735; XX. 821, 827.
- BISTRE, IV. 735—drawing in, VIII. 173
- Bisulphure of hydrogen, VI. 477—of carbon, 478.
- BISUTON, IV. 735.
- BISZTRITZ, in Transylvania, IV. 735.
- BITHUNE, in France, IV. 735.
- BITHYNIA, province in Asia Minor, IV. 735—monarchy of, XV. 412—coins of, XVI. 374
- Bithynus, genus of insects, IX. 153.
- BITLIS, IV. 736 See Bethlis
- Bitolia, town in Turkey, XV. 415.
- Bitoma, genus of insects, IX. 142.
- Biton, VI. 762.
- BITONTO, IV. 736
- Bitacus, genus of insects, IX. 177.
- Bitter spar, XV. 92
- BITTERFELD, in Saxony, IV. 736.
- BITTERS, bhd, IV. 736; XVI. 739.
- Bittersweet, V. 201
- Bitterwood, V. 189
- BITTS, IV. 736.
- BIRUMEN, IV. 736; XV. 123—B Judacum, III. 769—on the shores of the Dead Sea, 761—specific gravity of, XII. 89—elastic, XV. 124, in Derbyshire, VII. 755—its use in building, in Assyria, III. 501, n—fountains of, at Hit, XI. 549—in Persia, XVII. 423.
- Bituminous cements, XX. 715.
- shale, II. 638; XV. 83—employed in the manufacture of alum, II. 637, 640
- BRALVE, IV. 736; XV. 340, 341—fossil bivalves, XVII. 105, 106.
- BRVUAC, IV. 736.
- BIXACEA, nat. order of plants, V. 138.

BIZ—BLA

- BIZARI (Pietro), IV. 737
- BIZERIA, or Benzert, in Tunis, IV. 737.
- BLABY, in Leicestershire, IV. 737.
- BLACK (Dr Joseph), IV. 737—his discovery of latent heat, I. 760, 926; XI. 269; of specific heat, I. 926—his discovery of fixed air, 925—his intimacy with Dr Hutton, 928—contrasted with Hutton, ib.—death, ib.—his experiment illustrative of the theory of balloons, II. 170—sketch of his life and discoveries, I. 925—928—his patronage of, and intimacy with, Watt, 866, 867, XXI. 774—his blow-pipe, IV. 730—his portable furnace, X. 357
- (William), on the influence of electricity on fermentation, V. 319, 329—on kiln-drying malt, 323—his description of fermentation, 329.
- colour, IV. 740—dyeing of, VIII. 304, 318—varieties of, in mineralogy, XV. 59—people of that colour, VII. 222.
- Act—Acts, IV. 740
- FOREST, in Suabia, IV. 740, 360—in Wurtemberg, XXI. 933, 939, 940
- MAIL, IV. 740—levied on wool merchants, XXI. 908
- River, in Wisconsin, XXI. 893.
- SEA, IV. 740, IX. 385. See Euxine.
- thorn, XVII. 760.
- Black-ball in wheat, II. 306
- Black-band, iron ore, XII. 540.
- BLACK-BIRD, IV. 740; XVI. 751.
- BLACK-BOOK of the Exchequer, IV. 740 See England.
- BLACK-BOOKS, IV. 740.
- BLACK-GAR, IV. 740, XVI. 756.
- BLACK-GOOK, IV. 740; IX. 762; XVI. 791—shooting of, XX. 225
- Black-death in the fourteenth century, XXI. 944 and n. 2
- BLACK-GUARD, IV. 740
- BLACK-LEAD, IV. 740 See Plumbago
- BLACK-LETTER, IV. 740.
- BLACK-MONKS, IV. 740.
- Black-quarter, disease in animals, XXI. 557
- BLACK-TIN, IV. 746—wadd, ib—whydlof, ib
- BLACKALL (Offspring), prelate, IV. 746.
- BLACKBURN, in Lancashire, IV. 746.
- Blackett's locomotive engine, I. 883.
- Blackfaced breed of sheep, II. 347.
- BLACKFRIARS, IV. 740
- Bridge, London, III. 409; V. 357; XIII. 676—centre employed for, VI. 379, 381—laying the foundations, XX. 722.
- Blackgang Chune, Isle of Wight, XXI. 861, 862.
- BLACKING, IV. 747.
- BLACKLOCK (Thomas), IV. 747, 774.
- BLACKMORE (Sir Richard), IV. 747.
- Blackness, treaty of, XIX. 762.
- BLACKSTONE (Sir William), IV. 747—on the jurisdiction of the Court of Queen's Bench, 644—on barrety, 472—on blasphemy, 754—on corporations, VII. 413, 414—on barristers and sergeants, 465; IV. 473—on inns of court, XII. 384—on the office of chancellor, VI. 411—on Magna Charta, 427—on the government and laws of England, VIII. 757 et seq.—on the use of the Norman language by lawyers, 794—on entails, 816—on the militia, XV. 7—on feudal law, IX. 525—on the game laws, X. 395—on nobility, XVI. 280—on fire-ordal, 701—on prescription, XVIII. 508.
- BLACKWALL (Anthony), IV. 748.
- (M), his observations on spiders, III. 376—77.
- Blackwater, river in Cork, VII. 371; XII. 505; XXI. 408, 769.
- in Galway, X. 389.
- Blackwell (T.E.), his experiments on weirs, XII. 76, 121, 125, 126.
- (ALEXANDER), IV. 749.
- (Kenyon), on the iron trade of Britain, XII. 574.
- (THOMAS), IV. 748.

BLA—BLA

- Blackwood (Captain), his survey of the coasts of New Guinea, IV. 263.
- Blackwood's Magazine, establishment of, XXI. 877—Professor Wilson's connection with, ib., 878—James Wilson's contributions to, 876; Dr George Wilson's, 874; Dr Moir's, XV. 309, 310; Lockhart's, XIII. 545—Tytler's, XXI. 413, 414—Hogg's contributions to, and connection with, XI. 558
- BLADDER, IV. 749—anatomy of the urinary bladder in man, III. 68—in the mammalia, 113—in reptiles, fishes, and birds sometimes wanting, ib.—diseases of, in the domestic animals, XXI. 570—stone in the, ib. See Calculus, Lithotomy.
- (swimming or air), in fishes, XII. 225, 284.
- Bladder-nut order of plants, V. 189.
- tree, XVII. 762.
- Bladderwort order of plants, V. 203.
- BLADE, IV. 749
- BLADEN (Martin), IV. 749
- Bladenoch, distillery at, XXI. 864.
- BLADUM, IV. 749
- Blaberberry, V. 198.
- Blaes, valves of the lacteals discovered by, II. 762
- BLAET (William), printer, IV. 749.
- Blagden (Dr), on amora borealis, IV. 246—on fire-balls in the air, IX. 587.
- BLAGRAVE (John), mathematician, IV. 749.
- Blakie's garnet doublet, XIV. 774.
- Blain, disease, XXI. 564.
- Blaine (Mr), on veterinary science, XXI. 579
- BLAINVILLE (Henri-Marie Ducrotay de), French naturalist, IV. 749—his classification of animals, III. 190—defects of his nomenclature, 183—on the class infusoria, 195—on the mollusca, IV. 819 et seq.—on the annelides, XI. 304, 308, 307—on the dentition of the mola, XVI. 450—on the homologies of the teeth, 482—on zoophytes, XXI. 983, 985, 988 et seq
- (M), his musical scale or mode, XV. 703
- BLAIR (Dr Hugh), IV. 749—on Addison's supposed misstatement of Locke's doctrine concerning secondary qualities, I. 272—on beauty, IV. 540—on Ossian's poems, XVII. 5, 6
- (JAMES), IV. 750.
- (JOHN), Scottish author, IV. 751.
- (JOHN), Scottish chronologer, IV. 751.
- (ROBERT), author of The Grave, IV. 751—his poetry, XVIII. 124.
- (Dr Robert), his experiments with a view to improve achromatic telescopes, I. 751, 899, n. 2; II. 98; XVI. 535—his applanatic telescopes, II. 94; IX. 781; XVI. 595—his method of correcting spherical aberration, 573—on the spectrum, 584—his fluid object-glasses, XXI. 121.
- BLAIR-ATHOLE, in Perthshire, IV. 751—larch trees of, XVI. 101; XXI. 275
- Blair-Drummond moss, reclaiming of, II. 382.
- BLAISE, a military order, IV. 751.
- BLAKE (Robert), English Admiral, IV. 751; XI. 576.
- (Mr), on exchange, IX. 484, 441.
- (WILLIAM), engraver, IV. 753
- Blanc (Louis), his system of communism, VII. 212—his work on the organisation of labour, ib. et seq.—his epitome of St Simonianism, 211—accused of insurrection, X. 238.
- (MONT), IV. 753; II. 624; XIX. 675—ascents of, II. 627—Mr Auldjo's account of his ascent, 628—Saussure's observations on its summit, IV. 467—glaciers of, X. 633, 634—Coleridge's Hymn to, VII. 112.
- (Le), on French money, XV. 434, 436.
- BLANCH-HOLDING, in law, IV. 753.
- BLANCHARD (Jacques), painter, IV. 753.
- aeronaut, II. 177—his journey

BLA—BLI

- across the British Channel, 178—the first constructor of parachutes, 179.
 Blanchard (E.), his entomological works, IX 22.
 — (Laman), his Life of L. E. L., XIII 182.
 BLANCHE-FERME, IV. 753.
 BLANCHING, in coinage, IV. 753.
 — of vegetables, V. 106; XIII 460—of celery, XI. 744.
 BLANCO, African cape, IV. 753; XV. 594, XXI. 364.
 Blancourt on ductile glass, X. 658.
 BLANDFORD-FORUM, in Dorsetshire, IV. 753.
 BLANE (Sir Gilbert), physician, IV. 753—on the diminution of sickness in the navy, XVI. 106.
 BLANES, Spanish city, IV. 753.
 BLANK, IV. 753—coin, ib—verse, ib.
 BLANKENBURG, IV. 753.
 BLANKET, IV. 753—tossing in a, ib.
 BLANKOF (Jan Tennisz), IV. 753.
 BLAPS, genus of insects, IV. 754; IX. 130.
 Blapsidae, tribe of insects, IX. 130.
 BLARNEY, in Ireland, IV. 754.
 BLASPHEMY, IV. 754.
 — against the Holy Ghost, IV. 754.
 Blast, XII. 546—hot blast, 547, 548.
 Blast-furnaces, X. 355, 359; XII. 545, 546.
 Blastema, XVII. 651.
 BLASTING, IV. 754—screw, 757.
 Blastodea, fossil echinoderms, XVII. 99.
 BLATTA, genus of insects, IV. 757, IX. 156—want of symmetry in some of the species, XII. 225, n.
 BLAZE, in France, IV. 757, X. 632.
 BLAZONRY, IV. 757.
 Bleachers, diseases of, XIV. 443.
 BLEACHING, IV. 757—Berthollet's process with oxy muriatic acid, I. 589—introduction of that process into Britain by Watt, XXI. 776—pre-eminence of Ulster in, XIV. 285—of rags in paper-making, XVII. 254, 255—bleaching-powder, VI. 468; IV. 761.
 Bleak, fish, angling for, III. 161—mock pearls made from the scales of, VI. 407; IX. 334.
 BLEED (or BELED) EL-JERREDE, country in Africa, IV. 771, 772.
 Blee (Robert), his safety-bucket, XIII. 448.
 Bleeding. See Blood-letting.
 BLEEDING OF A CORPSE, IV. 772.
 Bleek (Dr), on African languages, XIII. 227, 228.
 Bleeker (Dr), on the botany of Java, XII. 708.
 BLEIBERG, town in Illyria, IV. 772.
 Bleinierite, mineral, XV. 106.
 BIEKING, VI. 241.
 BLEMYES, an Ethiopian tribe, IV. 772.
 BLENDÉ, a mineral, IV. 773, XV. 121—mining of, in Belgium, IV. 625.
 Blendes, minerals, XV. 121.
 BLENNERIM, village in Bavaria, IV. 772; battle of, V. 448; IV. 515; IX. 388.
 — House, IV. 772, XXI. 904.
 Blenkarn (John), his treatise on timber-trees, XXI. 268—on oak timber, 271.
 Blenniidae, or Blennoids, family of fishes, XII. 308—9; of fossil fishes, 345.
 Blennius, genus of fishes, XII. 309.
 Blennophis, genus of fishes, XII. 309.
 BLENNORRHŒA, IV. 772.
 BLENNY, fish, IV. 772; XII. 308—viviparous, ib.
 BLEPHARIS, genus of fishes, IV. 772; XII. 297—of insects, IV. 772.
 Blesplas, genus of fishes, XII. 283.
 Blessings, temporal, erroneously regarded as a proof of divine favour, I. 479.
 BLETHNISM, IV. 772.
 Blenland on the structure of the œsophagus, II. 836—on the mucous membrane, 886, 897, 898—on the lymphatics, 804.—on the villi of the ileum, III. 61.
 Blicher (S. Steensen), Danish author, XIX. 696.
 Bligh (Captain), long abstinence of his

BLI—BLO

- crew from food, III. 180—governor of New South Wales, IV. 272—his voyages for conveying the bread-fruit tree to the West Indies, V. 301.
 Bligh, in Australia, IV. 282.
 BLIGHT, disease of plants, IV. 772—American, XI. 716.
 BLIND, IV. 772—number of, in Britain and Ireland, VIII. 749—basket-making by the, IV. 488—Bernoulli on teaching mathematics to, 672—asylums for the, in Dublin, VIII. 224—numerous in Egypt, 422—writing-case for the, XVIII. 504—printing for the, 553—proportion of, in Europe and America, ib—in Scotland, XIX. 800. See Black-lock, Blindness.
 BLIND-COAL, or Anthracite, IV. 782. See Anthracite.
 — pit, VII. 125.
 Blind-worms, XIX. 40.
 BLINDING, an ancient mode of punishment, IV. 782, II. 5.
 BLINDNESS (periodical), IV. 782.
 — colour, VII. 153, 637.
 — snow, IV. 826. See Blind.
 Blistering plasters for the domestic animals, XXI. 556, n. 6.
 Blisworth cast-iron bridge, XII. 588.
 Bloaters, Yarmouth herring, XXI. 953.
 BLOCH (Mark Eleazer), ichthyologist, IV. 782.
 Blocharn boiler-plates, XX. 175.
 Blochius, genus of fossil fishes, XIII. 338.
 BLOCK, IV. 782; XIV. 401.
 — books, IV. 706, 708, XVIII. 523.
 BLOCK-MACHINERY, IV. 783, I. 879, V. 695, VIII. 83.
 BLOCKADE, in war, IV. 786—influence of, on neutral states, XVI. 158.
 Blocking-course, in architecture, III. 508, V. 739.
 Blocks, erratic, evidences of a deluge, VII. 723—on the Jura, XIII. 21. See Boulders.
 BLOCKZYL, IV. 788.
 BLOEMART (Abraham), painter, IV. 788.
 Blois, in France, IV. 788; XIII. 635.
 BLOND (J. Christopher le), painter, IV. 788—his method of printing in colours, XIV. 734.
 — kind of lace, XIII. 142.
 Blondeau's marine barometer, IV. 458.
 BLONDEL, troubadour, IV. 788.
 — (DAVID), historian, IV. 788—his disproof of the story of Pope Joan, XII. 786.
 — (FRANÇOIS), architect, IV. 788; XI. 107.
 BLONDUS (Flavius), IV. 788.
 BLOOD, IV. 788, II. 778—globules of the, 779, XIV. 762—its phenomena out of the body, ib—iron in, VI. 489—chemical constitution of, II. 781—in what arterial differs from venous, 782—as manure, 407—its character in different classes of animals, III. 171—chemical composition and properties of, VI. 521; XVII. 664—its use in clarifying, VI. 755—effect of unoxxygenated, on the brain, VIII. 181—used as food, IX. 758—specific gravity of, XII. 89—blood-cells, XVII. 650—tubes, 653—formation of, from alimentary substances, 680—blood-glands, 680—function of, 664—extravasation of, 690—changes it undergoes in the lungs, 663—passage of fluid from, to be transformed into the tissues, 663—its use in refining sugar, XX. 794—of reptiles, XIX. 13. See next article, Blood-letting, Blood-vessels, &c.
 — (circulation of the), XVII. 661; II. 772, 773; III. 170—hinted at by Mondino in the 14th century, II. 756—partially announced by Servetus, 760; XX. 61, by Columbus, II. 761; by Cassalpianus, 761; and fully demonstrated by Harvey, 761—organs of, in man, III. 3, 63; and in brutes, 112—in the arachnides, 367, 369—in the crustacea, VII. 539—insects, IX. 48—annelides, XI. 290, 291—fishes, XII. 244—

BLO—BLU

- crustacea and mollusca, XV. 356, 357, 331, 320—serpents, XIX. 48; other reptiles, 13—zoophytes, XXI. 973—Leuwenhoeck's observations on, XIII. 349—course of the blood through the heart, III. 65.
 Blood, avenger of, IV. 789.
 — horse, XI. 633.
 — hound, IV. 789; XI. 764.
 — religious uses of, IV. 788.
 — (the), disease in animals, XXI. 568.
 — (THOMAS), IV. 789.
 — whyte, or wyte, IV. 789.
 Blood-letting, in surgery, XX. 830—more rarely resorted to than formerly, ib—bleeding of the domestic animals, XXI. 555, n. 6.
 Blood-root, order of plants, V. 212.
 Blood-spavin, XXI. 559.
 — a shot of, in sheep and cattle, XXI. 574.
 BLOODSTONE, mineral, IV. 789; XV. 69.
 Blood-vessels, Aristotle and other ancient writers on, II. 750 *et seq.*—structure of arteries, 789; and veins, 792—vessels of the ear, III. 47, lips, 48, tongue, 49; larynx, 51; brain, 56; stomach, 60—colon and liver, 62; lungs, 66, kidneys, 67; uterus, 71, and placenta, 72—umbilical, ib—comparative anatomy of, 112—in the crustacea, VII. 539—in fishes, XII. 224—their diseases in the domestic animals, XXI. 574. See Aneurism, Entomology, Ichthyology, Ornithology, &c.
 Bloom, in leather, XIII. 307, 308.
 BLOOMFIELD (Robert), IV. 789.
 — (Dr S. T.), his edition of the New Testament, XIX. 837.
 Blooms and bloemeries, in iron manufacture, XII. 558, 559, 538.
 Bloreheath, battle of, VIII. 690.
 Blossé (M. de), his work on reformatories, XXI. 298.
 Blossom, protection of, in fruit-trees, XI. 707.
 — and blossoming of plants. See Flower, Flowering.
 BLOUNT (Charles), IV. 790; XIII. 358—his translation of the life of Apollonius of Tyana, XVII. 543.
 — (Sir Charles), VIII. 718.
 — (Edward), painter, XVIII. 538.
 — (Sir Henry), IV. 790.
 — (Martha), friend of Pope, XVIII. 334, 335.
 — (THOMAS), IV. 790.
 — (Sir THOMAS POPE), IV. 790.
 Blow (Dr John), IV. 790.
 Blow-holes of the whale, XIV. 232, 238.
 BLOW-PIPE, IV. 790—use of, in mineralogy, XV. 68—Berzelius' Essay on the use of the, IV. 684—anatomical, 794—how to keep up a continued blast with the, XVIII. 76—known to the Sidonians, XX. 269.
 BLOWING, IV. 794—of flowers, ib, see Flower and Flowering—of tin, 795.
 — of glass, IV. 795, X. 663.
 BLOWING-MACHINES, IV. 795; XVIII. 83—water-machine, XII. 183. See Iron-manufacture, Smelting.
 Blowing-off, in marine steam-engines, XX. 649.
 Blown, disease of cattle, XXI. 566.
 Bloxam (Mr), on escapements, VII. 10, 12—his escapement, 13—his dipteroscope, VIII. 27.
 BRUBBER, IV. 798; XIV. 288; XVI. 493—its use as manure, II. 301, 407.
 BRÜCHER (Lebrecht von), Prussian field-marshal, IV. 798; V. 619; X. 143, 144 *et seq.*; XVIII. 656, 657—his combinations at the Katsbach and Laon, XXI. 712.
 BLUE, colour, IV. 798—in chromatæ, VI. 644, 646 *et seq.*—varieties of, XV. 59—for printing, XVIII. 556—dyeing of, VIII. 301, 318—cyanometer, VII. 806.
 — (JOHN), variety of fluorspar, IV. 798; XV. 38.
 — VICTOR, IV. 798.
 — Mountains, in Jamaica, XII. 679

BLU—BOC

- 680; height of, XVII. 644—in Oregon, XVI. 705; XXI. 420—in Australia, IV. 281.
 Blue Nile. See Bahr-el-Azrek.
 — and green faction, XIII. 28.
 — river. See Yang-tse-Kiang.
 Blue-bird, XVI. 756.
 Blue-gum, timber tree, XXI. 278.
 Blue-throat, bird, XVI. 755.
 BLUEING of metals, IV. 798.
 BLUFF-HEADED, IV. 799.
 — form of elevated land, XII. 361, 362.
 Bluhme (Dr), his views on the Justinian code, VI. 745.
 BLUMENBACH (Johann Friedrich), M.D., IV. 799—on albinos, II. 447—his classification of animals, III. 183—his classification of the human races, IX. 343—on zoophytes, XXI. 990.
 Blundell (Lænet), killed in a duel, VIII. 232.
 BLUNDERBUSS, IV. 799.
 BLUSRING, IV. 799.
 Blythe (Walter), his work on husbandry, II. 267, VIII. 723—on draining land, 130, 132.
 Bo, islands, IV. 799.
 BOA, genus of serpents, IV. 799; XIX. 59, 61—teeth of, XVI. 431—peculiar to South America, XVII. 634—urnæ, 667—hibernation of *B. murrina*, XII. 62.
 BOADICEA, IV. 799; V. 378.
 BOAR, term in the manage, IV. 799.
 — male swine, IV. 799—wild, ib; XIV. 197, its teeth, XVI. 467; their chemical composition, 418—in India, XI. 455—Ethiopian boar, ib, III. 105—masked boar, teeth of, XVI. 467.
 Board of Trade, code of naval signals by, XX. 25—their supervision of steam-vessels, 651.
 BOAT, IV. 800—of skin, 346—of wicker-work, 487—boat-signals, XVI. 109—of papyrus, XVII. 246—guard-boat, XI. 74—rowing, racing, and pleasure-boats, XX. 139.
 BOAT-BILL, bird, IV. 800, XVI. 798.
 BOATSWAIN, IV. 800, XVI. 104—boat-swain's mate, IV. 800.
 Boa Vista. See Bonavista.
 Bob of a pendulum, XVII. 383; VII. 5.
 Bobac, in zoology, XIV. 189.
 BOBBIN, IV. 800, XIII. 142, 143, 144, XX. 282, 283, 611, XXI. 785.
 Bobbinet, manufacture of, VII. 451—machine, XIII. 143, 144; XVI. 338—smuggled into France, X. 253.
 BOBBING for eels, IV. 800.
 Boblaye (M.), on the geology of Greece, XI. 11.
 BOBLINGEN, town in Württemberg, IV. 800.
 BOBSTAYS, IV. 800.
 BOCA-CRICA, IV. 800.
 Boceage, a district in Vendée, in France, XXI. 534.
 BOCAVRENT, Spanish town, IV. 800.
 BOCCACCIO (Giovanni), IV. 800—one of those who introduced a taste for literature into Italy, I. 15—sums that have been paid for first editions of his works, IV. 710, n. 2; XVIII. 532—his account of Dante, VII. 647—his commentary on the Divina Commedia, 648—Petrarca's intercourse with, XVII. 497, 498, 499.
 BOCCALZE, liquid measure, IV. 803.
 BOCCALINI (Trajani), IV. 803.
 BOCCARELLA, IV. 803.
 Boechus, XIII. 16.
 Boechoris, Egyptian king, VIII. 463.
 BOCCONE (Paolo), Sicilian naturalist, IV. 803.
 BOCHART (Samuel), IV. 803—on Tarshish, XXI. 27—on Syria, XX. 901.
 Bocher (Joan), VII. 483.
 BOCHTUS, or Boch (John), IV. 804.
 BOCHNIA, in Galicia, IV. 804.
 BOCHUM, in Westphalia, IV. 804.
 Bockhold (John), anabaptist, II. 742.
 BOCKING, in Essex, IV. 804.
 BOCK-LAND, IV. 804.

BOC—BOH

Bocydium, genus of insects, IX 170
 Bodart's Elenchus Animalium, III 188.
 Boddington (M.), his account of the singular effects of lightning, VIII 601
 — oak, XXI 270
 Bode (Johann Elert), IV. 804—astronomical annals edited by, III 815—his catalogue of stars, IV. 80.
 Bodenite, mineral, XV 90.
 Bodensee See Constance, Lake of
 BODERIA, or Bodotria, ancient name of the Firth of Forth, IV. 804.
 BODIN (Jean), IV. 804; I 27—specimen of his views as a philosophical politician, ib—his Treatise de la Republique, ib, n 4, 28, n 1—absurdity of some of his notions, 28—his credulity on the subject of witchcraft, ib—his merits, ib, n. 5—his opinion of Machiavel, 283.
 BODMIN, IV. 804
 BODIE, IV. 804
 Bodleian library at Oxford, XIII 395; XVII 35; IV. 804—F. Junius's MSS. bequeathed to, XIII 20
 BODLEY (Sir Thomas), IV. 804, XIII 389
 BODMER (R.), his improvement on the safety-valves of steam-boilers, XX. 617.
 BODMIN, a Cornish town, IV. 805.
 BODONI (Giambatista), IV. 805.
 Boduni or Dobuni, VIII 73
 Body, definition of, X. 506—elementary bodies, VI 437—Plato's notion of, XVII 806—primary and secondary qualities of, XIV 570, 571.
 — human, electricity of, VIII 571—development of, XIV. 425—its chemical changes, 617—its chemical composition, IX 755, n. 768—spontaneous combustion of, XIV. 427
 BOECE, or Boethius (Hector), IV. 805 See Boece
 Boeckh, on the public economy of the Athenian State, IV. 217—on a Greek inscription, 218, n.—on the money-lenders of Athens, XII 427
 BOEDROMIA, Athenian festival, IV. 805
 BOEHM, or Behmen (Jacob), IV. 805, V. 787
 Boehmer on canon law, VI. 190.
 Bohtlingk on the Turanian languages, XVII 535.
 BOBOTIA, IV. 805; XI 12, 18; XXI 177—monarchy of, XV 412—coinage of, XVI 871
 Boë, cape, XX. 246.
 BOERHAAVE (Hermann), IV. 806; XIV 461—on the distribution of heat, I 758—on the merits of the Hon Robert Boyle, V. 259—his doctrines as taught in the schools, VII. 574—on the nerves, II 814—on the poison of the viper, XIX 45—his admiration of Sydenham, XX. 888.
 Boers, in Natal, XV 803, 804—at Cape of Good Hope, X. 712.
 BOETHIUS, IV. 807; I 323; XIV. 455, XII. 640, XVII. 520—his Consolations of Philosophy translated by Alfred the Great, II 481.
 Boe of Gorn, town in Scotland, IV. 808.
 Boe-iron ore, XV. 108.
 BOGALOUND, in Hindustan, IV. 808.
 Bogarmite, hecetics, IV. 808.
 Bogbutter, XV. 124
 Boghead coal, X. 414, 434.
 BOGNOR, town in Sussex, IV. 808; XX. 889, 840
 Bogoda, genus of fishes, XII 275.
 BOGODUCHOW, IV. 808.
 BOGOMILI, heretics, IV. 808.
 BOGOTA, (Santa Fé de), IV. 808.
 Bogs, reclamation of, II. 361.
 — Irish, XII 507; XIII 81, 91, 92—in Kerry, 74—of Allen, 81, 91; XXI 288—in Leitrim, XIII 828—London-derry, 624—Kilkenny, 84—Roscommon, XIX. 421—Wicklow, XXI 858.
 Bog-sparin, XXI. 559.
 BOHADDDIN, or Boh-e-Eddyn, IV. 811.
 Bohadschia, genus of zoophytes, XXI 986.

BOH—BOL

BOHEA, black tea, IV. 812—tea-hills, in China, XXI. 84.
 Boheman (C. H.), his entomological works, IX 23
 BOHEMIA, IV. 812, 309; X. 582—geology, 583—Cambrian and Cambro-Silurian rocks of, XV. 196, 197—upper Silurian rocks of, 198—monarchy of, 412—heights of mountains in, XVII. 643—conquered by the Poles, XVIII 138—wines of, XXI. 886
 BOHEMIAN, or Moravian brethren, IV. 812
 Bohemian versions of the Bible, IV. 702—language, XIII. 214—glass, XVIII. 669
 Bohemond, VII. 817.
 Boheyrat-Maryoot (Lake), VIII 429
 Bohm (Dr), on the sun's rotation, IV. 87.
 Bohn, his works on medical jurisprudence, XIV 423
 Bohnenberg's electroscope, XXI 620.
 BOHOL, or Bool, island, IV. 813
 BOLARDO (Count Matteo Maria), IV. 813—poetry of, XVIII 110
 Bori, people of Ancient Gaul, IV. 814—gave name to Bavaria, 515
 Boileau (Major), on the Indus, XII 378
 BOILEAU-DESPREAU (Nicolas), IV. 814—on the dramatic unities, VIII 150, 152—poetry of, XVIII. 116
 Boilers, for hot-houses, XI. 722—multitubular, for locomotives, I. 885—prevention of smoke in, XX. 354, 355—steam-boilers, historical notice of, 586—parts and appendages of, 589—pressure of steam in, 601—horse-power of, 602—boilers at Saltre Mills, 604—classification of steam-boilers, 615—different kinds of, ib, 616, 617—efficiency of steam-boilers, 632, strength, 634, ruptures and explosions, ib, 631—deposits in, 635—economy in heating, 648—scaling of, 649—marine, 651—tubular, ib—vertical tube-boiler, ib—sheet-plate, ib
 BOILING, IV. 814—phenomena of, XX. 554—boiling-point, IV. 814; XX. 555, 649, XXI. 222, its variation at different heights, IV. 467—bending wood by, XII 811—loss sustained by articles of food in boiling, IX. 766
 — SPRINGS, IV. 814, X. 598; XII. 201, 202
 Boisduval (J. A.), his entomological works, IX. 16
 BOIS-LE-DUC, Dutch city, IV. 814.
 — (Francis le), physician, XIV. 461
 Bois-Reymond (M. dn), on the electricity of the nerves and muscles, XVII 672—on voltaic electricity, XXI. 663.
 BOISSARD (Jean Jacques), IV. 814.
 Boitard (M. T.), his Manuel of Entomology, IX. 22.
 Boivin (Madame), on the muscular fibres in the uterus, III. 71.
 BOJADOR, African Cape, IV. 815.
 Bojannus, his Memoir on the Merycotheum, XVI 467.
 Bojé (C. Johannes), Danish author, XIX. 695.
 Bokenham (Mr), on vacations to the officers of the post-office, XVIII. 416.
 BOKHARA, IV. 815, V. 757
 Bokharians in Russia, XIX. 523.
 BOL (Ferdinand), Dutch painter, IV. 815.
 BOLABOLA, or Borabora, one of the Society Islands, IV. 815.
 BOLBE, in France, IV. 815.
 Bolca, Monte, fossil fishes of, XII 351, 354, 355; XVII. 127, 128, 640—geological period of, 128.
 BOLT, mineral, IV. 815; XV 83
 Boleophthalmus, genus of fishes, XII 366.
 Bolobosoma, genus of fishes, XII 277.
 Bolero, Spanish dance-tune, XXI. 288.
 Boleslas, kings of Poland so named, XVIII. 128, 129, 140.
 BOLEYN (Anne), IV. 815. See Anne Boleyn.
 Bolgars, in Russia, XIX. 522.
 Bolt, town in Notozia, IV. 815.
 BOLSHAKOFF (Henry St John), viscount, IV. 815; V. 454; X. 872, 873—his character of Marlborough, VI. 714—his

ROL—BON

friendship with Pope, XVIII. 332—his attack upon Pope, XXI. 729—Warburton's View of his philosophy, 730.
 Bolis, or Bolide, meteor, XIV. 684.
 Bolitophila, genus of insects, IX. 228.
 BOLIVAR (Simon), IV. 817—Bolivia named after, 821—his constitution for Bolivia, 834, and its consequences, 835—his ambitious schemes, ib—his proceedings in Peru, XVII. 468
 BOLIVIA, IV. 821, II 705—British consul in, VII. 337—plateau of, XVII. 593—west coast rainless, 615—produce of the precious metals in, XVIII. 461, 462; XV. 248—height of mountains, XVII. 644, 645—maps of, VI. Plate.
 BOLL, corn measure, IV. 838—in different counties of Scotland, XXI. 809.
 BOLLANDUS (John), IV. 838.
 BOLLARDS, IV. 838
 Bollman (Dr), his method of distilling charcoal, XI. 154.
 BOLOGNA, IV. 838—legation, XVII. 243—Institute of, II. 66—medical school of, 755—library of, XIII. 413—silk manufacture of, XVII. 243—university of, XXI. 444, 448
 — (GIOVANNI DI), IV. 839—character of his sculpture, XIX. 863
 BOLOGNESE SCHOOL of painting, IV. 839; III. 710, XVII. 72
 BOLOGNIAN STONE, IV. 839; XIII. 456, XV. 94
 BOLSOGLIA REKA, river, IV. 839.
 BOLSHCHETSK, IV. 839
 BOLSENA, town and lake in Italy, IV. 839; XVII. 242.
 BOLSWERT, in Derbyshire, IV. 839—its limestone as a building stone, XX. 712
 BOLSWERT (Boetius-Adam), engraver, IV. 839; VIII. 809.
 — (SCHRILTUS), IV. 839.
 BOLT-ROPE, IV. 839
 Boltens, genus of mollusks, XV. 334.
 BOLTER, IV. 839.
 BOLTING-MILL, IV. 839
 BOLTON (Edmund), IV. 839.
 — iron-works, XII. 153, 154
 Boltomite, mineral, XV. 82
 BOLTON-LE-MOORS, town in Lancashire, IV. 839—free library of, XIII. 406—cellar dwellings in, XVIII. 196
 Bolzano, V. 241
 Bomango, III. 106
 Bomarsund, fortress, destruction of, XIX. 502.
 Bomat, his work on insects, IX. 22
 Bomb, IV. 840, XI. 139, 141. See Shell.
 — KETCH, V. 4. See Bomb-vessel.
 — VESSEL, or ketch, IV. 840, X. 385.
 BOMBARDIER, IV. 840.
 BOMBARD, musical instrument, IV. 840.
 BOMBASINE, IV. 840.
 BOMBAST, IV. 840
 BOMBAX, genus of plants, IV. 840; V. 184.
 BOMBAY, V. 1; XI. 463—presidency of, 529—Elephanta Isle near, VIII. 628—meteorological observations at, XIV. 688.
 Bombelli (Raphael), his discoveries in mathematics, I. 588—on a MS. of Diophantus, ib, n.—on algebra, II. 485
 Bomberg (Daniel), his Hebrew Bible, IV. 695.
 Bombinator, genus of reptiles, XIX. 81.
 BOMBUS, V. 4.
 — genus of humble bees, V. 4, IX. 201.
 Bombycilla, genus of birds, XVI. 750.
 Bombycites, section of insects, IX. 212.
 Bombydari, family of insects, IX. 233.
 Bombylus, genus of insects, IX. 233.
 BOMBYSX, genus of moths, V. 4; IX. 213.
 Bomlicar, VI. 284.
 BOMONTORE, V. 4.
 Bon, African Cape, XXI. 364
 BONA (Giovanni), cardinal, V. 4.
 — town in Algiers, V. 4—massacre at, II. 672
 — DEA, Roman divinity, V. 4.
 — FIDES, in law, V. 4—mobilia, ib—notabilia, ib—vacantia, ib.

BON—BON

BONALD (Louis Gabriel Ambroise), viscount de, V. 4—his estimate of the merits of Condillac, I. 177.
 BONAPARTE, or Buonaparte, V. 5. See Napoleon
 — (Carlo), prince of Musignano—his work on ornithology, XVI. 731.
 — (Jerome), X. 154.
 — (Joseph), X. 107, 163—king of Naples, 141, XX. 261, 264—king of Spain, X. 150, XX. 472, XXI. 823
 — (Louis), king of Holland, XI. 579.
 — (Lucien), X. 115, 141
 Bonar bridge, tidal phenomena at, XVI. 58
 Bonardi (Abbe), on anonymous books, IV. 712
 BONARELLI, della Rovere (Count Guid' Ubaldo), V. 5.
 BONASONE (Gualio), engraver, V. 5.
 BONASSUS, V. 5 See Bison.
 BONAVENTURE (St), V. 5.
 BONAVISTA, island, V. 5; XXI. 545.
 BOND (John), V. 5
 — (Mr), on magnetism, XIV. 3—his discovery regarding the enlarged meridian, IX. 744—on navigation, XVI. 6.
 — (G. P.), on the perturbations of the small planets, IV. 91.
 — in building, V. 732, 738; VII. 327, n.—bond timbers, V. 734, 739, 747.
 BONDAGE, V. 5—by the forelock, ib
 Bondager, IV. 680.
 BONDMAN, V. 5.
 BONDOT, African kingdom, V. 6.
 Bondsorff (G.), his works on insects, IX. 7.
 BONA (Henry), enamel painter, V. 6.
 — black, XII. 665
 — caves, XVII. 639; XV. 215.
 — oil, II. 413.
 BONE-DUST, V. 6; II. 264, 299—as applied to turnips, 317; VI. 524.
 Bone-sparin, XXI. 557, 558.
 Bonelli (F. A.), his works on insects, IX. 11, 15
 — (Prof.), on birds, XVI. 731.
 Bonelli's electro-magnetic loom, XIII. 643, 789.
 BONES, extraction of ammonia from, II. 722—phosphorus from, VI. 478—composition of, IX. 758, XVII. 156—Dumamel's experiments on their growth, VIII. 233—specific gravity of, XII. 89—their hollow form an instance of divine wisdom, XX. 766. See Ossification.
 — of the dead, V. 6.
 — V. 6 (RUMAN), II. 824—knowledge of Celsus and Galen as to their anatomy, 752, 753—their forms, structure, and development, 824—chemical analysis of, 827; XVII. 156—their vessels, II. 827—their junctions, 830—of the skeleton, III. 4—of the ear, 46—phosphate of lime in, XVII. 654, 655.
 — OF THE LOWER ANIMALS, the mammalia, III. 74, 75—of birds, 83; XVI. 735—of reptiles, III. 86—of fishes, 89; XII. 207—fossil (see Palæontology)—of the ear, IV. 98, 99—proportion of hard and soft matter in, XVII. 156—chemical composition, ib—diseases of, XXI. 557.
 — as manure, II. 411, 264, 299; VI. 524—fermented, II. 300—as a top dressing for pastures, ib—dissolved, 411—analysis of, ib. See Bone-dust.
 Boness, in Lanthgowshire, V. 56—coal wrought there in the twelfth century VII. 116
 BONET (Theophilus), V. 6.
 BONFADIO (Jacopo), V. 6.
 BONFINI (Anthony), V. 6.
 BONFRERE (James), V. 6.
 BONGARS (Jacques), V. 6.
 BONI, or Bony, a state in the island of Celebes, V. 7; VI. 361.
 — (Abbe), on editions of the classics, IV. 711.
 BONIFACE (nine popes of that name), V. 7—collection of decretals by Boniface VIII, VI. 189.
 — (St), the apostle of Germany, V. 7.
 BONIFACIO, town and strait, Corsica, V. 7; VII. 417.

BON—BOO

- Bonito, fish, XII 294.
 Bonjol (Mons), on the electricity of the air, VIII 588—on electro-chemical decomposition, 597—his improvement in galvanic batteries, XXI 618.
 Bonjour (M.), his bleaching establishment, IV 789.
 Bonn, in Germany, V. 7—university of, XVIII 673; XXI 492
 —(Andrew), on the membranes, II 765—on the connection between the mucous membrane and the skin, 838
 Bonnerfons (Jean), Latin poet, V. 8.
 Bonner (Edmund), bishop of London, V. 8; VIII 710, 711.
 Bonnet (Charles), V. 8—his commentary on Leibnitz's theory of a sufficient reason, I 131, n. 2—was the first to assert that there is a scale of beings from the Deity downwards, 134 and n. 3, 149—his zeal for the scheme of necessity, ib., n. 5—his speculations on human nature, 170—agreement of his opinions with those of Hartley, 171—on ants, III 261, 262, 264—his works on insects, IX 4—on vegetable monstrosities, XV. 504
 —or Bonet (Theophilus), V. 6
 —in fortification, IX 803.
 Bonneval (Claude Alexandre, Comte de), V. 9.
 Bonycastle (John), V. 10.
 —(Charles), on magnetism, XIV. 9, 41.
 Bononcini (Giovanni Maria), V. 10; XIII 697.
 Bononia, V. 10 See Bologna and Bolognese.
 —a town in Pannonia; also a town in Bulgaria, V. 10.
 Bonpland on the *Gymnotus electricus*, VIII 575.
 Bonsdorff, mineral, XV. 88
 Bontius on birds, XVI 726
 Bonus system, in life assurance, XII 412.
 Bonvincino (Alessandro), V. 10.
 Bony. See Boni.
 Bonzes, V. 10—in Siam, XX 233, 234.
 Boobies, birds, XVI 814.
 Booth Gayah, X. 442.
 Boodrook, town in Anatolia, V. 10.
 Boott (Scotus de), XIII 451.
 Book, V. 10—constituent parts of, IV. 705—in manuscript before the origin of printing, 706—books of the ancients, 707—different forms of letters in modern, ib.—differences in editions, ib.—early printed, 708—rare, 709—classical, ib.—anonymous and pseudonymous, 711—condemned and prohibited, 712—dictionaries and catalogues, 713—classification of, 715—mode of whitening and cleaning, 771—number of books published annually in Britain, V. 31; VII 356—only one in eight reaches a second edition, 356—libraries entitled to copies of every book published in their respective kingdoms, XIII 374—clay books, XVIII 431—Japanese books, XII 695—Mexican, II 684—number printed in Russia, XIX 532 See Bibliography, Copyright, Libraries, Printing.
 —of Common Prayer, XIII 517.
 Bookbinding, V. 12—gliding of book-covers, X. 627.
 Book-keeping, V. 15—system followed in Savings-banks, XIX 667.
 Bookselling, V. 30—limited profits of the business, VII 356—book fairs of Leipzig, XIII 325—book trade of Germany, X. 592; of United States, XXI 423—number of booksellers in London; XIII 680.
 Bool or Bohol, island, IV 813.
 Boolak, in Egypt, VIII 498.
 Boole (Dr), on the laws of thought, XIII 578.
 Boom, V. 33; XI 222.
 Boomerang, V. 33.
 Booming, V. 33.
 Boondra, town in Hindustan, V. 32.
 Boorahpootra, town in Hindustan, V. 32.
 Boorids of Siberia, XIX 550.
 Booro, island, V. 32.

BOO—BOR

- Booroojird, Persian city, V. 33.
 Boor, V. 33—order of the, XIII 121.
 Bootan, country in Asia, V. 33.
 Bootanese, people in Tibet, XXI 247
 Bootes, constellation, V. 35, IV 79
 Booth (Barton), tragedian, V. 35, XXI 175.
 —(Benjamin), on book-keeping, V. 15
 Boothia Felix, V. 35; XVIII 172.
 Booton, island, V. 35.
 Booty, V. 35
 Bopal, in Hindustan, V. 35.
 Bopp (E. Francis), on the Sanscrit language, XVII 529
 Bora, wind, XIV 470
 Borabora, IV 815
 Boracio acid, V. 35; VI 481; XV. 61, 64—analysing stones by means of, VII 688—specific gravity of, XII 89—in the Lagune of Tuscany, XVII 602
 Boracite, XV. 94—pyro-electricity of, VIII 559.
 Borage, plant, XI 745; V. 201.
 Boraginaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 201
 Borax, fabulous animal, V. 36.
 Boras, Indian race, XI 92
 Borassus, genus of palms, V. 36, XXI 350
 Borate of lime, XV. 94
 Borax, V. 36; VI 481; XV. 98—in the lakes of Tibet, XVII 602—used as a flux with the blowpipe, IV. 791
 Borbonica library at Naples, XIII 415.
 Borborus, genus of insects, IX 958
 Borda (John Charles), V. 36, I 851—on projectiles, XI 138—on hydraulics, XII 152—on the pendulum, I 851; XVII 383—his pneumatic experiments, XVIII 67—his measuring rules, 703—on seamanship, XX. 11
 Bords (Andrew), V. 38
 Bordeaux, V. 38; X. 632—Roman edifices formerly at, III 444, n.—population, X. 277—Academy of, XXI 491—wines of, 883, 890; exports of, to Britain, 888.
 —(Henri), Duke de, his birth, X. 183—visit to England, 220.
 Borden, on the cellular membrane, II 765, 786.
 Bordier (Marcet), his reflectors, XIII 470.
 Bordier's method of making leather, XIII 308.
 Bording (Anders), Danish lyrical poet, XIX 692
 Bords de l'Eau, conspiracy of, X. 179
 Boudures, in heraldry, XI 826.
 Bore of rivers, XVI 65—at the mouth of the Brahmapootra, V. 266—of the Amazon, II 675—Hooghly, XI 619, XVII 581
 Boreas, V. 38.
 Borel (Pierre), V. 38.
 Borelli (Giovanni Alfonso), V. 38; XIV 461—the first who demonstrated the impossibility of flying, II 167—treatise of Apollonius on conic sections discovered and translated by, III 301; VII 249—his diving-bladder, VIII 58—on the diving-bell, 60.
 Boreus, genus of insects, IX. 173.
 Borgia, in Finland, V. 39
 BORGHESE, noble Sienese family, V. 39.
 Borgia (Alexander), V. 39. See Alexander VI, pope
 —(Cæsar), V. 39; XII 651; II 467—Machiavelli's intercourse with, XIII 777.
 —(Lucrezia), V. 39; II 467.
 Borgo (San Donino), town in Parma, V. 39.
 —(SAN SEPOLCRO), in Tuscany, V. 39.
 BORGOGNONE (Jacopo Cortese), V. 39
 Borgoo, or Borgu, two kingdoms in the interior of Africa, V. 40, II 211.
 Boring, V. 40—of cannon, ib.—of cylinders, 49—of musket barrels, 44; XI 97—of wooden pipes, V. 45—for coal, VII 119.
 —of rocks, V. 44; IV. 755. See Blasting.

BOR—BOS

- Boris, sovereign of Russia, XIX. 474.
 Borissow, town in Russia, V. 45
 Borja, Spanish town, V. 45
 Borkum, island, V. 45
 Borlache (Dr Edmond), V. 45.
 Borlase (William), V. 45—his Natural History of Cornwall, XVI 728.
 Bormio, in Lombardy, V. 46
 BORN (Ignatius, Baron Von), V. 46
 BORNEO, V. 47—diamonds found in, VIII 1, 2—Chinese in, VI 585—orang-outang of, XIV 138—missions established in, XV 271—language, XIII 207—serpents in, XVII 634; XIX. 53, 54, 60, 86—trade with Singapore, XX. 307.
 BORNHOLM, island, V. 50
 Bornite, mineral, XV. 117
 Bornout, kingdom of central Africa, V. 50, II 229
 Borodia, genus of fishes, XII 285
 BORODINO, Russian village, V. 54—battle of, X. 156.
 BORON, V. 54, VI 481; VII 670
 BOROUGH, V. 54—Royal, ib.—justices, XVIII 192—police, 196.
 BOROVSK, representation of, V. 54, XVII 293, 294—extension of their boundaries, VIII 719. See Municipal Corporations
 BOROUGHBRIDGE, in Yorkshire, V. 54—battle of, VIII 681.
 BOROUGH-ENGLISH, V. 54
 BOROVSK, town in Russia, V. 54
 BORRELISTS, sect, V. 54
 BORRICHUS, or Borch (Olaus), V. 54.
 BORREAN ISLANDS, V. 54; XII 637, XIII 644.
 BORRERO (Carlo), cardinal, V. 55—colossal statue of, VII 151; III 673
 —(FREDERIGO), founder of the Ambrosian Library, V. 56; XIII 413
 BORROMINI (Francesco), V. 56—character of his style of architecture, III 453
 Borrowdale, black-lead mines in, VII 577; XVII 375—annual fall of rain in, XIV 657.
 BORROWSTOWNNESS, in Louthgowshire, V. 56—bed of marine shells near, IX. 794—coal-fields of, XIII 497.
 BORSEHOLDER, V. 56.
 Borsonia, fossil mollusks, XVII 110
 Borulawa, a Polish dwarf, VIII 271
 Bory de St Vincent on animalcules, III. 195 et seq.—tabular view of his classification of animalcules, 196—account of Bourbon, V. 247—on lizards, XIX. 28—on cameleons, 37
 BORZSTERNES, river, V. 56
 Bos, genus of mammalia, V. 56, XIV. 213—tooth of, XVI 466, 467—fossil species, XVII 170—paleontological characters of, 172—B. primigenius, 641.
 —ancient coin, V. 56.
 Bosa, Sardinian city, V. 56
 Bosc, his bee-hive, III 295—on the alligator, XIX. 25—on the rattlesnake, 69—on zoophytes, XXI 992.
 BOSCADE, V. 56.
 BOSCAN (Almogaver, Juan), poet, V. 56; X. 402—poetry of, XVIII 113.
 BOSCAWEN (Edward), admiral, V. 56, 463
 Boscor, or Boscd, monks, V. 57.
 BOSCOVICH (Roger Joseph), V. 57—his extraordinary talents, I. 202—his theory of the constitution of the universe, 721, 986—reasoning by which he supported it, 721—sketch of his life and writings, ib. n.—observed his theory by scholastic metaphysics, 722; it may be regarded as a happy extension of the law of attraction, ib.—on achromatic glasses, II. 93—on aurora borealis, IV. 246—on the construction of combs, 578—on the orbits of comets, VII 168—on crystallization, 549—his measurement of a degree, IX. 550—on the spectrum, XVI 584—his theory regarding the senses, XIV. 613—manner in which he has represented the action of corpuscular forces, XX. 751; his work on that subject, 755.
 Boshu, or Bauschi, in Houssa, XI 776.
 BOSZEMANS, or Bushmen, V. 58.

BOS—BOT

- BOSNA-SERAI, Turkish city, V. 58
 BOSNIA, in Turkey, V. 59; XXI 380.
 BOSPHORUS, V. 59, IV 740—supposed bursting of the Thracian, 741—map of, VII. Plate.
 —(Cimmerian), monarchy of, XV. 412
 Bosanquet (Mr), on the bullion question, XIX. 153.
 BOSQUETS, in gardening, V. 59.
 Boss, in architecture, III 508
 BOSSCHA (Hermann), V. 59.
 BOSSCHAERT (Thomas Wilhbrord), V. 59.
 BOSSINEX, in Cornwall, V. 59
 Bosso, or Bossus (Matteo), V. 59
 Bossut (René le), V. 59
 BOSSUET (Jacques Bénigne), V. 59—contrast between him and Fénelon, I. 351—his reply to Fénelon concerning man being influenced by a disinterested love of God, 352—in this controversy relied mainly on the principle that, as man must desire his own happiness, he desires everything as a means to it, ib.—his opposition to Madame Guyon's opinions, XI 163—his attack on Fénelon, XV. 758; IX. 506
 BOSSUT (CHARLES), V. 61—his experiments on the resistance of water in narrow canals, I. 725, to vessels, XX 158—on hydrodynamics, XII. 72, 114, 116 et seq.; XVIII 64, XIX. 187, 189—his wheel, XII. 142
 BOSTON, in Lincolnshire, V. 61
 —in Massachusetts, V. 61; XIV. 341—destruction of tea at, V. 477—free library at, XIII 430, XXI 424—early newspapers of, XVI 192—gazette, 193—ice-trade of, XII 196—suicides in, XX. 800—military operations at, during the Revolutionary war, XXI 749—evacuated by the British forces, 750—temperature at, 421.
 —(THOMAS), Scottish divine, V. 63.
 —(Elizabeth), VIII 700.
 Bostrichus, genus of insects, IX 142
 BOSWELL (James), of Auchinleck, V. 63—his intercourse with Dr Johnson, XII 800—notice of Dr Adam Smith by, XX. 844, n. 2
 BOSWORTH-MARKET, in Leicestershire, V. 64—battle of, VIII 694.
 BOTAL (Leonardo), V. 64
 Botanic garden, Edinburgh, VIII 399—of Montpellier, XV. 521—Glasgow, X. 656.
 Botanical structures, XI. 754
 BOTANY, V. 65—structural and physiological, 65—taxological, or relating to classification, 174—geographical, 219—paleontological, 232—Cæsalpinus on, VI. 56—distinction between plants and animals, II 748; III 168—Cavanilles on, VI 349—Druidical knowledge of, VIII 188—its advancement in connection with materia medica, XIV. 461—distribution of plants, XVII 624—of the Alps, II 626—Canary Islands, VI. 164—Ceylon, 393—Egypt, VIII 430—Madeira, XIII 800—Himalayas, XI. 443—Lapland, XIII. 235—Madagascar, 791—Perthshire, XVII. 468—Scotland, XIX. 795—Museum of Economic, XXI. 323—of Cape Verde Islands, 544 See Plants, and the geographical articles generally.
 BOTANY BAY, V. 239; IV. 271, 272.
 BOTARGO, V. 239
 Botaurus, genus of birds, XVI 799
 Botero (Giovanni), early notice of tea by, XXI. 88.
 BOTER (Jan and Andreas), Flemish painters, V. 238.
 BOTENIA, V. 239
 —Gulf of, V. 240; IV. 402, 404.
 Bothrioccephus, genus of zoophytes, XXI. 979.
 Bothriolepis, genus of fossil fishes, XII 336; XVII 120.
 Bothroconus, fossil sponges, XVII 93.
 BOTWELL, in Lanarkshire, V. 240.
 Botwell Bridge, battle of, V. 430.
 —(JAMES HEPBURN), Earl of, V. 240; VIII 891; XIX. 785.

BOT—BOU

- Botryllidae, family of mollusks, XV. 382.
 Botryllus, genus of mollusks, XV. 380, 381.
 Botryogene, mineral, XV. 97.
 Botryoidal, V. 240.
 Botryolite, mineral, XV. 94.
 Botrytis infestans, fungus supposed to be the cause of the potato disease, V. 172, 147.
 Bots, V. 240; IX. 247—in cattle, XXI. 569.
 Botta (M.), his discoveries on the site of Nineveh, XVI. 273.
 Bottcher (J. Frederick), his manufacture of porcelain, XVIII. 435.
 Botticelli (Alessandro), V. 240.
 Bottger on Tacitus, XXI. 4, 5.
 BOTTLE, V. 240.
 —glass, X. 674.
 —nose whale, dentition of, XVI. 443.
 Bottling of wines, XXI. 883.
 Bottom, V. 240.
 BOTTOMERY, V. 240.
 BOTTONY, in heraldry, V. 241; XI. 329.
 BOTTRIGARI (Ercolo), V. 241.
 Botys, genus of insects, IX. 218.
 BOTZEN, or Bolzano, in the Tyrol, V. 241.
 Bouchardat (M.), on the polarization of fluids, XVI. 681.
 BOUCHE OF COURT, V. 241.
 Boucher de la Richarderie, his catalogue of voyages and travels, IV. 714.
 Boucherie (Dr), his method of preserving timber, XX. 167.
 BOUCHES DU RHONE, department of France, V. 241.
 Bouchette (Colonel), his work on British America, VI. 147.
 Boudet on the oil of the blood, II. 781.
 BOUFLERS (Louis François, Duke de), V. 242, 447, 448, IX. 369.
 BOUGAINVILLE (Louis Antoine de), V. 242—on the Perplus of Hanno, X. 461—his discoveries in Australasia, IV. 283, 265—his settlement in the Falkland Islands, V. 470—discovery of one of the Samoan group of islands, XVIII. 277—his visit to Tahiti, 280.
 BOUGEAULT (Guillaume Hyacinthe), V. 243—his notion that brutes are animated by devils, 701, 702— anecdote in proof that they can communicate their ideas to each other, 704.
 BOUGHAN, V. 243. See Bugiah.
 BOUGIE, surgical instrument, V. 243; XX. 881.
 BOUGUER (Pierre), V. 243—on the attraction of mountains, I. 884—reduced the theory of hydrostatics, as applied to naval architecture, into a simple and elegant form, 724—his life and character, 724, n. 1—his rule regarding the barometrical measurement of mountains, 730—his treatise on the figure of the earth, 773, III. 806—measurement of a degree by, in South America, ib; IX. 549; III. 806, VII. 230—on the moon's light, IV. 41—on the gradation of atmospheric density, 464—his quarrel with Condammé, VII. 230—optical phenomenon seen by, 411—his heliometer, XI. 289, XIV. 747—on reflected light, XIII. 451—on optics, XVI. 585—photometry, XVII. 555—on seamanship, XX. 2, 3, 9, 17—on the strength of oak, 775.
 BOUHOURS (Dominique), V. 244—his French New Testament, IV. 701.
 Bouillad (Ismael), his catalogue of books, XIII. 378.
 Boulaç, or Boolak, VIII. 498.
 BOULAINVILLIERS (Henri de), V. 244.
 BOULANGER (Jean), engraver, V. 244.
 —(NICOLAS-ANTOINE), V. 244.
 BOULANGERITE, mineral, V. 245; XV. 118.
 BOULAT (Cesar Egasse du), V. 245—on the University of Paris, XXI. 445, n. 1, 446, n. 1, 447.
 Boulaye (Marquis de la), VII. 232.
 BOULDER, V. 245; VII. 728; XV. 215; IX. 827.
 —formation, in geology, V. 245; XV. 215, XVII. 587.

BOU—BOU

- BOULOGNE-SUR-MER, V. 245—Nelson's attack on, 583—Bonaparte's encampment at, 597—population, X. 277.
 BOULTER (Hugh, D.D.), V. 245.
 BOULTINE, V. 246.
 Boulton (Edmund), IV. 839.
 —(MATTHEW), V. 246—his coming machine, VII. 91.
 —and Watt, XXI. 776—their steam-boiler, XX. 587—their rule for estimating horse-power, 602—their steamboat machinery, 638, 639.
 BOUNTY, V. 246; VII. 189—act, on the exportation of corn, 377—effects of this, 378—effects of, on the exportation of raw produce, 387—act of 1784, and its effects, 384, 385—bounties have no tendency to reduce the real price of corn by causing a glut of the market, 387—tend to increase fluctuations in the price of raw produce, 388—on French fisheries, X. 265.
 Bouquetin, in zoology, XIV. 212.
 Bourasse (J. J.), his entomological sketches, IX. 23.
 BOURBON, name of one branch of the Capet family, V. 246—Neapolitan dynasty of, XX. 264. See France.
 —(CHARLES), duke of, V. 246; X. 29, 30, 31.
 —(Duke of), his death in 1830, X. 203.
 —(NICOLAS), senior, Latin poet, V. 247.
 —(NICOLAS), junior, French poet, V. 247.
 —(ISLE OF), V. 247; II. 229.
 BOURBON-LANCZ, French town, V. 248.
 BOURBON-L'ARCHAMBAULT, French town, V. 248.
 BOURBON-VEKDÉE, French town, V. 248.
 BOURBONNAIS, in France, V. 248; X. 277.
 BOURBONNE-LES-BAINS, in France, V. 248.
 Bourchennu de Valbonais, IV. 779.
 BOURCHIER (John), Lord Berners, V. 248.
 BOURDALOUE (Louis), V. 248.
 Bourdeaux. See Boideaux.
 BOURDELOT (Jean), French critic, V. 249.
 BOURDON (Sebastien), painter, V. 249, XVII. 76.
 Bourdon's metallic barometer, IV. 460.
 Bourg, town in France, V. 249.
 BOURGELAT (Claude), V. 250.
 Bourgeois type, XXI. 401, 403.
 Bourgeois's work on anatomy, II. 770.
 Bourges, French town, V. 250—university of, XXI. 448.
 BOURGET (Jean), V. 250.
 BOURGOING (Jean François), V. 250.
 Bourguetianus, fossil echinoderms, XVII. 98.
 BOURGUIGNONS, V. 250, 773.
 BOURIGNON (Antoinette), V. 250.
 Bourke (Sir Richard), governor of New South Wales, IV. 273.
 Bourlet (L'Abbe), his work on the Podurella, IX. 22.
 Bourmont (General), his expedition against Algiers, in 1830, II. 573, X. 197, 203.
 BOURNE, town in Lincolnshire, V. 250.
 —(Wm.), on gunnery, XI. 103—on navigation, XVI. 3.
 —(Sturges), his Poor-law Act, XVIII. 302.
 —(Mr), on mechanical feeders for boilers, XX. 356.
 BOURMONTRE, mineral, V. 250; XV. 120.
 BOURREINNE (Fauvelet de), V. 250—his report of a conversation with Napoleon on the invasion of Britain, X. 136, n. 3.
 Bourrit (M.), his attempts to ascend Mont Blanc, II. 627.
 Bousmard (M. de), on fortification, IX. 816, 833.
 Bousquet (M.), on vaccination, XXI. 501.
 BOUSSA, town in Central Africa, V. 250—Park killed at, II. 210.
 Boussingault (M.), on rural economy, II. 374—on the advantages of irrigation, XII. 611—on the absorption of leaves, V. 103.
 BOUSTROPHEDON, V. 250, 10.

BOU—BOY

- BOUTERWEK (Friedrich), V. 250—on poetry, XVIII. 115, 118.
 BOUTS-RENDES, V. 251.
 Bouvard (M.), his tables of Uranus, I. 838—dates of his birth and death, 829, n. —(Engène), I. 829.
 Bovey coal, VII. 763.
 Bovichthys, genus of fishes, XII. 273, 218.
 Bovide, fossil, XVII. 169.
 BOVINO, Neapolitan town, V. 251.
 Bow, V. 251—said to have been invented by the Philistines, XVII. 515—cross-bow, V. 251—in shipbuilding, ib; XVI. 97—net, V. 251. See Archery.
 Bowden (A.), on dry-rot, VIII. 207, 208.
 BOWDICH (Thos. Edward), V. 251—his mission to Ashantee, III. 725.
 —(NATHANIEL), V. 251—his commentary on the Mechanic Celeste, I. 827.
 Bowels. See Intestines.
 BOWER, V. 251.
 —ANCHOR, V. 251; III. 116.
 —(Walter), IX. 777.
 Bowerbank (J. S.), on the circulation of the blood in insects, IX. 22, 49—on the larvae of Agnion, 49—on sponges, XXI. 1008.
 Bow-fell, in Westmoreland, XXI. 842.
 BOWIE-KNIFE, V. 251.
 BOWLES (Rev. Wm. Lisle), V. 251—his suggestion as to the original use of church spires, III. 449—his controversy with Roscoe, XIX. 419.
 BOWLINE, V. 252, XX. 125.
 BOWLING, V. 252.
 —GREEN, V. 252.
 Bowman (Mr), on the corpora globosa of the kidney, II. 763—on muscular filament, 821.
 —(Mr), iron ship built by, XX. 195.
 Bowring (Mr), on French commerce, X. 257, 258.
 —(Sir John), his visit to Siam, XX. 234; notices of that country, 232, 233—his translation of a Russian poem, XXI. 971.
 BOWSPRIT, V. 252.
 BOWYER, V. 252.
 —(WILLIAM), printer, V. 252.
 Box, genus of fishes, XII. 287.
 —V. 252—dice-box, ib—box girders, XX. 781.
 Boxadon, genus of fishes, XII. 287.
 Box-elder tree, XVII. 762.
 Boxer (Capt.), on gunnery, XI. 133, 299 et seq.—his work on artillery, 145—his fuzes, 142; III. 702.
 Box-haul, in navigation, V. 252.
 BOXHORN (Mark Zuer), V. 252.
 BOXING, V. 252; XI. 170—boxing the compass, V. 252—the tapping of a tree, ib.
 Boxmoor cast-iron bridge, XII. 588.
 Box tunnel, on the Great Western Railway, XVIII. 761.
 Boxwood, V. 252—specific gravity of, XII. 89—plant, as an edging to walks, XI. 748—as timber, XXI. 278—used in wood engraving, 904.
 BOYACA, or Bojaca, in New Grenada, V. 253; X. 797—Bolívar's victory at, in 1819, IV. 818.
 BOYAR, Russian title of nobility, V. 253; XIX. 234.
 BOYAT, in fortification, V. 253.
 BOY-BISHOP, V. 253.
 BOYCE (Rector), V. 253—Bellenden's translation of his History of Scotland, IV. 633.
 —(J.), his life-boat and safety-buoy, XIII. 445.
 BOYD (Mark Alexander), V. 255.
 —(William, Lord), XIX. 760.
 —(ZACHARY), V. 255.
 —(ship), massacre of its crew by the New Zealanders, IV. 267.
 BOYER, a kind of Flemish sloop, V. 256.
 —(Abel), V. 256.
 —(ALEXIS), V. 256.
 —(General), President of Hayti, XI. 257.
 —(JEAN BAPTISTE), V. 256.
 BOYLE (Charles), earl of Orrery, V. 256—his controversy with Bentley, IV. 668.

BOY—BRA

- BOYLE (John), earl of Cork and Orrery, V. 256.
 —(RICHARD), earl of Cork, V. 257.
 —(RICHARD), earl of Burlington and Cork, V. 257.
 —(The Hon. ROBERT), V. 257—his contributions to metaphysical science, I. 189, n. 2—his improvements of the air-pump, 597, XVIII. 83—on pneumatics, 53; IV. 453—on electricity, VIII. 523—on heat, XI. 260—on the colours of thin plates, XVI. 599—Boylean law in pneumatics, XVIII. 53, 55, 57; I. 558; XX. 563, 564—his improvements in thermometers, XXI. 221.
 —(ROGER), earl of Orrery, V. 259.
 —Lectures, V. 260.
 —or Abbey Boyle, in Ireland, V. 260.
 BOYNE, Irish river, V. 260; XIV. 375, XVI. 87—battle of the, V. 442; VIII. 179, XII. 480—Boyne bridge, 597.
 BOYSE (John and Samuel), V. 260.
 Boze (Ptof.), his electrical discoveries and improvements, VIII. 528, 527.
 BOZRAH, V. 261.
 BRA, Sardinian town, V. 261.
 Braan, river, falls of, VIII. 260.
 BRABANCIONES, V. 261.
 BRABANT, V. 261; XI. 582, 587; IV. 612, 613, 614.
 Brabazon (Mr), on Irish fisheries, IX. 631, 633.
 BRABEUTES, V. 261; II. 242.
 Braby's fire-escape, XIII. 438.
 Bracciano, lake, XVII. 242.
 Braccioli (Anthony), his Italian Bible, IV. 701.
 BRACCIOLINI (Francesco), poet, V. 261.
 —(Poggio), V. 261—his Ana, II. 737—MS. of Quintilian discovered by, XVIII. 788.
 BRACE and BRACES, V. 262.
 —(Mr), on Norway, XVI. 330, 331, 332.
 Bracergirdle (Mrs), actress, XXI. 174.
 BRACELET, V. 262.
 Brache (Mr), his estimate of the extent of auriferous land in Victoria, XV. 232.
 Brachyura, family of insects, IX. 102.
 Brachinus, genus of insects, IX. 79.
 BRACHIOPODA, class of mollusca, V. 262, XV. 338, 322—fossil, XVII. 108—extinct genera of, 115.
 Brachium, genus of zoophytes, XXI. 982.
 Brachlesham, eocene beds, XV. 212, 213.
 BRACHMINS, V. 262. See Brahmins.
 Brachon, genus of insects, IX. 188.
 Brachycerus, genus of insects, IX. 188.
 BRACHYGATHUS, genus of fossil fishes, V. 262, XII. 355.
 BRACHYGRAPHY, V. 262. See Stenography.
 Brachyopa, genus of insects, IX. 240.
 Brachyptera, family of birds, XVI. 809.
 Brachypus, genus of insects, IX. 140.
 Brachysomphus, genus of fishes, XII. 232.
 Brachystoma, genus of insects, IX. 235.
 Brachyura, tribe of crustacea, VII. 540—fossil, XVII. 100.
 BRACKET and Brackets, V. 262.
 BRACKLEY, in Northamptonshire, V. 262.
 Bracteates, coins, XVI. 386.
 Bractlets, or Bracteoles, in botany, V. 113.
 BRACON (Henry), V. 262.
 Bracts, in botany, V. 112.
 Bracy-Clark, his work on Bots, IX. 11; XXI. 569—his account of these insects, IX. 247.
 Bradano, river, XX. 238.
 Bradbury (Henry), his nature-printing process, XVIII. 555.
 —Rings, VIII. 112.
 Braddock (General), XXI. 745.
 BRADFORD, in Yorkshire, V. 263; XXI. 958, 959—woollen and worsted manufactures of, XIV. 287; XIII. 212, XXI. 918—wages at, 920.
 —(GREAT), in Wiltshire, V. 263.
 —(JOHN), V. 263.
 BRADING, in Isle of Wight, V. 263—XXI. 862.
 BRADLEY (Dr James), V. 263; III. 804—

BRA—BRA

- his discovery of the aberration of light, I. 685, II. 36; III. 604; of the nutation of the terrestrial axis, 805—on refraction, IV. 9—his micrometer, XIV. 758—his catalogue of stars, IV. 80—on the proper motion of the stars, I. 845—reduction of his observations by Bessel, 848, 849—on the action of the wind on vessels under sail, XX. 6.
- BRADNINCH, in Devonshire, V. 264
- BRADS, kind of nails, V. 264, 750.
- BRADSHAW (Henry), V. 264.
- (JOHN), V. 264
- (WILLIAM), V. 264
- BRADWARDIN (Thomas), archbishop of Canterbury, V. 264; I. 325, n. 5—his ethical doctrines, 325.
- BRADY (ROBERT), V. 264.
- (NICHOLAS, D.D.), V. 265
- Bradydys, genus of mammalia, XIV. 190—dental system of, XVI. 441
- BRADMAR, in Aberdeenshire, V. 265; II. 32—its excellent fir timber, XII. 617
- BRAG, game at cards, V. 265
- BRAGA, in Portugal, V. 265.
- BRAGANÇA, in Portugal, V. 265.
- Braganza, Duke of, XVIII. 386—dynasty in Portugal, 392
- BRAGH (Tycho), V. 265; III. 798; VII. 348, 349, n.—his merits and discoveries as an astronomer, I. 601 *et seq.*—his belief in astrology, 604—his discovery of the inequality of the moon's latitude, IV. 34—on the formation of a new star, I. 842—astronomy of comets originated with, VII. 187—his planetary system, IV. 54—his catalogue of stars, 80—on the longitude, XIII. 686.
- BRAGHLOW, in Wallachia, V. 266.
- Brahm (N J.), his entomological works, IX. 8.
- XI. 468; V. 266, XV. 761
- BRAHMA, supreme god of the Indians, V. 266; XI. 467; XV. 761; XVII. 230.
- BRAHMAPOOTRA, river in India, V. 266, IV. 648, X. 401; XVII. 606—its source, III. 762, XI. 440, n. 2.
- Brahmegupta, algebraist, II. 487.
- BRAHMINS, V. 266; VI. 317, XI. 468-9, 471; XVII. 19—produced by Brahma, XV. 761—Playfair on their astronomy, XVIII. 4—suicide favoured by the, XX. 799
- Brahmoes, IV. 641, 699.
- BRACHIOCK MOUNTAINS, V. 272, IV. 640.
- Braid (Dr), on animal magnetism, XX. 432, 433, 434.
- BRADING-MACHINE, V. 272.
- BRAZIL, V. 272
- BRAIN, V. 272; (HUMAN) II. 818; XVII. 668, 669—description of, by Galen, II. 753; and by Vesalius and Varoli, 759, 760—Willis on the anatomy of, 762—anatomical researches on, 787—Sommering on, 789—recent authors on, 770—structure of, 813—grey and white matter of, XVII. 669, 670, 681—weight of, III. 3, 51—its anatomy, 51—convulsions, 52—ventricles, 53—blood-vessels, 56—membranes, 56—its connection with the nutritive organs, 58—its functions, 172; XIV. 528; XVII. 556 *et seq.*, 673—effect of unoxxygenated blood on, VIII. 181—mental disorders the result of diseases in, XIV. 528—connection of the mind with, XVII. 556 *et seq.*, 673—Gall's opinions concerning, X. 383, 384; XVII. 558, 559 *et seq.*—its laws of action as the organ of mind, 560—connection between its size and mental energy, 56—diseases of, 699, 700—congestion in, 701—toxic-derangements of, 702—circulation in, and effects of pressure on, 698—Leuwenhoeck's observations on, XIII. 349—insanity a disease of the, XIV. 526—idiotcy dependent on some congenital disease of, 538—cerebral lobes, &c., XVII. 672—Spurzheim's illustrations of its structure and functions, XX. 519. See Cerebellum, Pneurology.
- (IN THE LOWER ANIMALS), anatomy of, III. 108—its size in proportion to

BRA—BRA

- the body in different animals, 104, 176—supposed relation of intellectuality to the extent of its surface, 176—dispersed over the body in invertebrate animals, 16—the greater its relative size, the greater in general its sensibility, 178—its small size in the horse, 16—of quadrupeds, II. 773—of fishes, XII. 219—of the crustacea, VII. 538—of insects, IX. 49—of the dolphin, XIV. 223, 239—of the whale, 239—its representative in the mollusca, XV. 820—reptiles, XIX. 14—serpents, 48—its diseases in the domestic animals, XXI. 574—water in, 575
- BRAINERD (David), V. 272.
- BRAINTREE, town in Essex, V. 272
- BRAIT, a diamond in its rough state, V. 272
- Blake, in mechanics, XIV. 413—on railway carriages, XVIII. 795.
- BRANEL (Jan de), Dutch officer, V. 272
- BRANKEBERG (Renier), Dutch painter, V. 272
- Brakes, kind of harrow, II. 272.
- BRAMA, the beam, V. 272; XII. 302. See Bream
- BRAMAH (Joseph), V. 272—his filter, IX. 581—his lock, XIII. 538.
- BRAMAH'S HYDROSTATIC PRESS, V. 274; II. 102, XII. 75, 178—used in calendaring, VI. 91.
- BRAMANTE (Donato Lazzari), V. 274—his character as an architect, III. 452—his designs, 16
- BRAMANTINO, name of several Milanese artists, V. 275.
- BRAMBANAN, in Java, V. 275
- Brambling, his work on insects, IX. 17.
- Brambling, bird, XVI. 761.
- BRAMLALL (John), D.D., archbishop of Armagh, V. 275
- BRAMMINS. See Brahmins.
- BRAMPTON, V. 275.
- BRAN, V. 275; IV. 379, as manure, II. 406
- BRANAS, VII. 317.
- Branca, his steam apparatus, XX. 574
- BRANCEPETH CASTLE, XIII. 267
- Branchellion, genus of annelides, XI. 307.
- Branches of plants, V. 78, 89—subterranean, 79
- Branchus, of the crustacea, VII. 539—of the annelides, XI. 293—molluscs, XV. 323, 326, 334 *et seq.*
- BRANCHIDÆ, priests, V. 275.
- Branchiella, genus of zoophytes, XXI. 982.
- Branchiobdella, genus of annelides, XI. 307.
- Branchiopoda, crustacea, VII. 543
- Branchipus stagnalis, VII. 543.
- BRAND-SUNDAY, V. 275.
- Brande (Prof), on the electricity developed in flame, VIII. 567—on the alcohol in porter, V. 332—his recipe for making ink, XII. 383—his table of the alcoholic contents of wine, XXI. 889.
- BRANDENBURG, in Prussia, V. 275—history of, XVIII. 646—agriculture, 665, 668—war with Sweden, XX. 851, 852.
- Brandes (M.), his galvanic experiments, XXI. 626.
- BRANDEUM, V. 276.
- BRANDING, V. 276—herrings, IX. 640, 641
- Brandite, mineral, XV. 79.
- Branding-worm, as a bait, III. 155.
- BRANDON, town in Suffolk, V. 276.
- BRANDREITH, V. 276
- Brandsten (P. W.), his work on insects, IX. 17.
- BRANDT, an alchemist, V. 276.
- (GERARD), V. 276.
- (SEBASTIAN), V. 276; IV. 488 n. 1.
- (COUNT), VII. 742.
- BRANDY, V. 276; VIII. 51; IX. 760—reduction of the duty on, XXI. 74—French, X. 247, 258—produce in Portugal, XVIII. 398—specific gravity of, XII. 89—imports of, into the United Kingdom, VIII. 735—mixture of with wines, XXI. 883, 888—wines converted into, 884.
- Brandywine, river, VII. 703.
- battle of, XXI. 751.
- BRANKE, V. 276.

BRA—BRE

- Branson (Dr Ferguson), on nature-printing, XVIII. 555
- BRANTOME (Pierre de Bourdailles), lord abbot of, V. 276—on chivalry, VI. 626, 626—on duels, 626—on the character of L'Hôpital, XI. 625
- Brasenose College, Oxford, XXI. 459.
- BRASIDAS, V. 276, IV. 206
- BRASS, V. 276, VI. 497, VII. 350—annealing of, III. 219—loss of tenacity in brass wire by exposure to the fumes of acids or damp air, 16—soldering with, V. 299—guns of, VI. 180; XI. 133 *et seq.*, 148, XVI. 93—specific gravity of, XII. 88—magnetism of, XIV. 26, VI. 345—Corinthian, V. 278; VII. 368—brass colour, V. 278—leaf, 278—used in coinage, XVI. 353—brass goods manufactured at Birmingham, IV. 731
- Brasseur (de Boubourg, abbe), on the antiquities of Central America, XI. 77
- Brassicaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 182—species used as food, IX. 780
- Brassolia, genus of insects, IX. 208.
- BRÄUER (Adrian), Dutch painter, V. 278
- Braula, genus of insects, IX. 259.
- BRAULS, or turbans, V. 278
- Braunite, mineral, XV. 111
- BRÄUNSBURG, in Prussia, V. 278
- BRÆURONIA, ancient Greek festival, V. 278.
- Brava, island, XXI. 645
- Bravus (M), on halos, XVI. 688, 689
- BRAWN, V. 278
- Brawny, barony in Westmeath, XXI. 839
- Braxy, a disease in sheep, II. 350; XXI. 566
- BRAY (Sir Reginald), V. 278
- (Dr THOMAS), V. 278
- (Gabriel), his life-boat, XIII. 445
- in Berkshire, V. 278
- in Ireland, V. 278
- (Cough), in Wicklow, XXI. 853.
- BRAZEN SEA, V. 278.
- BRAZIER, V. 279.
- BRAZIL, V. 279; II. 708, 668—history of, V. 279—physical geography, 291—statistics, 294—mountains of, II. 670, XVII. 595; their height, 645—revolutionary movements in, II. 708—climate of, 673, 703—aboriginal population, 691—tradition of the deluge in, VII. 719—British consuls in, 337—diamonds of, VIII. 1, 2, 4—trade with France, X. 260—empire of, XV. 412—Jesuits in, XII. 755—languages of, XIII. 224—pampas of, XVII. 608—bone caves in, 639—King John's policy towards, XVIII. 383—metallic produce of, XV. 248, XVIII. 461—postal system, 424—sugars of, XX. 795, 796—cultivation of tea in, XXI. 81—weights and measures of, 810—map of, II. Plate.
- BRAZIL-NUT, V. 299, 192; IV. 678; XVI. 395
- wood, V. 299, 294, 190—as a dye-stuff, VIII. 287—specific gravity of, XII. 89
- Brazilian branch of American aborigines, II. 677.
- Brasilia-Guarani, South American tribes, IX. 349.
- BRAZING, V. 299
- BRAZOS DE DIOS, river in Texas, V. 300.
- BRAZZA, island, V. 300.
- BREACH, V. 300.
- BREAD, V. 300—sacramental, 16—assize of, 16; IV. 284—baking of, 378—leavened and unleavened, 378, 379, 381—use of alum in, 381—test of, 16—bread-making, IX. 766—adulteration of, II. 154, IX. 770.
- BREAD-FRUIT, V. 300, 189, 206
- order of plants, V. 206.
- Breadalbane, district of Perthshire, XVII. 464.
- BREAKEYS, V. 301.
- Breaking of bodies across, XX. 760.
- Breaking-down of horses, XXI. 580.
- BREAKWATER, V. 301; VII. 323—Cherbourg, 302; VI. 527; XI. 219—at Plymouth, V. 306; XVIII. 17—Delaware, VII. 708—profile of, for harbours of

BRE—BRE

- refuge, XI. 218—floating breakwaters, 223—mode of laying the foundations, XX. 722.
- BREAM, fish, V. 310, XII. 256—angling for, III. 160—as food, IX. 764
- BREAMING, V. 310.
- BREAST, V. 310; III. 72—hooks, in ship-building, V. 311—plate, 16—plough, 16; II. 274—wheel, V. 311; XII. 165; I. 890.
- bone, human, III. 9—in mammalia, 76—in birds, 85
- Breathing. See Respiration
- Brebers. See Berbers.
- BRECCIA, V. 311; XV. 141—ossiferous, 16, XVII. 639.
- BRECHIN, in Forfarshire, V. 311; IX. 783
- Breckhuach, disease in sheep, XXI. 668
- BRECON, or Brecknockshire, in Wales, V. 311, VIII. 754.
- town, V. 312.
- Bred, Pictish king, XIX. 743
- BREDA, in Holland, V. 313—treaty of, 425; XI. 577.
- (JAN VAN), Dutch painter, V. 313.
- BREDOW (Gabriel Gottfried), V. 313.
- BREECHES, V. 313
- BREECHING, or breechband, V. 313.
- of gun-barrels, XI. 97
- Breeding of live-stock—of horses, II. 338; XI. 635, 646—of bulls, II. 341—of cattle, 943—breeding in-and-in, XI. 635
- Breen (H), on the orbit of the planet Mars, IV. 90
- BRENNBERG (Bartholomew), V. 313.
- BREEZE, V. 313.
- Breeze-fly, IX. 245.
- BREGENTZ, in the Tyrol, V. 313
- Bregmaeros, genus of fishes, XII. 308, 309.
- Breguet's "topsy-key" for watches, VII. 35—his pyrometer, XVIII. 704
- BREHAN, one of the Scilly Isles, V. 313.
- Brehon law, XIX. 750
- BREHONS, ancient Irish judges, V. 313.
- BREISGAU, in Baden, V. 313.
- BREISLAK (Scipione), geologist, V. 313—his views as to the geological nature of the site of Rome corrected by Brocchi, 673.
- BREISLAKITE, mineral, V. 314; XV. 81.
- Breithaupt, mineral, XV. 116
- Breme (F. de), his entomological works, IX. 22.
- BREMEN, V. 314—coins of, XV. 443—weights and measures, XXI. 810
- steam-vessel, XX. 164—description of, 666
- Bremer (Fredence), her novels, XIX. 293, 702.
- (Otto), his work on Chinese insects, IX. 24.
- Bremner's pontoons, XI. 221—method of, forming a life-boat, XIII. 439.
- BRENNAGE, V. 314.
- Brenner (Fra), Swedish poetess, XIX. 697.
- BRENNUS, V. 314.
- BRENTFORD, in Middlesex, V. 314.
- Brentides, tribe of insects, IX. 138.
- Brentus, genus of insects, IX. 138.
- BREWERWOOD (Edward), V. 315.
- BRESCIA, in Lombardy, V. 315—wines of, XXI. 866.
- BRESLAU, V. 315, XX. 275—swarm of ants at, III. 265—bills of mortality, XV. 601—peace of, XVIII. 652—university of, 673; XXI. 492.
- Bresson (Mons.), suicide of, X. 230.
- BREST, V. 315—population, X. 277—mode of preserving timber at, VIII. 77, 211.
- BREX, local name of the turbot, V. 315.
- (M.), on a mistake of Euler in equations, IX. 306.
- BRETAGNE, or Brittany, in France, V. 316; X. 277.
- BRETHREN (the Plymouth), V. 316—of the Christian Schools, 16—and Clerks of the Common Life, 16—and Sisters of the Free Spirit, 16—of the Holy Trinity, 317—of the Observation, 16—Marian, 16; IV. 812—white, V. 317.
- BRETON (Cape), V. 317; VI. 205; XVI. 343, 345.

BRI—BRI

France and Austria, IV. 313—her interest in the balance of power, 392—possession in America, II 707—barracks, IV. 470—trade with Buenos Ayres, V 726; and with Chile, 551—war with China, 596—date of the revolution of 1688, 667—literary chronology of, 707—coinage, VII. 69; has not attained the highest degree of excellence, ib.—coal-trade, 44—annual production of coal and extent of coal area in, 126, 127—penal colonies, 139—passion for increasing the navy to excess, 145—colonies, 147—combination among workmen in, 161—commerce, 189; its advantageous situation for, XIV 277—navigation laws, VII. 145, 189—commercial treaty with France in 1786, 190—exports to North America, India, and West Indies, ib—military commissions in, 201 *et seq.*—communist opinions in, 214, 216—books published in, 356—law of copyright, 355—corn-laws and corn-trade, 374—quantity of corn produced and consumed in, 395—American war, 409—cottage system in, 433—cotton-manufacture, 440, 449; effects of, on the condition of the country, 454—cutlery, 600—dairy management, 621—deaf and dumb in, 686, their proportion to the population, 687—Druids, VIII. 183—expeditions to Egypt in 1798 and 1807, 489, 492—emigration from, 651, 652—mountains of, IX. 383—fairs, 468—fisheries, 559—threatened invasions by the French, X. 108, 121; Napoleon's plan of invasion, 136—rupture with France in 1793, 76—French trade with, 259, 261—constitutional government of, 736—funding system, 328; see Debt, National—rise of British power in India, XI 481 *et seq.*, causes of success there, 510; internal policy, ib *et seq.*—hounds, 762—hunting, XII. 33 *et seq.*—country gentlemen, 33—insurance companies in, 406—iron manufacture and trade, 544 *et seq.*, 577—iron-bridges, 575 *et seq.*—irrigation in, 618—British libraries, XIII. 389—origin and development of a medical profession and literature in, XIV. 460, state of, in Britain, 463, 464; future prospects, 466—commencement of medical jurisprudence in, 424—mines, XV. 219 *et seq.*—gold in, 223—its mineral wealth and produce, 247, 248—trade with India, XI. 460, 461, 462—British precedences in, 463—monarchy, XV. 412—education, 823; hints for its improvement, 826—religious missions, 270 *et seq.*—money, 438, 441, 443—enumerations of population, 610—crown of, XI. 335—newspapers of, XVI. 180—present state of the newspaper press in, 191, 192—nobility of, 281—ancient coinage 361—school of painting, XVII. 77, 83 *et seq.*—parliament of, 292—difference in the mean annual rain on the west and east coasts of, 614—imports from Jamaica, XII. 679—trade with Peru, XVII. 473—system of mountains in, 595—planting, 754—increase of population, XVIII. 342—post-office, 402, 403, 406, 407, 424, organization of, 415—precedence of rank in, 451—alliance with Prussia in 1756, 652—railways, 752 *et seq.*; statistics of, 784, 785, 786, 787 *et seq.*—Cæsar's invasion of, XIX. 324—the Romans in, 336, 340, 346, 351—alliances with Russia, 488, 489, 492—war with Russia, 493—savings-banks in, 656; suggestions for their improvement, 670—manufacture of soap, XX. 367—sannabulism, 430—naval superiority, 116—shooting, 209—particularly the land of sportsmen, 211—war with Spain in 1796, 471; and in 1804, 472—trade with Sweden, 663—imports of tea into, XXI. 81—duty, price, and consumption of tea, 92—imports deliveries, and exports in and from, ib—establishment of French weavers in, 780—trade with Turkey, 385—war

BRI—BRO

with Russia, 375; with the United States, 434, 440—trade schools and museums, 323—consumption of wine in, 881; duties on wine, 890—supply of wool, 906—woollen manufactures, 916, 917—trigonometrical survey, 330—*weaving*, 780 *et seq* See Chronological Table, VI 681 *et seq*; also England, Scotland.

BRITAIN (New), V. 672; IV. 264; XVI 162.

— Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, III 759

Britannia Bridge over the Menai Straits, XII 179, 589, 607, 608, I 877

Britannica, plant esteemed by the Druids, VIII 188

BRITANNICUS, son of the Emperor Claudian, V 672; XIX 337.

BRITISH GUM, V 672; XI 94.

— MUSEUM, V. 672; XIII 674—Dr Burch's bequests to the, IV 726—library of the, XIII 389—aeololiths in, XIV 632, 635—coins and medals in, XVI 351, n. 3—Pelres's MSS in, XVII 367—Egyptian antiquities in, XIX 849 and n.

— and Foreign Bible Society, IV 703.

BRITANY, V. 672; X. 277 See Bretagne.

Brittinger (C.), his entomological work, IX 23.

Brittleworts, plants, V 218, 147.

Britton (Mr), his proposal to term Gothic architecture "Christian," III 447—on pointed architecture, 457, 481, 482.

BRIVES-LA-GAILLIARDE, V 672

BRIXEN, on the Tyrol, V 672

BRIXHAM, in Devonshire, V 672; XXI 312

BROACH, in Hindustan, V 672.

— an awl or bodkin, V 673—an ornament for fastening a plaid, 673.

Broad, various meanings of the word, VIII 11.

Broadcast sowing, II 274—of wheat, 308.

BROAD-PIDGE, V. 673—broad-side, ib.

Broadshare-ploughs, II 271

BROADSTAIRS, in Kent, V. 673

BROCADE, V. 673.

BROCCHI (Giovanni Battista), V. 673.

BROCCOLI, V. 673—culture of, XI 738.

Broch (J. K.), his work relating to insects, IX 15.

Brochantite, mineral, XV, 104.

BROCK, badger, V. 673. See Badger

— (Sir Isaac), VI 189.

BROCKEN, mountain in Prussia, V. 673—giant or spectre of the, III 315.

BROCKLESBY (Richard), physician, V. 673; XXI 962, 963.

BRODEAU (John), V. 674.

BRODEBA, or Baroda, in Hindustan, V. 674.

Broderip (W. J.), on the mollusca, XV. 327—on the Phascolotherium, XVII 158.

BRODICK BAY, in Arran, V. 674; III 675.

— Castle, III 675; VI 27.

Brodie (George), on the Scottish covenanting clergy, IV 371, n. 372—his edition of Stair's Institutions, VII 630.

— (Sir Benjamin), on the effect of the physical condition on memory, XV 287.

— (P. D.), his work on fossil insects, IX 22, XVII 108

BRODY, town in Galicia, V. 674.

Brogia (Antonio), his work on silkworms, IX 22.

Brogie (M. de), X. 210, 211.

Brogliart (M.), his classification of reptiles, XIX 18.

BROGUE, V. 674.

Broiling of meat, IX 786.

BROKE (Sir Robert), V. 674.

Broken-knee, in animals, XXI 559.

Broken-wind, in animals, XXI 571.

BROKER, V. 674.

BROMBERG, V. 675.

BROME (Alexander and Richard), V. 675.

BROMELIA, V. 675. See Pine Apple.

Bromeliaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 212.

BRO—BRO

Bromides—of mercury, VI 498—silver, ib See Chemistry.

BROMINE, V. 675, VI 469; XV. 64—as a test for gds, X. 423—its poisonous quality, XIV 435.

Bromite, mineral, XV 107.

BROMLEY, town in Kent, V. 675

Bromo, volcanic mountain in Java, XV. 191

BROMSGROVE, in Worcestershire, V 675.

BROMYARD, in Herefordshire, V. 675

Bronchial tubes, III 66

BRONCHITIS, V. 675—in the domestic animals, XXI 572.

Bronechoele, XX 815

Bronchotomy, XXI 572 See Tracheotomy.

BRONSTEDT (Peter Oluf), V. 675.

BRONGNIART (Alexandre), V 676—on fossil plants, 232, 233, 234—director of the Sevres porcelain factory, XVIII 438—his pyrometer, 705, 444

Brongmartin, mineral, XV 96.

BRONTE, in Sicily, V 676

BRONTION, V 676.

Brontes, genus of fishes, XII 262, 260.

BRONTOLOGY, V. 676

BROnze, V. 676; VI 497; VII 351; XIX 843—cannon, VI 181, III 703; V. 40—casting, 676

— antiquities of, III 419; VII 420.

— period of Aichæology, III 419

Bronzing, V 677

BROZINO (Angiolo), V. 678.

Bronzite, mineral, XV 82

BROOKBANK (Joseph), V. 678

BROOKE (Frances), V. 678.

— (HENRY), V 678

— (Capt), on aurora borealis in Norway, IV 249.

— (Mr), on expansion by electricity, VIII 589—on the Leyden jar, 613

— (Lieut.), his mode of sounding, XVII 576; XX 26.

— (Mr), his photographic register, XIV 666

— (Sir James), V. 48, 49, 50

— (Sir Arthur de Capel), on Lapland, XIII 235 *et seq*.

BROOKE's steel-yard electrometer, VIII 619

BROOKES (Bartholomæus Heinrich), V. 678

— (JOSHUA), V. 678

Brookite, mineral, XV 110.

BROOKLYN, V. 678; XIII 683; XVI 223

BROOM, V. 678—Dyers', VIII 297

— (Loch), XIX 794—fishery of, 427; IX 640, 642

BROOM-FLOWER, order of knights of, V 678.

Broom-rape order of plants, V 202.

BROOME (William), English poet, V. 678—his share in Pope's version of the Odyssey, XVIII 330

BROOMING of a ship, V. 679. See Breaming.

Brora, in Sutherlandshire, coal-field of, V 236; XX 841

Brosicus, genus of insects, IX 91.

BROSE, V. 679.

BROSELEY, V. 679.

Brosius, genus of fishes, XII 270

BROSSARD (Sebastien de), V. 679.

BROSSES (Charles de), V. 679—on the division of the lands and islands of the Austral world, IV 251.

Brosset (M.), on the language of Georgia, X. 569

BROTHER, V. 679—foster-brothers, ib.—brother-german, X. 570—Brothers of the Rosy Cross, V. 680—duites of brothers and sisters, XV 569.

Brotherhood, opposed to Cursing and Swearing, order of, XIII 121.

Brotherhood (Holy), XX 465.

Brotherton tubular bridge over the Aire, XII 609.

BROTTER (Gabriel), V. 680.

Brotila, genus of fishes, XII 270.

Brouand (T.), his entomological work, IX 17.

BROWNE, in Westmoreland, V. 680; XXI 848.

— Hill, fair at, XXI 842.

BRO—BRO

Brougham (Lord), on the balance of power, IV. 388, n. 389, 390—on the droits of the Admiralty, V. 630—his education bill in 1820, 630—his motion on the influence of the Crown, 635—his resolution for the removal of taxes, 636—attack on Canning, 639—on the inequality of the Irish law, ib—his defeat in Westmoreland, 647—his motion for law reform, 652—on the law of divorce, VIII 71, n. 1, 72, n. 1—on the law of copyright as regards foreigners, VII 361—his alterations in the law of bankruptcy, IV. 417—on Dr Black as a lecturer, I. 927—his investigations on light, 893, XVI 544—on instinct, XII 391—on the Eail of Chatham, XVII 724—on Dr Robertson, XIX 229, 231 n. 3—on Lord Stowell, 826—on Sheridan's political life, XX. 109—his act against the slave trade, 323—motion for the abolition of slavery, 253; of slave apprenticeship, 326—on Adam Smith's appointment to the Excise, 342, n. 5—on natural religion, XXI 181—on Wilberforce, 865, Washington, 765,

— Hall, XXI 844

BROUGHTON (Hugh), V. 680

— (Lord), on Rome, XIX 362, n. 1, 365, 366, 367.

— (THOMAS), V 680

BROUKHURST (Jan), V. 680.

Broun (Mr), on the moon's influence on the magnetic needle, XIV 19.

BROUCKER (William, Lord), V. 680—on the quadrature of the circle, XX 523

BROUSSA, or Brussa, in Anatolia, V 680

BROUSSAIS (François Joseph Victor), V 681.

BROUSSONET (Pierre Marie Auguste), naturalist, V. 681

Brown (Capt), on iron cables and rigging, XX 23.

— (Charles B.), his novels, XIX 278

— (JOHN, D D.), English divine, V 681.

— (JOHN, D D.), author of the Self-interpreting Bible, V. 682.

— (JOHN), founder of the Brunonian theory of physic, V 682

— (J B.), his account of Montreal, VI 133.

— (Mr), engraver, VIII 808

— (ROBERT), founder of the sect of Brownists, V. 682, 688, XII 368

— (Robert), on active molecules, III 205, 206, n. 1—on the areola or nucleus of a cell in plants, II 738—on the plants of Australia, IV 261.

— (R.), of Manchester, his method of ventilating by means of gas, X. 427

— (Dr Samuel), his alleged conversion of carbon into silicon, VI 447—on the character of D. Scott, painter, XIX 812.

— (Sir Samuel), his chain bridge across the Tweed, I. 875, n. 3—chambers at Brighton and Newhaven constructed by, V. 367; XI 223.

— (Stephen), lord-mayor of London, XIII 114.

— (Dr THOMAS), metaphysician, V. 683—his observations on Darwin's Zoonomia, I. 410—his tract on Causation, ib—assisted in establishing the Academy of Physics in Edinburgh, 411—on the benevolent affections, 207—Welsh's Life of, 410, n. 2—his studies and character, 411—style, 412—his propensity to quote poetry, ib; particularly that of Akenside, II 434—his poetical character, I. 413—his philosophy, ib *et seq*—on aliteration, II 593—on second sight, III 818—on apparitions, ib—on rectitude and virtue, XV. 538—on Dr Adam Smith's theory of rectitude, 546—his theory of moral distinctions, ib—his refutation of an argument on rectitude erroneously ascribed to Cudworth, 549—on selfish actions, 553—on metaphysics, XIV. 565, n. 5, 567, 569—on Adam Smith's theory of moral sentiments, XX. 389, and n. 2.

— (THOMAS), poet, V. 683.

BRO—BRU

Brown (Thomas), his improvements in capstans, V. 225.

— (ULYSSES MAXIMILIAN), general, V. 684

— (Dr William), on Hindu converts to Christianity, XV. 273

— (WILLIAM), English poet, V 685

— (WILLIAM LAURENCE, D D.), V. 685.

— dyeing of, VIII. 307, 320—varieties of, XV 59—people of that colour, VII 222

— spar, XV 93

BROWNE (Edward), V 686

— (ISAAC HAWKINS), V 686

— (JAMES), LL D, V 686

— (Sir THOMAS), V. 686—on the camelion, XIX 37, n. 2—on the medical uses of the Echmi, XXI 990—quotation from, 991, n. 2

— (Sir WILLIAM), V 687.

— (WILLIAM GEORGE), V 687—on the sources of the White Nile, XVI 269

— on the guana, XIX. 34.

BROWNIE, V 687; I 464.

BROWNISTS, religious sect, V. 688, 682.

Brownlee (James), on the density of steam, XX. 560—on gaseous steam, 570—his formulas for the work and heat of dry saturated steam, 626.

BROWNIGG (William), V 688

BRUAR, Falls of, V 688; IV 751

Bruce (Alex), advocate, his writings against Wodrow, XXI 807

— (Edward), his invasion of Ireland, XII 470, VII 217.

— (JAMES), V 688—his travels in Abyssinia, II. 55, 57—on the hyenas of Abyssinia, XIV 167, 168—on the Jerboa, 185—on the sources of the Bahr-el-Azrek, XVI 269—his argument for polygamy, XVIII 266—on the balsam of Mecca, IV. 401—on tortoise-shell, XIX. 20—on hards, 27—on the cerastes, 45—on the inundations of the Nile, 181.

— (MICHAEL), poet, V 691.

— (King ROBERT), V. 691, XIX 755; VIII. 239, 258—Barboun's poem on, IV. 434

— (Robert), on the tea-plant in Assam, III 763, XXI 81.

Bruchela, tribe of insects, IX 137

Brucher (Antoine), inventor of the counting-press, VII 71

BRUCHSAL, in Baden, V. 691.

Bruchus, genus of insects, IX 138

Brucia, poison, XIV 438

Bructe, mineral, XV. 80, 89.

BRUCK, in Austria, V. 691

BRUCKENAU, in Bavaria, V 691

BRUCKER (James), V. 691—estimate of his talents, I 283.

Brückmann on birds, XVI 728.

Brue, river, XX. 410.

Brucey, French admiral, V. 564; XVI 135.

BRUGES, Belgian city, V. 693—commerce of, VII 187—early newspaper of, XVI. 202—the seat of the chief factory of the Hanseatic League, XI 215

Brugmans, diamagnetism obscurely anticipated by, I 981.

Brugsch (Dr Heinrich), on demotic characters, XI 371 n. 7, 377 n. 3, 430—his Grammaire Démotique, 409, 431—funereal papyrus published by, XVII. 264.

Bruguère, reference to his arrangement of animalcules, III 193.

BRUN, or Bruyn (John de), V 694.

Bruse, surgical treatment of, XX 830

Brullé (A.), his works on insects, IX 17.

BRULLIOR (Franz), V. 694.

BRUMOR (Pierre), V. 694.

BRUN (Charles le), painter, V. 695; XVII 76, XXI 20.

— (Pigaultle), character of his novels, XIX 298.

— or BRUNN (Malte-Conrad), modern geographer, V 695; XIX. 698—on the birds of Brazil, V. 294—on the climate of Asia, III 737—on the languages of Lapland, XIII 244.

— (Johan Nordal), Danish author, XIX 693.

BRU—BRU

- Brunanburgh, battle of, VIII. 688
 BRUNCK (Richard François Philippe), V. 695.
 BRUNDISUM, V. 695, 367.
 Bruneau, X. 4, 5, 6
 BRUNEL (Sir Marc Isambart), V. 685—biographical sketch of, I. 878—his block-machinery, 879, IV. 733 *et seq.*—impulse given by his ingenuity to mechanics, I. 879—construction of the Thames Tunnel by, *ib.*—variety of his works, 880—a diving adventure of, VIII. 56—his saw-mill at Chatham, 81.
 —(L. K.), iron bridges constructed by, XII. 601—his assistance in forming the Thames Tunnel, V. 696—his introduction of the broad gauge on the Great Western Railway, XVIII. 753, I. 885, *n.*
 BRUNELLESCHI (Filippo), V. 696, III. 450—his architectural designs, 452.
 Brunet (J. C.), his Bibliographical Manual, IV. 714.
 —Bonaparte satirised by, VIII. 156.
 BRUNI (Leonardo), V. 696
 Bruniacea, nat. order of plants, V. 194.
 BRUNN, in Moravia, V. 696
 Brunne (Robert de), VIII. 795. See Man-nyng.
 Bunner (J. C.), his anatomical discoveries, II. 763
 Bunnich (M. Thomas), his entomological works, IX. 6—his classification of entomologists, *ib.*—his Ornithologia Borealis, XVI. 728.
 Bunning's (M.), his tachometer, XII. 143—experiments in hydraulics, 144, 145
 Bruno, founder of the Carthusian order of monks, V. 697.
 —(Giordano), V. 697—his pantheistic system, XVII. 233
 Brunoniaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 197
 Bruns (Paul James), a deceiver of palimpsests, XVII. 210
 BRUNSWICK, V. 697; X. 589, 591, 593, XII. 210—coins of, XV. 441, 443—postal system, XVIII. 424—weights and measures, XXI. 810.
 —(Frederic-William), Duke of, killed at Quatre Bras, V. 698
 —in Maine, V. 698.
 BRUNTSLAND, V. 698. See Burntisland.
 Brunton's gas retort, X. 412
 —revolving grate, XX. 355
 Bussa, in Turkey, XXI. 380, 381—manufactures of, 383—silk, 384.
 Bussi, V. 698—tail of a fox, *ib.*—brush-wheels, *ib.*
 Brushing, process in woollen manufacture, XXI. 923
 BRUSSELS, V. 698—revolutionary troubles in 1830, IV. 603, 604, XI. 580—at-tempted entrance of the royal troops in 1830, IV. 605—university of, 620; XXI. 492—academies at, IV. 622—lace, XIII. 142, 143—carpets, VI. 271—national congress at, IV. 608—military court at, 614—Jewish synagogue at, 617—royal musical conservatory, 622—library, 623—museum of, 623—libraries, XIII. 422—meteorological observations at, XIV. 687—early newspapers of, XVI. 202.
 Brussels' sprouts, culture of, XI. 737.
 Bruze, V. 700—Buffon on the faculties of brutes, I. 177—insinuates of, XII. 391—language of, XIII. 185—better provided than man with the means of supplying their own wants, I. 452—worship of, in Egypt, VIII. 439; V. 705. See Comparative Anatomy, Animals, Brain of the Lower Animals, and the zoological articles.
 BRYTON, town in Somerset, V. 704.
 BRUTTI, V. 704.
 BRUTUS, or Brute, a fabulous king of Britain, V. 704.
 —(Lucius Junius), V. 704, XIX. 297.
 —(Marcus), V. 704; XIX. 327, 329—apparition seen by him at Philippi, III. 810 and *n.* 3.
 Btitz, Bohemian city, V. 704.

BRU—BUC

- Bruyère (William), his iron bridges, XII. 581–82.
 BRUYÈRE (Jean de la), V. 704—on Rabelais, XVIII. 742—his version of Theophrastus, XXI. 220
 BRUYN (Cornelius), V. 705.
 Bryaceae, sub-order of mosses, V. 217
 BRYAN, or Bryant (Sir Francis), V. 705
 Bryantes, or Bible Christians, XIV. 694.
 BRYANT (Jacob), V. 705—on the deluge, VII. 711–15—on mythology, 711—his hypothesis on the dispersion of mankind, VIII. 45—on the Amazons, II. 650.
 BRYAXIS, Athenian statuary, V. 706.
 —genus of insects, IX. 153
 Brycinus, genus of fishes, XII. 246.
 Brydon of Moodlaw's Cheviot sheep, II. 847.
 Brydone's account of Mount Etna, II. 189, 190—Dr Daubeny's strictures on his opinion as to the antiquity of its lava beds, 192—his account of a destructive cloud, VII. 39
 BRYENTIS (Manuel), V. 706.
 BRYONIA DIOICA, plant, V. 706, 193
 Bryony, black, V. 210
 BRYOPHYLLUM, genus of plants, V. 706, 94, 194.
 Bryozoa, fossil animals, XVII. 97
 Bryson, geometer, X. 498—on the quadrature of the circle, XX. 520.
 Bryson's siphon barometer, IV. 461—his hourly barometric register, *ib.*
 Bryttus, genus of fishes, XII. 277
 BRZESKO, town in Russia, V. 706.
 BRZEZANT, in Galicia, V. 706.
 BUA, island, V. 706.
 BUAT-NANAY (Louis-Gabriel, Count du), V. 706
 —(Chevalier de) See Dubuat.
 BUBASTIS, one of the names of Isis, V. 706; VII. 437, 493
 —Egyptian city, VIII. 498
 Bubble-shell, XV. 373.
 Bubo, genus of birds, XVI. 748.
 BUBONA, V. 707.
 BUBULCUS, V. 707.
 BUC (Sir George), V. 707.
 BUCANER, V. 707, XI. 255—of the Musquito shore, XV. 660
 BUCIARI, in Austria, V. 713
 BUCCELLARI, V. 713.
 BUCINA, ancient kind of trumpet, V. 713.
 BUCINIDA, family of mollusks, XV. 386
 BUCINO, Neapolitan city, V. 713
 Buccinum, genus of mollusks, XV. 386, 389—dye from, VIII. 272; XX. 906, XXI. 407.
 Bueclench (Duke of), his rental, VIII. 237—lands in Dumfriesshire, *ib.*—his policy adverse to manufactures, XI. 247—letting of his farms in Roxburghshire, XIX. 465
 Bucco, genus of birds, XVI. 778.
 Bucellas, wine, XXI. 885—alcohol in, 890.
 BUCENTAURO, V. 713
 BUCERPHALA, V. 713; XIII. 769.
 Bucephalus, genus of serpents, teeth of, XVI. 432
 BUCER, or Martin Kuhorn, V. 713; XIII. 725, 739, 740
 Buceros, genus of birds, XVI. 778.
 BUCH (Leopold Von), V. 713—on the elevation of the coasts of Sweden, XX. 860—on the regions of vegetation in Tenerife, VI. 164—on the geology and botany of Lapland, XIII. 234, 235 *et seq.*
 BUCHAN, district of, V. 714; II. 32
 —(Capt David), his arctic voyage, XVIII. 171
 —(Dr), unusual case of atmospheric reflection described by, XVI. 691.
 —(Mrs), fanatic, IX. 481.
 BUCHANAN (George), V. 714—character of his work De Jure Regni apud Scotos, I. 81—Riddiman and Burman's editions of his works, V. 788; XIX. 461—his Latin version of the Psalms, XII. 803—his scholarship, XVII. 523.
 —(A. C.), on the prospects of emigrants to Canada, VI. 143.

BUC—BUE

- Buchanan (Dr), of Louisville, U.S., on phreno-mesmerism, XX. 440.
 —(Dr F.), on the inhabitants of eastern Asia, III. 748—on the inhabitants of Canara, VI. 162.
 —(President of United States), on banking, XV. 493
 —(W. M.), on the temperature and pressure of steam, XX. 565.
 BUCHAREST, in Wallachia, V. 721; XXI. 683.
 BUCHOLZ (Christoph Friedrich), V. 721.
 Bucholzite, mineral, XV. 86.
 BUCK, V. 721
 BUCKENBURG, German city, V. 721.
 Bucket, safety, XIII. 448
 Bucket-wheels, XII. 167, 183
 Buckhara See Bukhara.
 Buckhounds, master of, XI. 776.
 BUCKIE, village in Banff, V. 721.
 BUCKINGHAM, V. 721
 —(Dukes of). See Villiers and Sheffield.
 —(J. S.), on the ruins of Babylon, IX. 345—on Baghdad, 362, 363—Diarbekir, VIII. 6—Palestine, XVII. 188—his transportation from Calcutta, XVI. 203.
 —Palace, XIII. 668—effect of smoke on the walls of, XX. 712.
 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, V. 721—population and value of property, VIII. 754
 Buckland (Dr), his Bridgewater Treatise, V. 364—on the Deluge, VII. 722—on the value of the produce of British mines, XV. 247—on the dentition of the Megalosaurus, XVI. 434—on the teeth of Iguanodon, 435, 436—on the coprolites of the cave at Kirkdale, 460—on the Plesiosaurus, XVII. 146—on the vegetation of the carboniferous period, 641.
 Bucklandite, mineral, XV. 85
 Buckle (Mr), his enlogum on Smith's Wealth of Nations, XVIII. 223, *n.* 2; XX. 341—on suicide, 800
 BUCKLER, V. 722—votive bucklers, 723.
 Buckwheat, IV. 314, 309
 BUCKRAM, V. 723
 Buckthorn, order of plants, V. 189.
 —XVII. 782
 —sea, V. 205, XVII. 764.
 Buckwald (B. J.), his work on insects, IX. 4.
 BUCKWHEAT, V. 723, 204; II. 302, XVII. 630—its culture in France, X. 246
 —order of plants, V. 204.
 BUCOLIC, V. 723
 BUCOVAR, in Hungary, V. 723
 Bud and Budding. See Buds.
 Buda, in Hungary, V. 723—wines of, XXI. 886.
 BUDÉUS, or Budé (Guillaume), V. 723—character and works of, I. 28, *n.* 7; XVII. 523.
 BUDÉUS (John Francis), V. 723
 BUDHA, or Buddha, Hindoo deity, V. 723, VII. 715, 716; XV. 762—sacred books of, X. 722—his worshippers in Ceylon, VI. 397—in India, XI. 468—in Japan, XII. 695—in Canton, VI. 200—in Tibet, XXI. 247.
 Buddicism, his valve-gearing of locomotives, XX. 555.
 BUDE-LIGHT, V. 725; X. 427
 BUDGELL (Eustace), V. 725
 BUDGET, V. 725; VI. 412.
 Buddisin, in Saxony, IV. 614
 BUDZANS, heretics, V. 725
 Buds, flower-bud, V. 121—leaf-buds, 78
 —propagation by, 187—propagation by budding, XI. 694, 704.
 BUDUN, Ceylonese deity, V. 725.
 Buduschan, IV. 359.
 BUDWEIS, in Bohemia, V. 725.
 Budytes, genus of birds, XVI. 757.
 BUDENARE, island, V. 726.
 BUDENOS-AYRES, V. 726, II. 704—climate of, 673—taken by the British in 1807, V. 602—failure of General Whitlock's attack, *ib.*—British consul at, VII. 387—foundation and history of, XVII. 780—founded by Mendoza in 1535, II. 699—pampas of, 672; III. 129;

BUF—BUK

- XVII. 608—weights and measures, XXI. 810.
 Buff-colour, dyeing of, VIII. 318.
 Buff leather, XIII. 305.
 BUFFALMOCO, Florentine painter, V. 728; XVII. 62.
 BUFFALO, V. 728; XIV. 215, XVII. 632—in Java, XII. 704—Egypt, VIII. 432—Sumatra, XX. 804—fossil, XVII. 170
 —city in the state of New York, V. 728; XVI. 219—harbour of, 214.
 Buffalo-fish, XII. 801.
 BUFFET, V. 728.
 BUFFIER (Claude), V. 729—mistake of, relative to a theory of Descartes, I. 63 and *n.* 4—coincidence between his train of thinking and that of some Scottish metaphysicians, 215—his treatise on First Truths, 357—his style and ethical doctrines, 358—Voltaire's opinion of, 215, *n.* 2—his theory of beauty, IV. 539.
 BUFFON (George Louis le Clerc, Comte de), V. 729—on the faculties of man and brutes, I. 177–78—on the nature of mathematical evidence, 178—on the soul, III. 179—on the original diversity of species, 174—his definition of species, *ib.*—on animalcules, 204—his theory of the formation of bees' combs, IV. 578—his burning mirrors and lenses, VI. 5, 7, 12, 13, XIII. 472—his connection with Daubenton, VII. 562; their characters contrasted, *ib.*—on the horse, XI. 633—on hybrids, XII. 63—his connection with Lacepède, XIII. 148—tables of mortality published by, XV. 633—Sir J. Leslie's translation of his Natural History, XIII. 344—his work on the natural history of animals, XIV. 127—on birds, XVI. 729, 775, 780, 806—on probability, XVII. 622—Smellie's translation of his Natural History, XX. 837—his experiments on the strength of oak bays, 773; observations on, 774; practical rule deduced from, 776—on the age for felling timber, XXI. 270; season and mode of, 273, 274—on the production of entozoa, 975.
 BUFFON, V. 729.
 Bufo, genus of reptiles, XIX. 79.
 Bug, V. 729—harvest-bug, III. 389—bed-bug, IX. 163; mode of destroying, XXI. 549—wood-bugs, IX. 161
 BUGARES, kind of heretics, V. 729.
 Bugeaud (General), governor of Algiers, II. 575.
 BUGIA, in Algeria, V. 730
 Bugia, race of people in Celebes, III. 749; V. 7—their commerce, III. 756.
 BUGLE-HORN, V. 730
 BUHL, V. 730.
 Buhle (C. A. A.), his works on insects, IX. 20.
 —(M.), on Kant's Critique of Pure Reason, I. 190 and *n.* 1—his remarks on Cudworth, 191, *n.* 1—on Kant's argument for free agency, 197, *n.* 1—his History of Modern Philosophy, 283.
 Buhr-stones, rock of the Abbey Craig, near Stirling, a substitute for, VI. 750.
 BUILDERS, V. 730.
 BUILDING, V. 730—transmission of sound by stone, II. 101—deadening of sounds in rooms, 106—calc-tuff as a building stone, VI. 68—Furbeck and Portland stones, VIII. 111—expansion of building materials by heat, XI. 268—strength of different kinds of wood, XX. 170, 171, 172, 757, 779 *et seq.*; and of stone, 717, 718, 758. See Architecture, Carpentry, Joinery, Stone-Masonry, Brick, Timber.
 Buildings for a library, XIII. 377.
 Buildings, lightning conductors for, VIII. 608—warming of, XIX. 613.
 Buildwas iron bridge, V. 363; XII. 576, 578.
 BUILDY, town in Brecknockshire, V. 767, 312.
 Buist (Robert), on parr and smolts, IX. 593, 595, *n.* 1—on the destruction of salmon ova by trout, 617
 BUKHARA, V. 757, 759—climate of, III. 736—commerce of, 755—language, XIII. 914. See Turkistan.
 F

BUK—BUN

- BUKKUR, island and fort of Scinde, V. 760.
 BUL, Hebrew month, V. 760.
 BULAE, V. 760, VI. 61.
 BULAM, or Bulama, V. 760, IV. 735.
 BULARCHUS, V. 760.
 BULB, V. 760, 79—pseudo-bulb, 78
 — of thermometers, XXI. 231.
 Bulboceras, genus of insects, IX. 121.
 Bulbous plants, XII. 749—in South Africa, XVII. 629.
 Bulfinger on the strength of beams, XX. 765.
 BULGARIA, in European Turkey, V. 760—coast and ports of, IV. 742—language of, IX. 391; in Greece, XI. 22.
 Bulgarians, their wars with the Roman emperors, VII. 313.
 Bulimus, genus of mollusks, XV. 375.
 Bulmus, genus of mollusks, XV. 373—B. ovatus, 389.
 BULK, of a ship, V. 760—bulk-heads, ib.; XX. 197.
 BULL, V. 760; XIV. 214—breeding, II. 341—importance of the pedigree, 343—origin of the sign of the Bull and Mouth, III. 323—reckoned sacred by the Hindus, IV. 644.
 — (GEORGE), bishop, V. 761.
 — (JOHN), V. 761.
 — ecclesiastical letter, V. 760—in Cena Domini, 761—Golden, ib.—Silver, ib.—Lead, ib.—Waxen, ib.
 Bull-right, V. 761—in Spain, XX. 494.
 BULL-FROG, V. 762; XIX. 77.
 BULL-HEAD, fish, V. 761; XII. 280.
 Bull-trout, IX. 616; XII. 240—its flesh, IX. 763—its increase in the Tweed, IV. 680.
 BULLA, V. 761—genus of mollusks, XV. 372, 375—B. vexillum, ib.—fossil, XVII. 111.
 Bullae, genus of mollusks, XV. 372.
 Bullet, XI. 104 et seq.
 BULLETIN (William), V. 761.
 BULLFINCH, V. 762; XVI. 761.
 BULLMALDUS (Ismael), astronomer, V. 762—on astronomy, I. 611.
 BULLINGER (Heinrich), V. 762.
 BULLION, V. 762, VII. 77—how supplied to the mint in former times, ib.—value of, in different countries, IX. 430, 431—quantity consumed in the arts, XVIII. 466—annual consumption of, as currency, ib.—additions made to that of Europe since 1851, 474—influence of an increased supply of, on wages and on its own value, 475—Sir Robert Peel chairman of the Bullion Committee, XVII. 362—Ricardo and Bosanquet on, XIX. 153.
 Bulloa, in India, XXI. 284.
 Bulmer, printer, XVIII. 539—his printing ink, 545.
 Bulnes (General), VI. 553.
 Bulrush order of plants, V. 214.
 BULTRI, or Bulistan, V. 762.
 Bulwark of a ship, XI. 160.
 Bulwer (Sir Edward Lytton). See Lytton, (Sir E. B.).
 — (Sir H. L.), Lord Palmerston's instructions to, in reference to Spain, XX. 482.
 BUNAM, Persian town, V. 762.
 BUNPEN, V. 762.
 Bunai bashi, village in Asia Minor, XXI. 357.
 Bundelas, V. 762, 763.
 BUNDELKUND, in Hindustan, V. 762.
 BUNDEER-ABAS, V. 764; X. 709.
 Bundoolah (Maha), V. 764.
 BUNEL (Pierre), V. 764.
 BUNGALOW, V. 764.
 Bungarus, genus of reptiles, XIX. 64.
 BUNGAY, town in Suffolk, V. 764.
 Bunwa (M.), his work on insects, IX. 11.
 BUNCKER-HILL, in Massachusetts, V. 764; VI. 425—battle of, V. 481—monument on, XXI. 796.
 Bunsen (Chevalier), on Egyptian deities, VIII. 436, n. 4—on Clemens Alexandrinus, XI. 276 and n. 2, 4—on Egyptian inscriptions, 380, n. 3—on the Egyptian

BUN—BUR

- language, 412—his criticism on Dr Young, 408—his work entitled Egypt's Place, 431—his kindness to Leopardi, XIII. 338—on Hippolytus and his age, XI. 534—on the Gnostic sect Ophites, X. 688—his intimacy with Mr Hare, XI. 227—on the composition of trachyte and dolerite, XV. 132—on the volcanic rocks of Iceland, 133—his philosophical speculations, XVII. 534—on the importance of ethnological philology, 542.
 Bunsen (Prof.), his photometer, X. 429—his theory of the eruption of the boiling springs of Iceland, XII. 201—his galvanic battery, XXI. 617.
 Bunt, a disease in wheat, V. 171; II. 306.
 Bunter Sandstein, XV. 205.
 BUNTING, bird, V. 764, XVI. 760—stuff used for flags, V. 764.
 BUNTINGFORD, in Hertford, V. 764.
 BUNYAN (John), V. 764—his Pilgrim's Progress an example of well-sustained allegory, II. 588.
 Bunyon (Mr), on life assurance, XII. 411.
 BUONZAI, V. 763.
 Buonarroti. See Michel Angelo.
 BUOY, V. 768—life-buoy, ib., XIII. 439, 440.
 BURALUS, sculptor, V. 768.
 Buphaga, genus of birds, XVI. 762.
 BUPHONIA, ancient festival, V. 768.
 Buprestides, family of insects, IX. 104.
 Buprestis, genus of insects, IX. 105.
 Buquet (Lucien), his contributions to entomology, IX. 21.
 Burret, mineral, XV. 103.
 BURBOT, fish, V. 769, XII. 269; III. 95.
 Burchell on the zebra, XIV. 202.
 BURCKHARDT (John Ludwig), V. 769—his account of Arabia, III. 346 et seq.—his journey through Idumaea, XII. 358—on manna, XIV. 267—Petraea identified by, XVII. 495—on Syria, XX. 901—on comets, IV. 75, 76—on the tides, XXI. 763.
 BURDEN, or Bourdon, in music, V. 769—of a ship, V. 769.
 BURDER (George), V. 769.
 BURDET (Sir Francis), V. 769—his commitment to the Tower, 608—his bill in 1825 for the relief of the Catholics, 642—his motion on that subject in 1828, 652.
 — executed at Tyburn, VIII. 692.
 Burdin (M.), prize offered by, to those who could read while in mesmeric sleep without the use of the eyes, &c., XX. 429, 430—no candidate for, 430.
 Burdon (Rowland), his iron bridge at Sunderland, III. 414.
 BURDWAN, in Hindustan, V. 770; IV. 651—coal of, XI. 457.
 Bure, (G. F. de), his work on bibliography IV. 713.
 — river in Norfolk, XVI. 289, XXI. 953.
 Buren (Martin Van), XXI. 441.
 BUREFORD, in Oxfordshire, V. 770.
 BURG, town in Prussian Saxony, V. 770.
 BURGAGE, a form of tenure, V. 770; XV. 682.
 BURGER (Gottfried Augustus), V. 770, XIX. 718.
 BURGERSDIJK, or Burgersdyk (Francis), V. 771; XV. 539—allusion to, in the Dunciad, ib., n. 2—contents of his Institutions Metaphysicae, XIV. 604, n. 2—on syllogisms, XIII. 611, n.
 BURGESS, V. 772—burgesses in Sweden, XX. 865—burgesses returned to the House of Commons by University of Oxford, XXI. 456—House of, in Virginia, 747, 748.
 — (DANIEL), V. 772.
 — (Right Rev. THOMAS), bishop of Salisbury, V. 772.
 BURGESS, V. 772.
 Burgh, or Dum, VIII. 244.
 — royal, in Scotland, V. 54.
 — police, XVIII. 208.
 — in Suffolk, Roman castle at, XX. 791.

BUR—BUR

- BURGHOTE, V. 772.
 BURGHRECH, V. 772.
 Burghers, XVIII. 499—their reunion with the Antiburghers, 500.
 BURGHMOT, V. 772.
 BURGHMAIR (Hans, or John), V. 772.
 BURGLARY, V. 772.
 Burgo (Lucas de), author of the first printed book on algebra, II. 494; X. 504.
 — (Sir Richard de), on the value of the Irish salmon fisheries, IX. 622.
 BURGMASTER, V. 772.
 Burgon (Mr), on numismatics, XVI. 354 et seq.
 BURGONET, ancient helmet, V. 772.
 BURGOS, in Spain, V. 772—Wellington's attacks on, 612, receives a check at, XXI. 825.
 Burgoyne (General), V. 466, 476—his disaster at Saratoga, 483; XXI. 751—favourable result of enquiry into his conduct in America, 487—his opinion against the continuance of the American war, 497.
 — (Sir John), on blasting rocks, IV. 755.
 BURGUNDIONES, V. 773.
 BURGUNDIUS (Nicholas), V. 773.
 BURGUNDY, V. 773; X. 277—wines of, XXI. 883—canal of, X. 244.
 — House of, Portuguese dynasty, XVIII. 392.
 — (Dukes of), X. 26 et seq.; XI. 561, XX. 884.
 BURHAMPOOR, town in Hindustan, V. 773.
 BURNELL, or Burghill (Robert), V. 773.
 Burn (Cassandra), VIII. 571.
 BURNAL, V. 773—proportion of burials in England to the population, VIII. 755—registration of, XVIII. 831—burying places, VI. 22, XIV. 444, XIX. 619—burying alive, VI. 22—ceremonies connected with, X. 343.
 BURNALS, tribe of Tartars, V. 774.
 BURMAN (Jean), V. 774.
 BURIGNY (Jean Levesque de), V. 774.
 BURNIN, an engraving instrument, V. 774.
 BURKE (Edmund), V. 774—his patronage of Barry, IV. 476, and of Crabbe, VII. 474—his theory of beauty, IV. 538—on the partition of Poland, 392—his plan for introducing public economy, V. 489; XI. 773—speech against the American war, V. 497—attack on Sir Elijah Impey, 514—his proceedings against Warren Hastings, 520—oration of five days against Mr Hastings, 529—on the French Revolution, 535—his treatise against the French Revolution, 537, XIII. 785—Dr Brocklesby's kindness to, V. 674—on the corporation and test acts, 536—on the Canada bill, 537—his quarrel with Mr Fox, ib.—his intimacy with Mr Fox, IX. 851—his corn-act of 1773, VII. 380—on the limits of legislation, XIII. 267—on the expense of elections, VIII. 770—on Law's Mississippi scheme, XIII. 295—his character of Sir Joshua Reynolds, XIX. 102—on Rousseau, 449—his opinion of Dr Thomas Young, XXI. 963 See Pitt, Fox.
 BURKITT (William), V. 778.
 BURLEIGH, V. 778. See Cecil.
 BURLERS, XXI. 914, n. 2, 913. See Burling.
 BURLIQUET, V. 778.
 Burling, in woollen manufacture, XXI. 922.
 BURLINGTON, V. 778, 365.
 — in the state of Vermont, V. 778.
 — in New Jersey, V. 778.
 — in the state of Iowa, V. 778.
 — (Earl of), his merits as an architect, III. 455.
 BURMAH, V. 778; III. 785—climate of, 787—war with the East India Company in 1824, V. 646; XI. 508—river system of, XVII. 607—wars with Pegu, 867—language of, XIII. 206—empire of, XV. 412—weights and measures of, XXI. 810.

BUR—BUR

- BURMAN (Caspar), V. 785.
 — (FRANCIS), biblical critic, V. 785.
 — (FRANCIS), theologian, V. 785.
 — (JOHN), physician, V. 785.
 — (PETER), philologist, V. 785—his edition of Buchanan's works, 720; of Petronius, XVII. 501.
 Burmanniaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 211.
 Burmeister (H.), his entomological works, IX. 20—on the carripeds, XV. 819.
 Burn (Colonel), his tables of ranges for ordnance, XI. 146, 148, 149.
 — (Dr), extract from his Justice of the Peace, VII. 377, n.
 Burners (Gas), X. 424—ventilation of, 427.
 Burnes (Dr), on the diseases of Cutch, VII. 597, 598.
 — (Sir A.), murdered by the Afghans, V. 667; II. 208—on Bukhara, V. 759, 760.
 BURNET (Thomas), V. 790—on the Deluge, VII. 719.
 — (GILBERT), bishop of Salisbury, V. 791—on Buchanan's History, 720—his characters of Lord Stair, VII. 632; of John and William Forbes, IX. 776, 777—his Life of Bishop Leighton, XIII. 323, 324—on the Earl of Rochester, XXI. 873.
 — (JAMES), Lord Monboddo, V. 793—on the origin of language, II. 605, XIII. 186.
 — foilage plant, II. 829.
 Burnett (Sir William), his method of preserving timber, V. 173; VI. 491; XX. 167; XXI. 279.
 — (C. J.), his photographic processes, XVII. 551.
 — (Mr), on Turner's style of painting, XXI. 388, 389.
 — (Mr), on the exhalation of carbonic acid by plants, V. 105.
 BURNETT (Charles), doctor of music, V. 793—on Chinese music, VI. 581.
 — (CHARLES), historian of music, V. 795—his MSS in the British Museum, XIII. 392—on the Arabian musical scale, XV. 708—on Handel, XI. 207.
 — (FRANCES), novelist, V. 795—character of her novels, XIX. 279.
 BURNING, V. 795—of the dead, ib.—burning fountains, X. 409—death from, XIV. 431—crime of See Arson.
 BURNING-GLASSES, VI. 1; XI. 275—of Archimedes, III. 430.
 BURNISHER, VI. 16—engraver's, VIII. 802, 803.
 Burnishing, in gilding, X. 625.
 BURNLEY, town in Lancashire, VI. 16.
 Burnouf (Eugène), on the Zend language, XVII. 529—on cuneiform inscriptions, 534.
 Burns (Robert), VI. 16—Currie's life of, VII. 595—poetry of, XVIII. 125—Lockhart's life of, XIII. 548—his lines on Smellie, XX. 387—his estimate of Smith's Wealth of Nations, 341, n. 1—festival at Ayr in honour of, XXI. 878—Prof. Wilson on the effects of his poetry, ib.
 — (Allan), on the fascia of the neck and chest, II. 824.
 Burnt-chest, as a manure, II. 304—in mortar, XX. 714.
 BURNITSLAND, in Fifeshire, VI. 20—ferry, IX. 796.
 Burra-burra copper mine, IV. 295; XV. 238—malachite found in, XVII. 621.
 Burrard (Sir Harry), XXI. 821.
 Burren Sinker, Hindu race, XI. 471; VI. 319.
 Burey, one of the Orkney islands, XVI. 718.
 Burrough (Stephen), his voyage of discovery, XVIII. 165.
 BURROW (Sir James), VI. 21.
 — (Reuben), on Indian algebra, II. 487.
 Burrowing serpents, XIX. 55.
 Burrows (Dr), on the amount of fluids in the cranium, XVII. 698.

BUR—BUT

- Bursa, in veterinary science, XXI. 558—diseased, *ib*
 BURSAR, VI. 21
 Bursaria, genus of annulacules, III. 201
 Bursaries connected with Glasgow College, X. 652; XXI. 478—in University of St Andrews, 475—Marschal College, Aberdeen, 481. See Universities.
 BURSE, VI. 21.
 BURSLEM, town in Staffordshire, VI. 21—potteries at, XVIII. 433, XXI. 797.
 BURTON (John, D.D.), VI. 21
 —(J. H.), on the judicature of Scotland, XIX. 811
 —(Leut.), his account of Mecca, XIV. 378, 379—his pilgrimage to El Medinah and Mecca, XV. 805—his discovery of Lake Tanganyika, XXI. 17
 —(ROBERT), VI. 21—the first English author that mentions coffee, VII. 54.
 —ale, V. 332.
 BURTON-UPON-TRENT, VI. 21; XX. 531—water of, XIX. 616—ale and beer, XX. 530.
 Burton's Life of Hume, XII. 2 *et seq.*, 6, n. 8
 BURTSCHEID, town in Prussia, VI. 22
 Burrullus (cl), Egyptian lake, VIII. 429.
 BURY, VI. 22.
 —(Richard de), VI. 22. See Aungervyle
 —St EDMUNDS, VI. 22; XX. 790, 791.
 BURYING ALIVE, VI. 22.
 —(place), VI. 22
 —of gold and silver, XVIII. 467, 471
 BUSACO, a convent in Portugal, VI. 22—battle of, *ib*; V. 608; XXI. 823.
 BUSBEC (Augier, Ghislen de), VI. 22.
 BUSBY (Di Richard), VI. 23
 BUSCA, town in Piedmont, VI. 23
 Buschetto, Greek architect, XVII. 60, 716.
 BUSCHING (Anthony Frederick), VI. 23.
 BUSH (Paul), first bishop of Bristol, VI. 23
 —shrubby plant, V. 78
 BUSHER, VI. 24—standard, XXI. 804—number in a boll, 809—Winchester bushel, 807.
 BUSHIRE, or Abuschehr, town in Persia, VI. 24—taken by the British in 1856, XVII. 443—trade of, 444
 Bushmen of Africa, II. 223, V. 68
 Bushnell's submarine machine for blowing up vessels, VIII. 50.
 BUSINUS, town in Egypt, VI. 24; VIII. 407
 —Egyptian deity, VI. 24.
 BUSKIN, VI. 24; VII. 436, VIII. 135, 137
 Buss, VI. 24—a small ship, *ib*.
 BUSSORA, Asiatic city, VI. 24; IV. 364—its commerce, XI. 460.
 Bussy (M.), XI. 483, 485.
 BUST, VI. 25—in numismatics, XVI. 358.
 Bustamante, XIV. 712
 Bustamite, mineral, XV. 82.
 BUSTARD, bird, VI. 25; IX. 763; XVI. 797—shooting of, XX. 232.
 BUSTARIL, gladiators, VI. 25.
 BUSTUM, VI. 25.
 BUTCHER, VI. 25—erroneously supposed to be excluded from juries, XIII. 24—number of butchers in London, 660; in Scotland, XIX. 804.
 BUTCHER-BIRD, VI. 25; XVI. 748.
 BUTCHER'S meat, in Paris, X. 206.
 —broom, plant, V. 113.
 BUTE (John Stuart), earl of, VI. 25—his resignation as first Lord of the Treasury, V. 467.
 —ship canal at Cardiff, VI. 232.
 Buteo, genus of birds, XVI. 744.
 BUTESHINE, VI. 25—agricultural statistics, XIX. 796, 797, 798—population, 799.
 Butus, genus of arachnides, XII. 885.
 Butinus, genus of fishes, XII. 280.
 BUTLER, VI. 28.
 —family in Ireland, XII. 478.
 —(CHARLES), VI. 28.
 —(JAMES), Duke of Ormond, VI. 28.
 —(JOSEPH), bishop of Durham, VI. 28—on personal identity, I. 217—notice of his life, 359—his Analogy, *ib*; II.

BUT—BYR

- 745; VI. 32—his ethical principles and Discourses, I. 359, 363—his style, 363—on self-love, 296—remarks on Mackintosh's account of his views on the moral sense, 298, 299—coincidence of some of his views with Aristotle's, III. 565, n. 7—on anger, 141—on civil government, 566—compared with Jonathan Edwards, VIII. 417—on virtue, XIV. 628—his theory on the foundation of moral distinctions, XV. 544, 556—his sermons revised by Seeke, XX. 30.
 BUTLER (Samuel), author of Hudibras, VI. 34—poetry of, XVIII. 123—examples of wit, from Hudibras, XXI. 894, 896—Wychley's attempt to benefit him, 942.
 Buto, Egyptian deity, XI. 384
 Butomaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 214
 BUTRINTO, town in Albania, VI. 35
 BUTT, wine-measure, VI. 35
 BUTTER, VI. 35, 510, XV. 10, 11—mode of making, VII. 623—average yearly product per cow, 624—butter-dairies, 622—whey butter, 526—Irish, XII. 518—Dutch, XI. 582, 585—quantity exported from Holland, 585—specific gravity of, XII. 88.
 —chemical preparation once so called, VI. 35.
 —(Nathamel), early newspapers by, XVI. 181.
 Butterby, near Durham, salt springs at, VIII. 266
 Buttercup order of plants, V. 180.
 BUTTERFLY, VI. 35, IX. 206 *et seq.*—vast flights of, in Ceylon, VI. 395.
 —weed, V. 199.
 BUTTERIS, VI. 35.
 Butteley iron-works, Derbyshire, hot-blast at, XII. 548—steam-boiler, XX. 588.
 BUTTERMILK, VI. 35, VII. 622.
 BUTTER-TREE, VI. 35
 Buttelwort, V. 203.
 BUTEVANT, town in Cork, VI. 35
 Buttmann on philology, XVII. 538.
 BUTTON, VI. 35.
 —(Sir Thomas), exploratory voyages of, XVIII. 168
 BUTTRESS, VI. 35—in pointed architecture, III. 489, 508—flying, VI. 35—in walls, VII. 323, 326—supporting roofs, XIX. 391
 Butts, in archery, III. 425, 426.
 —leather, XIII. 305, 306.
 Butyne acid, IX. 758.
 BUZOW, German city, VI. 85
 BUZAR, town in Hindustan, VI. 35—battle of, XVII. 20
 BUXTON, VI. 36—springs, VII. 755
 —(JEREMIAH), a celebrated mental calculator, VI. 36
 —(Sir Thomas F.), on prison diet, VIII. 22—on the condition of English prisons, XVIII. 568—on the slave-trade, XX. 323.
 BUXTORF (John), senior, VI. 36—his Hebrew Bible, IV. 697—his Concordance, VII. 228—his Lexicon to the Talmud, XXI. 16.
 —(JOHN), junior, VI. 36—his controversy with Capellus, 206
 BUYING, VI. 36—buying the refusal, *ib*.
 Buzor, Spanish town, VI. 36
 Buzzi (Mons), on albinos, II. 448
 BUZZARD, bird, VI. 36; XVI. 744
 Byzad II. of Turkey, XXI. 379.
 Bylot, northern navigator, XVIII. 168
 BYNG (George), Lord Viscount Torrington, VI. 36—his capture of the Spanish fleet, V. 465.
 —(the Hon. John), admiral, VI. 37—his alleged misconduct at Minorca, and execution, V. 463.
 BYNKERSHOEK (Cornelius Van), Dutch jurist, VI. 37.
 Byres for a cheese-dairy farm, VII. 624
 Byrge (Justic), on logarithms, XIII. 653.
 BYRON (John), poet, VI. 37
 BYRON (Lord George Gordon), VI. 37—on the advantages of believers in the gospel, XII. 5—his Manfred, VIII. 168

BYR—CAB

- criticisms on his works in the Edinburgh Review, XII. 717—the fascinating features of his Don Juan, XX. 871—his notice of the poet Rogers, XIX. 247—his aid to the Greeks, and death at Messolonghi, XI. 28—his opinion of Colman, VII. 182—Moore's life of, XV. 632—his poetry, XVIII. 92, 95, 126—his acquaintance with Shelley, XX. 101.
 Byron (Lord), his duel with Mr Chaworth, VIII. 232.
 —(Hon. John), admiral and circumnavigator, VI. 42, V. 470, 484—his visit to the Ladrone Islands, XVIII. 269.
 Byrrhin, tribe of insects, IX. 115
 Byrrhus, genus of insects, IX. 115
 BYRSA, VI. 180—its submission to the Romans, 303
 Byssacanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII. 117.
 Byssolite, mineral, XV. 81.
 BRYSSUS, VI. 42—filaments of Pinna, XV. 348.
 Bythites, genus of fishes, XII. 270.
 Bytown, in Canada, VI. 144.
 Bytownite, mineral, XV. 73.
 Bytneraceae, nat. order of plants, V. 184
 Byturus, genus of insects, IX. 114
 BYZANTINE HISTORIANS, VI. 42; XI. 548
 —empire, coins of, XVI. 385
 BYZANTIUM, VI. 43, VII. 302—philology at, XVII. 520.
 BZOVIVS (Abraham), VI. 43.

C

- C, letter of the alphabet, VI. 44—in abbreviations, II. 18.
 CAABA, or KAABA, VI. 44; XIV. 378—black stone in, probably an aerolite, I. 450.
 CAB, a Hebrew measure, VI. 44
 CABAL, VI. 44—name of a ministry, *ib*, V. 425
 CABALLARIA, VI. 44.
 CABALLINE, VI. 44.
 CABANIS (Pierre Jean George), VI. 44.
 CABBAGE, VI. 45—culture of, II. 321; XI. 737—as food, IX. 760—turnip-rooted, XI. 737
 —order of plants, V. 182.
 Cabbage-rose, V. 191.
 CABBALA, VI. 45.
 CABBALISTS, VI. 45.
 CABENDA, town in Western Africa, VI. 45.
 Cabot (M.), his attempts to form a commercial settlement in America, VII. 208
 Cabetes, V. 280
 CABEZA DEL BUEN, Spanish town, VI. 46.
 CABIN, VI. 46
 CABINET, VI. 46—as used in modern politics, *ib*—of the United States, XXI. 429.
 Cabinet-making, XII. 805
 CABIRI, deities of antiquity, VI. 46—mysteries of, XV. 753; celebrated in Samos, XIX. 593.
 CABIRIA, festivals in honour of the Cabiri, VI. 46.
 CABLE, VI. 46—sheet-anchor cable, *ib*—stream-cable, *ib*—chain, XX. 22—expediency of testing, XIV. 290—cables made of esparto, IX. 333.
 Cahing, in architecture, III. 608.
 Cacombeae, nat. order of plants, V. 181.
 CABOT (Sebastian), VI. 47; XVIII. 163—his discovery of Prince Edward's Island, 518; of Florida, IX. 666; Newfoundland and Labrador, VII. 168, V. 158—his expedition to La Plata, XVII. 779.
 —(John), II. 699; VI. 47, 158; XVI. 172, XVIII. 163.
 CABRA, Spanish town, VI. 48.
 Cabral (Alvarez), II. 699; X. 393, 472—his discovery of Brazil, V. 270.
 CABREIRA, islet in the Mediterranean, VI. 48.
 Cabrera (General), XX. 480, 481, 483.
 CABUL, in Afghanistan, VI. 48—climate of, II. 203—its trade, 206—retreat of the British from, V. 668—taken by General Pollock in 1842, II. 209.
 CACAO, or Cocoa, VI. 49. See Cocoa-tree, V. 185.
 Caccini, musician, XXI. 287.
 CACERES, in Spain, VI. 49; IX. 339
 CACHALOT, the sperm-whale, VI. 49, XIV. 281—dentition of, XVI. 444—oil from, 493
 CACHAO, VI. 49
 Cachar, in Bengal, IV. 651
 Cachias, in Brazil, XIV. 294.
 CACHOLONG, variety of calcedony, VI. 49, XV. 69.
 CACHUNDE, a medicine, VI. 49.
 CACOPHONY, VI. 49
 Cactaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 194—region of, 233; XVII. 623
 CACTUS, genus of plants, VI. 49; V. 194—culture of, XI. 757.
 CACTUS, VI. 49.
 CADARI, VI. 49
 Cadastre, a survey of France, X. 278.
 Cade (Jack), his insurrection, VIII. 689
 Cadell (W. A.), on fertilising land by warping, II. 364
 CADENCE, in music, VI. 49, XV. 718.
 —in reading, VI. 49.
 Cader-Idris, mountain in Wales, XIV. 543.
 CADET, VI. 49—naval, XVI. 105.
 —and Brisson's experiments with a burning-glass, and discovery of achromatic fluid object-glasses, VI. 14, and n. 2.
 CADI, VI. 49; VIII. 445.
 CADILSCHER, VI. 49.
 CADIZ, VI. 49, 50—Drake's expedition to, VIII. 712—taken by the British in 1596, 713—their attempt upon it in 1702, V. 447—taken by the French, in 1823, X. 186—wine exported from, XX. 490—wines of, XXI. 834—effect of the vine disease at, *ib*
 CADIZADELITES, Mahomedan sect, VI. 51
 CADMEAN LETTERS, VI. 51.
 CADMIUM, VI. 51, 492; XV. 66
 CADMUS, VI. 51—letters introduced into Greece by, II. 617; XI. 599—Thebes founded by, XXI. 176
 —of Miletus, VI. 51
 Cadolm (Aloys), his work on insects, IX. 17
 Cadoudal (Georges), X. 129
 CADRITES, VI. 51.
 CADUCEUS, VI. 51; XIV. 541.
 CADUS, VI. 51
 CADUSIT, VI. 51.
 Caelidæ and Cæcidæ, family and genus of reptiles, XIX. 40.
 Cælian hill, in Rome, XIX. 296, 356.
 CÆLIUS (Aurelianus), VI. 51.
 CAEN, in France, VI. 52—population, X. 277—building stone of, XX. 712.
 Cæurus, genus of entozoa, XXI. 978.
 CÆRE, Etrurian city, VI. 52
 CÆRELEON, in Monmouthshire, VI. 52.
 CÆRMARTHEM, shire and town, VI. 52, 53; VIII. 754.
 CÆRNARFON, VI. 54, VIII. 754—embankments in the county of, 844, 847.
 CÆRPHILLY, in Glamorgan, VI. 55.
 CÆRREWS, in Montgomeryshire, VI. 55.
 CÆRWENT, town in Monmouthshire, VI. 55.
 CÆRWYS, in Flintshire, VI. 55.
 Cæsalpinus, sub-order of plants, V. 190.
 CÆSALPINUS (Andreas), VI. 56; XIV. 461—his anatomical discoveries, II. 761.
 CÆSAR (C. Julius), VI. 57; XIX. 323 *et seq.*—his triumph over the Roman nobility, I. 321—his invasion of Britain, V. 376; XIX. 741—his reform of the calendar, VI. 77—Clarke's edition of his Commentaries, 757—his treatment of Cicero, 718, 719—his expedition to Egypt, VIII. 471—his pursuit of Cato, 339—his accounts of the Druids, 184, 185, 188; XI. 599—his defeat of Juba at Thapsus, XIII. 18—sculpture encon-

CÆ—CAL

raged by, XIX. 858—his account of the Caledonian tribes, 742—his account of the vessels used in the invasion of Britain, XX. 118, and of those of the Gaulish Veneti, ib.—in Spain, 458—Helvetii defeated by, 883—death of, XIX. 328
 Cæsar, title of, VI. 57.
 — (Sir JULIUS), VI. 58, 764.
 — (JULIUS), surgeon, XIV. 2.
 CÆSAREA, two towns in Palestine, VI. 58
 CÆSAREAN OPERATION, VI. 58; XX. 817.
 Cæstio, genus of fishes, XII. 288.
 CÆSONES, VI. 58.
 CÆSTUS, VI. 58, 390.
 CÆSTRA, VI. 58.
 CÆTERIS PARIBUS, VI. 58.
 CAFFA, VI. 58. See Kaffa.
 CAFFRENE, VI. 58, 619; V. 196; VII. 54.
 CAFFRILA, VI. 58.
 CAFFRARI, VI. 58. See Kaffaria.
 CAFFRES, or Kaffres, VI. 58; II. 222; IX. 851; X. 712; XIII. 32 *et seq.*—language of, 219, 225, 226.
 CAFTAN, VI. 58.
 CAGANUS, or Cacanus, VI. 58.
 CAGE, VI. 58—in coal mining, VII. 126.
 CAGLI, Italian town, VI. 58.
 CAGLIARI, in Sardinia, VI. 58; XIX. 640
 — (PAOLO), painter, VI. 59. See Paolo Veronese.
 CAGLIOSTRO (Alessandro), count, modern impostor, VI. 59.
 Cagniard de la Tour, his *Sûrène*, I. 892
 CAHER, or Cahir, in Tipperary, VI. 59; XXI. 288.
 CAHOKIA, in Illinois, XII. 363.
 CAHORS, French town, VI. 60, XIII. 696.
 CAIAPHAS, Jewish high-priest, VI. 60
 CAILLE (Nicolas Louis de la), VI. 60, XIII. 141—his astronomical labours, III. 805—his measurement of an arc of meridian, I. 774; IX. 550—on the diminution of the obliquity of the ecliptic, IV. 13—his catalogue of stars, 80, 96—his micrometer, XIV. 758.
 Caillieu on anonymous books, IV. 712—his Bibliographical Dictionary, 714.
 Caillé, African traveller, II. 210
 CAIMACAN, VI. 60
 CAIN, son of Adam and Eve, VI. 60; II. 24; III. 267.
 Caing whale, XIV. 227
 CAINITES, sect of heretics, VI. 60
 Caird (James), on chalking land, II. 303—his account of Lawes' experiments, 309—his estimate of the average yield of wheat in England, 310—on the saffron crops of Berkshire, 329—estimate of the extent of land in England under crop and fallow, VIII. 728—his farming at Baldoon, XXI. 864
 Cairina, genus of birds, XVI. 817.
 CAIRE, VI. 61; IV. 473
 CAIRNGORM, mountain, VI. 61; II. 32—beryls of, IV. 683.
 — variety of rock-crystal, VI. 61; II. 32; V. 69.
 CAIRO, VI. 61; II. 224; VIII. 477, 498, 499—captured by the British in 1801, V. 584—bombarded by Khursheed, VIII. 491.
 Calise d'escompte, X. 39.
 CALISON, VI. 62—calissons used in laying the foundations of bridges, XX. 722
 CALISTOR, in Lincolnshire, VI. 62.
 CALITNESS, VI. 62—fisheries, IX. 635, 639—fossils of, XVII. 124—geology, XIX. 793—scenery, 794—agricultural statistics, 796, 797, 798—population, 799.
 CALUS, or Kaye (Dr John), founder of Calus College, Cambridge, VI. 63; XIV. 460; XXI. 465—his treatise on British dogs, XI. 763.
 — Institutes of, VI. 741, 744, 745.
 CALAZZO, Neapolitan city, VI. 63.
 CALJEPUT oil, VI. 63; V. 132.
 CAJSTAN (Cardinal), VI. 63; XIII. 725.
 CAJU-apple oil, XVI. 496.
 CAKE, VI. 63—for cattle, II. 345, 419.
 Cake-crusher, II. 283.
 Caking coal, VII. 113.
 CÅKÅR, Old, African river, VI. 63.

CAL—CAL

CALABAR, New, a branch of the Quorra, VI. 63.
 — bean, V. 190.
 CALABASH, VI. 63.
 — tree order of plants, V. 200
 Calabozzo, in South America, temperature at, II. 673.
 CALABRIA, VI. 63; XX. 237, 255—British expedition to, in 1806, V. 602—Dolomieu on an earthquake in, VIII. 95—climate of, XII. 639; XX. 247—earthquakes in, XVII. 616
 CALABRITTO, Italian city, VI. 64.
 CALAHORRA, Spanish town, VI. 64
 CALAIS, VI. 64—tournament at, 618—taken by the English, VIII. 683—recovered by the French, 710—staple for wool at, XXI. 909.
 — (PAS DE), VI. 65; XVII. 331.
 Calafite, mineral, XV. 74
 CALAMANCO, VI. 65.
 Calamaria, genus of serpents, XIX. 55
 Calamaries, mollusks, XV. 399, 400—fossil, XVII. 114.
 CALAMIANES, islands, VI. 65.
 CALAMINE, VI. 65; XV. 100, 246—mines of, in Derbyshire, VII. 754—in Belgium, IV. 624—pyro-electricity of, VIII. 561—used in making brass, V. 277—electric, XV. 100—accidental discovery of, in Cornwall, XXI. 321.
 CALAMIS, Greek sculptor, VI. 65.
 CALAMSTRUM, VI. 65.
 Calamite, mineral, XV. 81.
 CALAMITES, fossils, VI. 65; V. 235, 236.
 Calamity, erroneously regarded as a proof of divine displeasure, I. 473, 479.
 CALAMUS, VI. 65
 CALAMY (Edmund), VI. 65—made chaplain to Charles II., V. 430.
 — (EDMUND), VI. 65.
 Calandra, genus of insects, IX. 140
 Calandri, the first improver of the Newtonian theory of the moon, I. 779.
 CALANUS, VI. 66.
 Calaoas, birds, XVI. 773.
 Calappa, genus of crustacea, VII. 541
 CALAS (Jean), VI. 66—his family assisted by Voltaire, XXI. 681.
 CALASH, VI. 66
 CALASTO (Mario de), VI. 66—his Concordance of the Bible, VII. 223.
 CALASTRIS, VI. 66.
 CALATAFIMI, city in Sicily, VI. 66
 CALATAGIRONE, town in Sicily, VI. 66
 CALATAYUD, Spanish town, VI. 66.
 CALATEBUS, VI. 66—genus of insects, IX. 91.
 CALATRAYA, VI. 66—knights of, ib.; II. 451.
 CALAURIA, island, VI. 67—amphictyony of, II. 729.
 Calagni (Dr Francesco), on the mortality at Palermo, XV. 625
 CALGAR (John de), painter, VI. 67
 CALGAREOUS SPAR, VI. 67; XV. 91—colours in, XVI. 540—optical properties of, 659; I. 913—dichroism, XVI. 686—its crystallisation, VII. 552 *et seq.*; VI. 445—discovery of polarization by, I. 902—ball, a disease in cattle, XXI. 568—rocks, origin of, XVII. 619—their use as building materials, ib.; XX. 712
 — soils, V. 98—plants of, 221.
 CALGEBARTUM, VI. 67.
 CALCEDONY, VI. 67; XV. 69; II. 281
 Calceola, fossil mollusk, XVII. 104.
 CALCEOLARIA, genus of plants, VI. 68—region of, V. 228; XVII. 629.
 CALCEUS, Roman shoe or boot, VI. 68; XX. 268
 CALCHAS, VI. 68
 Calchedon, VI. 401.
 CALCINATION, VI. 68—of iron ores, XII. 645, 674—of brass, V. 277.
 CALCIUM, VI. 68, 477—oxides of, in the earth's crust, XVII. 619.
 Calcott, painter, XXI. 388. See Calcott, (Sir Augustus).
 CALO-SUNKER, VI. 68.
 Calo-spaz, XV. 91. See Calcareous Spar.
 CALO-TUFF, VI. 68.

CAL—CAL

Calculating machines, I. 880, 881.
 Calculation, Greek mode of, II. 5; III. 577—Roman, II. 6—of interest, XII. 432—of new and full moon, and eclipses, IV. 120.
 CALCULI, VI. 68.
 — (urinary), VI. 68, XVII. 691—cure of calculous diseases, XX. 880—in the domestic animals, XXI. 570 See Lithotomy, Lithotomy.
 CALCULUS, VI. 68.
 — in mathematics, VI. 68—James Bernoulli on the, IV. 672, see Fluxions, and Geometry (New)—differential and integral, VI. 68—of partial differences, ib.—of variations, ib., IX. 675—of exponentials, VI. 68—of functions, ib.—of finite differences, 69—of derivations, ib.—of probabilities, ib.—of sines, ib.—of operations, I. 807—Minerva, VI. 69
 CALCUTTA, VI. 69; XXI. 399—cotton-mill at, VII. 439—population of, IV. 651—Black Hole of, XI. 484.
 CALDANI (L. Marco Antonio), VI. 71.
 CALDARIUM, VI. 71.
 CALDER, Yorkshire river, VI. 71; XXI. 857, 680.
 Calderari, Italian political society, XII. 655
 CALDERINUS (Domitius), critic, VI. 71.
 CALDERON DE LA BARCA (Don Pedro), VI. 71, VIII. 146, XVIII. 114.
 Calder-pipes for blast-heating, XII. 548.
 CALDERWOOD (David), VI. 72
 — (Col.), on a base for the trigonometrical survey, XXI. 330
 Caldew, river, VII. 578.
 CALDRON, or Cauldron, VI. 73.
 CALDWALL (Richard), VI. 73.
 CALDONIA, VI. 73.
 — (New), island, VI. 74, IV. 268.
 CALDONIAN CANAL, VI. 74; XVI. 55; XIX. 807—Telford engineer to, XXI. 145.
 Caledonians, VI. 73, 74; XIX. 741, 742—Agricola's wars with the, V. 379; XIX. 741—Severus' campaign against, 341.
 Caledoni, VI. 74.
 Caledonia, mineral, XV. 105
 CALELLA, Spanish town, VI. 74.
 CALENBERG, in Hanover, VI. 74.
 CALENDAR, VI. 75—Gregorian, 82, 85—reformation of the, 82—ecclesiastical, 79—Mexican, II. 684—Hindu, VI. 353—Druidical, VIII. 186—Egyptian, 449, 450—French revolutionary, X. 84—gardener's, XI. 758—why not reformed in Russia, XIX. 528—errors from confounding civil and ecclesiastical years, XVIII. 320, *n.* See Chronology, Day, Month, Year.
 CALENDER, VI. 89; IV. 767—calendering of cotton cloth, ib.
 CALENDERS, Mahomedan friars, VI. 93; IX. 472.
 Calends, or Kalends, XIII. 40; VI. 76.
 CALENZURE, VI. 93.
 CALENZIO (Elseo), VI. 93.
 CALEPINO (Ambrogio), VI. 93.
 CALF, VI. 93—treatment of calves, II. 844; in Essex, IX. 337—skins for leather, XIII. 305—subject to costiveness, XXI. 565
 — (GOLDEN), VI. 93
 CALL town in New Granada, VI. 93.
 CALLAN, town in Hindustan, VI. 93
 Caliban, character of, XX. 88 and *n.* 2.
 CALBER, or calibre, VI. 93—compasses, ib.—rule, 94.
 CALICO, VI. 94—manufacture of, in Bengal, IV. 650—once made of linen warp and cotton weft, VII. 441—cotton calicoes, 449—as used in hat-making, XI. 242—manufacture of, in India, 458, 459—in Derbyshire, VII. 755.
 CALICO-PRINTING, VI. 94; VIII. 314; XVIII. 520—first introduced at Pollockshaw, X. 648.
 CALICUT, in Hindustan, VI. 94.
 CALIDASA, Indian poet, VI. 94.
 CALIFORNIA, VI. 94.
 — (UPPER), VI. 95; XXI. 419—Gold region of, II. 706; VI. 97, XV. 282—

CAL—CAL

supplies of gold from, XVIII. 463—rate of wages in, 466, 467—persons engaged in digging gold, and their average gains, XV. 421—climate of, II. 673—probable descent of the natives of, 695—cinnabar found in, XV. 238—tribes of Indians in, IX. 347—ceded to the United States, XIV. 714; XXI. 442—mercury found in, XVII. 622—gigantic trees of, 626—pine-trees of, 757, 760—wines of, XXI. 888—debt of, 428—slavery prohibited in, ib.
 CALIFORNIA (Lower), VI. 94; XIV. 728, 718
 — GULF OF, VI. 100, 94.
 CALIGA, VI. 100.
 CALIGATI, VI. 101.
 CALIGULA, Roman emperor, VI. 101—reign of, XIX. 385—his landing in Britain, V. 377—his persecution of the Jews, XII. 772—his jealousy of Seneca, XX. 45
 Caligus curtus, VII. 543
 CALIPH, VI. 101—Spain under the caliphs, XX. 466.
 CALIPHATE, VI. 101; XV. 412.
 CALIPPIC PERIOD, VI. 101, 79.
 CALIPPUS, astronomer of Cyzicus, VI. 101, 79—his astronomy, III. 789—his correction of the Metonic cycle, VI. 79.
 CALISTHENES, VI. 101
 CALITRI, Italian town, VI. 101.
 CALIXTINES, VI. 101.
 CALIXTUS, three popes so named, VI. 101.
 — (GEORGIUS), VI. 101.
 Calking, in shoeing horses, XXI. 560
 CALLAN, town in Kilkenny, VI. 101; XIII. 85.
 CALLANDER, in Perthshire, VI. 102; XVII. 459.
 Callanish, druidical temple, XIII. 351.
 Callan's (Rev. Mr) powerful electro-magnet, XXI. 641
 CALLAO, in Peru, VI. 102, XVII. 474.
 — or Campello, island, VI. 102.
 Callavayas, Peruvian Indians, IV. 829.
 CALLOOT (John Wall), VI. 102.
 — (Sir AUGUSTUS), painter, VI. 102
 Callet's work on logarithms, XIII. 555.
 Callianiridae, zoophytes, XXI. 1001.
 Callicera, genus of insects, IX. 238
 Callichroma, genus of insects, IX. 144
 Callichthys, genus of fishes, XII. 262, 269, 260.
 CALICRATES, sculptor, VI. 102.
 Callidium, genus of insects, IX. 145.
 CALLIGRAPHUS, VI. 102
 CALLIGRAPHUS, VI. 102
 CALLIMACHUS, Greek poet, VI. 102—his quarrel with Apollonius the Rhodian, III. 303
 — architect, VI. 102.
 Callimorpha, genus of insects, IX. 214.
 Calling, in theology, XXI. 213.
 CALLINGAPATAM, in Hindustan, VI. 102
 CALLINGER, fortress in Hindustan, VI. 102; V. 764.
 CALLINGTON, town in Cornwall, VI. 103.
 CALLINO, town in Italy, VI. 103.
 CALLINUS, Greek poet, VI. 103
 Calliodon, genus of fishes, XII. 223.
 Callionymus, genus of fishes, XII. 306, 307.
 Calliopea, genus of mollusks, XV. 370.
 CALLOPE, VI. 103; XV. 699.
 — planet, IV. 91.
 CALLIPEDIA, VI. 103.
 Callipe (M.), on iron bridges, XII. 577.
 Callipers, VI. 98—used in turning, XXI. 391.
 CALLIPHOEN, Epicurean philosopher, VI. 103
 Callipteryx, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 844.
 Callirhipis, genus of insects, IX. 106.
 CALLIRHOEN, fountain near Athens, VI. 103; IV. 170.
 — in Mesopotamia, VIII. 389.
 CALLISTEIA, Lesbian festival, VI. 103.
 CALLISTHENES, VI. 103; III. 594.
 CALLISTO, VI. 103.
 CALLISTRATUS, Athenian orator, VI. 103.
 — Athenian poet, VI. 103.
 Callithrix, in zoology, XIV. 140.
 Callitrichaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 206.

CAL—CAL

- Callomyia, genus of insects, IX. 242
 CALLON, Greek sculptor, VI. 108, XIX. 854.
 — (M), on turbine wheels, XII. 171
 Callorhynchus, genus of fishes, XII. 319
 CALLOSA DE ENSARRIA, Spanish town, VI. 103.
 — DE SEGURA, VI. 108
 CALLOT (Jacques), engraver, VI. 103.
 Callow (Mr), on growing mushrooms, XI. 738.
 CALLY (Pierre), VI. 104
 Callyodon, genus of fishes, XII. 286, 268
 CALM LATITUDES, VI. 104—advantages of steam-vessels in a calm, XX. 21.
 CALMAR, or Kaimar, in Sweden, VI. 104—union of, VII. 739
 CALMET (Augustine), VI. 104.
 Calmuc skull, III. 29
 CALNE, town and river in Wiltshire, VI. 104; XXI. 879
 Calobata, genus of insects, IX. 253
 CALOGERI, or Caloyers, monks, VI. 104.
 CALOMEL, VI. 105, 498, XV. 107
 Calonne (Mons de), X. 40 *et seq*
 Calophrys, genus of fishes, XII. 262.
 Caloptrophus, genus of birds, XVI. 805
 Calopus, genus of insects, IX. 138
 Calore, river, XX. 238.
 CALORIC, VI. 105; XI. 260. See Chemistry.
 CALORIMETER, VI. 105; XI. 273, I. 820, 922; XXI. 220
 CALORIMOTOR, VI. 105—Dr Hare's, XXI. 616.
 Calosoma, genus of insects, IX. 98
 Calostomena, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 388
 Calotes, genus of reptiles, XIX. 32
 CALOTTE, VI. 105, 205.
 CALOTYPE, VI. 105, I. 923; XVII. 545—analogy between it and daguerrotype, I. 923.
 CALOVIUS (Abraham), VI. 105
 CALPE, VI. 105.
 CALPURNIUS (Titus), VI. 105.
 — (Flamma), Roman army rescued by, VI. 288.
 CALTANISSETTA, in Sicily, VI. 105; XX. 255
 CALTROP, VI. 105
 CALTURA, in Ceylon, VI. 105.
 CALUMBA, tonic root, VI. 105; V. 181
 CALUMET, VI. 105.
 CALUMNY, VI. 105—oath of, ib
 CALVADOS, in France, VI. 105—lace-making in, XIII. 142.
 CALVART (Dennis), VI. 106.
 CALVARY, VI. 106; XII. 737—in heraldry, VI. 106.
 Calvely (Sir Hugh), XIII. 111.
 Calver (E. K.), on tidal rivers, XVI. 77.
 Calvert (Prof. F. Grace), part of the article Dyeing in this work written by, VIII. 372—his method of purifying coke, X. 320.
 — (Mr), his theory as to the site of Troy, XXI. 357.
 — (George), Lord Baltimore, VI. 106; XVI. 172.
 CALVI, in Corsica, VI. 106—siege of, XVI. 183.
 CALVIN (John), VI. 106; XXI. 183—his principal followers, ib—his disregard of the authority of Aristotle, I. 16—on usury, ib, 233—his system of church polity, XVIII. 487—his liturgy, XIII. 516—on original sin, XXI. 205—on theology, 185 *et seq*—on interest on money, XII. 427, n. 2—his letter to Socinus, XX. 368—his intercourse with John Knox, XIII. 125—his controversies with Servetus, XX. 60.
 CALVINISM, VI. 111—in Holland, XI. 573, 588—countries in which it prevails, IX. 394—predestination, XVIII. 478—Whitby against, XXI. 352—contrasted with Lutheranism, XIII. 740, 741—in Prussia, XVIII. 658.
 Calvinistic Methodists, XIV. 698—Baptists, IV. 427.
 CALVISIUS (Zethus), VI. 111.
 CALVUS (Caius Licinius), VI. 111.

CAL—CAM

- CALX, VI. 112.
 Calycanthaceae, nat order of plants, V. 191.
 Calyceraceae, nat order of plants, V. 190
 Calyciflorae, sub-class of plants, V. 179, 189.
 Calyculphoridae, polypes, XXI. 1006
 CALYPTISTAE, VI. 112
 CALYDON, ancient town of Ætolia, VI. 112
 Calymene, trilobites, XVII. 101, 102.
 Calymna, coins of, XVI. 376
 Calyptridae, family of mollusks, XV. 381—fossil, XVII. 110.
 CALYPTO, VI. 112
 Calyptolite, mineral, XV. 87.
 Calyptorhynchus, genus of birds, XVI. 733
 Calyptra, in mosses, V. 145.
 Calyptrae, genus of mollusks, XV. 381.
 CALYX, VI. 112; V. 117, 122.
 CAM, in mechanics, VI. 112; XIV. 398—striking cams, in clock-making, VII. 22, 37.
 — river in Cambridgeshire, VI. 114.
 CAMAIEU, or Cameo, VI. 112
 CAMALDULIANI, VI. 112
 CAMALODUNUM, VI. 112
 CAMANDOO, town in Hindustan, VI. 112.
 Camapuan, river, XIX. 178.
 CAMARGUE, delta of the Rhone, VI. 112; V. 241.
 CAMARINA, in Sicily, VI. 112—coins of, XVI. 365.
 Camaroceras, fossil mollusks, XVII. 112.
 Camarota, genus of insects, IX. 254.
 CAMASSEI (Andrea), painter, VI. 112.
 Camacôres, X. 94, 116, 132 *et seq*
 CAMBRAY, town in Hindustan, VI. 112.—gulf of, VI. 113
 CAMBRAYES, cotton cloths, VI. 113.
 CAMBER, VI. 113.
 CAMBERED DECK, VI. 113
 CAMBERT (Robert), VI. 113.
 CAMBERWELL, in Surrey, VI. 113.
 CAMBIO, VI. 113.
 CAMBIST, banker, VI. 113.
 Cambium layer, in plants, V. 82, 101, XXI. 267.
 Camblet, VI. 121
 CAMBODIA, or Camboja, Asiatic kingdom, VI. 113; III. 735; VII. 48, 49; XX. 281.
 — river, XIV. 474 See Mekong
 CAMBORNE, town in Cornwall, VI. 113.
 CAMBRAY, town in France, VI. 113—cambrie named from, ib—league of, XIII. 18.
 CAMBRIA, ancient name of Wales, VI. 113.
 Cambrian period, in geology, XV. 196, 185—did life first begin in this period? 196, n.—mollusca of, 403—fossils, XVII. 92 *et seq*—rocks in Scotland, XIX. 793
 CAMBRIC, VI. 113—manufacture of cotton cambrie, VII. 440—Irish cambries sold for French, VI. 92
 CAMBRIDGE, VI. 113—study of mathematics at, I. 807—observatory of, III. 817—Bentley's administration of Trinity College, IV. 658—university, VIII. 745; XXI. 459—colleges and halls, 465—examinations at the, IX. 424, 425—libraries, XIII. 397—early printing at, XVIII. 538—societies in, XX. 368
 — town in Massachusetts, VI. 114; XIV. 241; XXI. 749—Harvard University at, XIV. 840—Mount Auburn Cemetery, V. 62.
 — (H.R.H. Duke of), Staff College established by, XXI. 699
 CAMBRIDGESHIRE, VI. 114—population and value of property, VIII. 754.
 Cambridge's roller, II. 273.
 Cambro-silurian period, in geology, XV. 196.
 Cambuskenneth, VI. 749
 CAMBYSSES, VI. 115; VII. 611.
 — son of Cyrus, VI. 115; XVII. 434—his conquest of Egypt, VIII. 465—his treatment of Croesus, XX. 388, n. 4.
 CAMDEN (William), VI. 115—on the origin of the word *bogot*, IV. 721—on the Foss Dyke, XVI. 54.
 — (Marquis of), relinquishment of a pension by, V. 623.

CAM—CAM

- CAMDEN, city in New Jersey, VI. 116.
 — in South Carolina, VI. 116.
 — in Australia, IV. 278, 282.
 CAMEL, VI. 116, XIV. 204; XVII. 632—its stomach, III. 108; water-cells in, 109—teeth, XVI. 466—dung used as fuel, X. 318—in Egypt, VIII. 431—Arabian, III. 346—Asiatic, 739—Bactrian, XI. 454—age attained by, II. 234—in Palestine, XVII. 191—fossil, 638—machine for raising ships, VI. 116; XII. 83, XVI. 55, n. 3.
 — river, VII. 406
 CAMELEON, or Chameleon, species of reptile, VI. 117, XIX. 37—its vertebrae, III. 86—common in Africa, II. 218, XVII. 634—erectile arrangement in its tongue, III. 100.
 CAMELFORD, town in Cornwall, VI. 117.
 CAMELLIA, genus of plants, VI. 117; V. 135—tea-plant of the same family, XXI. 81—culture of, XI. 757.
 CAMELOFORD, VI. 117; II. 217. See Giraffe
 Camelopardalis, genus of mammalia, XIV. 209—fossil, XVII. 173.
 Camelus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 204.
 CAMELUS, VI. 117. See Carmentalia.
 CAMEO, or Cameau, VI. 117, 112.
 CAMERA ÆOLIA, VI. 117.
 — LUCIDA, VI. 117, XVII. 445.
 — OBSCURA, VI. 119, XVI. 526, 696; XXI. 117—invention of, I. 624— for photographic purposes, XVII. 554; XIX. 690
 CAMERALISTICS, the science of finance, VI. 119.
 CAMERARIUS (Joachim), senior, VI. 119.
 — (Joachim), junior, VI. 119.
 CAMERINO, in Italy, VI. 119—delegation of, XVII. 243.
 CAMERLINGO, VI. 119.
 CAMERON (John), VI. 119.
 — (Richard), founder of the Cameronians, VI. 120, V. 432; XVIII. 501.
 CAMERONIAN, VI. 120, XVIII. 501 See Reformed Presbyterian Church
 CAMEROONS, African river, VI. 120.
 CAMILLI and Camillæ, VI. 120
 CAMILLUS (Marcus Furius), VI. 120; XIX. 302.
 CAMIS, or Kamis, VI. 121.
 CAMISADE, VI. 121
 CAMISARDS, VI. 121.
 CAMLER, VI. 121—manufactory of, XVI. 335.
 CAMOENS (Luís de), VI. 121; XVIII. 399—cave of, XIII. 756—poetry of, XVIII. 114.
 CAMOMILE, VI. 122. See Chamomile.
 CAMP, VI. 122.
 CAMPANIA, Neapolitan city, VI. 122.
 — di Roma, VI. 122.
 Campagnola (Ginlio), engraver, VIII. 800.
 CAMPAIGN, VI. 123—plan of, XXI. 698
 CAMPAN, town in France, VI. 123
 — (Madame), VI. 123—quotation from, on mesmerism, XX. 419.
 CAMPANA, Spanish town, VI. 123.
 CAMPANELLA (Thomas), VI. 123, I. 26 and n. 3.
 Campanero, bird, XVI. 750.
 CAMPANI-ALDENIS (Matteo), VI. 123.
 CAMPANIA, part of ancient Italy, VI. 123—wines of, XXI. 882.
 Campanian system of agriculture, XX. 247.
 CAMPANIFORM, bell-shaped corolla, VI. 123.
 CAMPANTE, VI. 123.
 CAMPANINI, marble, VI. 124.
 Campanulaceae, nat order of plants, V. 197.
 Campanulariadae, polypes, XXI. 1006.
 Campanus of Navarre, X. 504.
 CAMPBELL (Archibald), earl and marquis of Argyll, VI. 124—one of the leaders of the Covenanters, V. 395—his wars with Montrose, and defeat at Innerlochy, 406
 — (ARCHIBALD), earl of Argyll, VI. 124—his opposition to the Test Act, V. 432—his rebellion and execution, 435.
 — (ARCHIBALD), first Duke of Argyll, VI. 124.

CAM—CAM

- CAMPBELL (Archibald), third Duke of Argyll, VI. 125.
 — (Sir Archibald), his expedition against the Burmese, V. 646, 783, 784.
 — (Captain), of Finab, VII. 559.
 — (Captain C. D.) his expedition to the Euphrates, IX. 376
 — Castle, VI. 751.
 — (Sir Colin), his operations in India against the rebels, XVI. 308, 313, 314, 315—in the Crimea, XIX. 504.
 — (George, D.D.), VI. 125—sense in which he employs the words *physics* and *physiology*, I. 9—his merits as a writer, 220, 222—on the power of truth, XIII. 368—on rhetoric, XIX. 133 *et seq*.
 — (James), his report on the United States' post-office, XVIII. 419.
 — (JOHN, LL.D.), VI. 125.
 — (JOHN), second Duke of Argyll, VI. 124—his conduct in reference to the Union, V. 452—commander-in-chief in Scotland, 453.
 — (Lord), on the life of Lord Eldon, XIX. 813 *et seq*.
 — (Lord), on the character of Lord Guildford, VI. 411; of Sir M. Hale, XI. 186
 — (Major), executed for killing in a duel, VIII. 282.
 — (Mr), on landholders in India, XI. 519
 — (THOMAS), poet, VI. 125—on Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, 434—on the Hebrew poets, XVIII. 97, 98—on the characters of the Iliad, 100—on Goldsmith, 124—on Shakespeare, XX. 70, n. 1, 77, 80, 84—on Sternhold's version of the Psalms, 693—his residence at Sydenham, 691.
 CAMPBELTOWN, VI. 128.
 CAMPDEN-CHIPPING, VI. 128.
 CAMPEACHY, town in Mexico, VI. 128; XI. 609; XIV. 726—taken by the Buccaneers, V. 712.
 Campeggio (Cardinal), VIII. 699; XIII. 730
 CAMPER (Peter), VI. 128; XX. 818—his anatomical labours, II. 766—his facial angle, III. 30, 79—his works, VI. 129.
 CAMPERDOWN, VI. 129—battle of, V. 561; X. 107; VIII. 253, 254.
 Camphine, XIII. 172.
 CAMPHOR, VI. 129, 517; V. 204—effects of electricity on its odour, VIII. 599—its narcotic qualities, XIV. 439—specific gravity of, XII. 89—optical properties of, XVI. 680.
 — of Sumatra and Borneo, V. 185—tree in Sumatra, XX. 804.
 CAMPIAN (Edmund), VI. 130.
 CAMPIDOCTORES, VI. 130.
 CAMPILLO DE ARENAS, Spanish village, VI. 130.
 CAMPILLO, VI. 130.
 CAMPILLO, town in Italy, VI. 130.
 CAMPO DE CAIPTANA, in Spain, VI. 130.
 CAMPO FORMIO, Italian town, VI. 130—treaty of, V. 561; X. 107; XV. 791
 CAMPOBASSO, city in Italy, VI. 130.
 CAMPOMANES (Pedro Rodriguez, Conde de), Spanish statesman, VI. 130.
 Campsia, genus of insects, IX. 132.
 CAMPSIE, in Shropshire, VI. 130—alum-works at, II. 637, 640.
 — hills, XIX. 791.
 Camptocerus, genus of insects, IX. 142.
 Camptorhynchus, genus of insects, IX. 140.
 CAMPUS, VI. 130—Mail—Sceleratus, ib. 380.
 Campylomyza, genus of insects, IX. 226.
 CAMROOP, in Assam, VI. 130; III. 762.
 CAMUS (Charles Stephen Louis), VI. 131—his aid in measuring a degree of the meridian, IX. 549.
 — (JEAN PIERRE), bishop, VI. 132.
 — (M.), on the termination of the nerves of the hand, II. 816.
 — (Mons.), on bibliographical dictionaries, IV. 714—on the classification of books, VII. 716.

CAM-CAN

CAMWOOD, dye-stuff, VI 132; VIII 287.
 CANA, of Galilee, VI 132—miracle at, I 515
 CANAAN, son of Ham, VI 132—his descendants, VIII 46—language of the Canaanites, XIII 209.
 —(LAND OF), VI 132; XVII 181—taken possession of by the Israelites, XVII 766—its ancient divisions, XVII 192 See Palestine.
 CANADA, VI 132—Mr Pitt's bill of 1791 for the government of, V, 537—invaded by the Americans in 1812, 616—discontents in 1825, 641—rebellion of 1837, 685—bill for suspending the constitution of, 686—Earl of Durham's administration, ib—corn-law measure of 1842, VII 384—system of education in, XV 821—Life Assurance Company of, XII 413—presbyterianism in, XVIII 492—railway statistics, 787—rice of, XIX 157—maple-sugar, XX 798—elm, XXI 274—red pine of, 275—yellow pine, ib—weights and measures, 810—map of, VI Plate
 CANAL, VI 160; XVI 53—peculiar effect of wave transmission in canals, I 889—Mr Scott Russell's experiments on the Forth and Clyde Canal, ib—aqueduct bridges of, III 338—motion of water in, XII 138, XIX 182—Green's canal lifts, XII 88—for irrigation, 612 *et seq.*, 637; XIII 648—manner in which a boat is tracked along a, XX 5—in Aragon, III 393—in Belgium, IV 611—at Birmingham, 732—Bacon, V 312—Brindley's canals, 3 67—Bridge-water, VI 529; XIII 179, XVI 54—Cambridgeshire, VI 115—Canada, 154—of Castile, XVII 178—Cheshire, VI 529—China, 591, 592—Derbyshire, VII 754—Devonshire, 768—Dublin County, VIII 215—Union Canal, 411—in Egypt, 430, II 472—England, 722—France, X 243—Forth and Clyde, VIII 236, I 889; XIII 176—Great Ganges Canal, X 400—Glasgow and Airdrossan, IV 333—in Gloucestershire, X 680—Hampshire, XI 203—Holland, 581; Great North Holland, ib, XVI 55—Hungary, XII 10—Kildare, XIII 85—Kentucky, 70—of Kiel, 80—Lancashire, 179—Leicestershire, 320—Lanarkshire, 176—Leitrim, 328—Lincolnshire, 493—connected with London, 679—connected with Manchester, XIV 258—Maryland, 330—Massachusetts, 340—Mesopotamia, IV 364—Mexico, XIV 715—Middlesex, 808—St Laurence canals, XV 522—New Jersey, XVI 176—Newry, 179—New York, 220, 227—Nicaragua, proposed ship canal through, 245—Norfolk, 289—Northamptonshire, 297—Nottinghamshire, 340—Nova Scotia, 343—Ohio, 490—Glasgow, Paisley, and Johnstone, XVII 89—Pennsylvania, 397—in Petersburg, 488—Prussia, XVII 662—Punjab, 688—Queen's County, 739—Russia, XIX 536—Scotland, 807, 808—Spain, XX 491—Sweden, 864—Staffordshire, 704—across the Isthmus of Suez, 789—of the United States, XXI 427 See the different Countries, Counties, &c.
 —in anatomy, VI 160.
 —DE PRINCE, VI 160.
 CANALE, or CANALETTO (Antono), VI 160; XVII 72
 CANANDAIGUA, in Ontario, VI 160.
 CANANORE, in Hindustan, VI 160.
 CANARA, in Hindustan, VI 160—North, 161—South, 162.
 CANARD (M.), on political economy, XVIII 226.
 CANARY ISLANDS, VI 162—language of, XIII 219—height of mountains in, XVII 644—weights and measures, XXI 810—wines of, 887.
 —seed, II 837.
 —Grand, island, VI 166.
 CANARY-BIRD, VI 167; VII 761.
 CANCALE, town in France, VI 167.
 CANCAO, or Cancar, in Cambodia, VI 167.

CAN-CAN

Cancellaria, fossil mollusks, XVII 110.
 CANCELLI, VI 167
 CANCER, disease, VI 167, XVIII 690—cancer-cells, XVII 650—ancient treatment of, XX 815
 —in Astronomy, VI 167—tropic of, 168, IV 11; X 481.
 CANCERIZANTE, musical term, VI 168.
 CANCINITE, mineral, XV 73
 Canceroma, genus of birds, XVI 798
 CANDACE, queen of the Ethiopians, VI 168.
 CANDAHAH, or Kandahar, VI 168; II 206 *et seq.*—occupied by the British in 1839, 208.
 CANDAULES, king of Lydia, VI 169, XIII 747
 CANDELABRUM, VI 169, 172
 CANDESH, VI 169 See Khandesh
 CANDIA, island and city, VI 169; XXI 380—siege of, by the Turks, 370—weights and measures of, 810
 CANDIAC (J L P. Elizabeth de Montcalm de), VI 170
 CANDIDATE, VI 170
 CANDLER, VI 170—medicated, 171—rush, ib—sale by inch of, ib—excommunication by inch of, ib—how to light one by electricity, VIII 590—its manner of burning, XIII 170—from palm-ole, XVI 494.
 Candleberry, V 207
 CANDEMAS, VI 172
 CANDESTIC, VI 172
 CANDOLLE (Augustin Pyramus de), VI 172—on the rotation of crops, II 416—on the colours of flowers, V 151—his classification of plants, 179.
 —(Alphonso de), his experiments on the vitality of seeds V 164
 CANDY, VI 172 See Kandy.
 —a preparation of sugar, VI 172 See Sugar-candy.
 CANDYING, VI 172
 CANE, tribe of plants, VI 172—sugarcane, IX 759, See Sugar-cane—cane-sugar, II 380, VIII 47; IX 760—measure of length, VI 172—river, VI 172
 CANEA, or Khamia, in Candia, VI 172, XIII 76.
 Caneparius's treatise on inks, XII 384
 CANEPHOROS, VI 172.
 CANES VENATICI, a constellation, VI 173.
 CANGE (Charles du Fresne, Sieur du), VI 173—on the different kinds of churches, 235—his mistake regarding lazarett-houses, XIII 340
 CANGI, ancient inhabitants of Britain, VI 173.
 CANGIAGIO (Luca), painter, VI 173.
 Cania, in Candia, XIII 76
 CANGIATTI, town in Sicily, VI 173
 CANGIOLA, Sirius or the Dog-star, VI 173
 Canicular period, VI 670.
 CANICULUM, VI 173.
 CANINE MADNESS, VI 173; XXI 575. See Hydrophobia.
 —teeth, in man, III 25—in the lower animals, 107.
 CANINI (Giovanni Agnolo), VI 173
 CANIS, genus of mammalia, VI 174; XIV 169, see Dog—dentition of, XVI 461—major and minor, two constellations, VI 174; IV 80
 CANISICUS, or De Hondt (Henry), VI 174.
 CANITZ (F R Ludwig, Baron of), VI 174.
 CANKER, VI 174—in horses, XXI 562—in the ear of dogs, 578.
 Cannaceae, nat order of plants, V 211
 CANNAS, town in Apulia, VI 174—battle of, 295; XI 209; XIX 801; XXI 711
 Cannaleth, painter, XVII 72. See Canale.
 CANNEL-COAL, VI 174; VII 118; XV 123—gas yielded by, X 414
 CANNES, French town, VI 174—perfumes manufactured at, XVII 408.
 CANNIBAL, VI 174
 Cannibalism, practised by some American tribes, II 682—revolting conclusion respecting it, from the supposed sup-

CAN-CAN

pority of human flesh, III 179—among the aborigines of Australia, IV 259—in New Zealand, 267; XVI 237—in the interior of Africa, XI 779—among the Fijis, XVIII 275, the Battas, III 270, XX 805—in Housa, XI 779.
 CANNING (George), VI 174; XVII 362—his accession to power, V 601—duel with Lord Castlereagh, 606—declaration against Parliamentary reform, 635—bill for the admission of Catholic peers, ib—appointed foreign secretary in 1823, 637—his eloquence and popularity, 639—formation of a ministry in 1827 by, 648—his death and character, 649—his corn-bill, ib—his visit to Paris in 1826, X 192—a disciple of Pitt, XVII 741—his resolutions for improving the corn-laws, VII 382—his conduct in reference to slave emancipation, XX 324—how regarded by the Duke of Wellington, XXI 829, 830
 —(Lord), his law of 1857, relating to the newspaper press in India, XVI 204—his proceedings on the outbreak of the Indian mutiny, 302
 CANNON, VI 177—casting of, 178, 181—boring of, V 40—proof of, 42—early use of, in China, VI 584, in Britain, XX 121 See Artillery, Gunnevy.
 Cannon bones, in mammalia, III 82, 83.
 CANNONADE, VI 187
 CANO (Alonso), painter, VI 187
 CANON, VI 187.
 CANON, VI 187—cardinal canons, ib—domestic—expectative—foreign—lay—regular—tertiary, ib.
 —in ecclesiastical law, VI 187—apostolical canons, 188—paschal, ib—in music, ib; X 734—syllogistic canons, XIII 610, 611, 627; Sir Wm. Hamilton's, 628.
 —inspired Scriptures, VI 188; IV 696, 697, XIX 832 See the names of the different books of Scripture.
 —LAW, VI 188—study of the, 737, at Bologna, XXI 449; and at Oxford, 453.
 CANONESS, VI 191.
 CANONICA, VI 191
 CANONICAL, VI 191—hours—obedience—sins—punishments—life—letters, ib.
 CANONICUM, VI 191.
 CANONIST, VI 192.
 CANONIZATION, VI 192.
 CANONRY, VI 192
 CANOPUS, star, VI 192; IV 79—an Egyptian deity, VI 192—the pilot of Menelaus, ib—a town in ancient Egypt, ib
 CANOPT, VI 192, III 508.
 CANOBA, VI 192, 202
 CANOVA (Antonio), VI 192; XXI 238—character of his sculpture, XIX 864—busts by, at Venice, XXI 538.
 Canrobert (General), XIX 504.
 CANO, in Nova Scotia, VI 195, 205
 CANSATZ, town in Wurtemberg, VI 195
 CANT, VI 195
 Cant-body, in ship-building, XX 184
 CANTABRIA, VI 196; IV 733—Cantabrian mountains, IX 382—language, XIII 214
 Cantabrigiensis (Codex), XIX 838.
 CANTABRUM, VI 196
 CANTACUZENUS (Johannes), emperor of the East, VI 196.
 Cantze, Caledonian tribe, VI 74.
 CANTAL, in France, VI 196.
 CANTARINI (Simone), VI 196.
 CANTEMIR (Demetrius), VI 196
 —(ANTIOCHUS), VI 197.
 Cantena (L F), his works on insects, IX 18.
 Canterac, Spanish commander in America, IV 818.
 CANTERBURY, VI 197—archbishop of, III 423; VIII 743—its suffragan bishoprics, III 428—Becket's shrine at, IV 562—population of, XIII 67—cathedral library at, 395
 —province in New Zealand, XVI 285.

CAN-CAP

CANTERUS (William), VI 198
 Cantharide, family of insects, IX 184
 CANTHARIDES, Spanish flies, VI 198, XVII 702—eaten by hedgehogs, III 179.
 Cantharidine, XIV 439.
 Cantharus, genus of insects, IX 186—poisoning by *C vesicatoria*, XIV 439.
 Cantharus, genus of fishes, XII 287.
 Canthidermus, genus of fishes, XII 313.
 CANTICLES, VI 198.
 —early printed work, so named, XVIII 523
 CANTILEVER, VI 199
 CANTUIM, VI 199
 CANTO, VI 199.
 CANTO-FERMO, VI 199
 CANTON, small state, VI 199—in heraldry, XI 330—cantons of Switzerland, XX 882
 —in China, VI 199—opened to British commerce by the treaty of 1842, 597—painters of, 581—variation of the needle at, XIV 53—commerce of, VI 590, 591—exports and imports, 591—silver exported from England to, XVIII 473—tea imported from, by Britain and United States, XXI 91
 —(JOHN), VI 201—his life and character, I 723, n 1—the compressibility of water first demonstrated by, ib; II 102; XII 77—Becarna's letter to, IV 561—on aurora borealis, 250—his labours in electricity, VIII 528—on the electricity of clouds, 581—his phosphorus, XIII 456, 457—on magnetism, XIV 6, 54—his artificial magnets, 69.
 CANTONI (Simone), architect, VI 202.
 CANTONING of soldiers, VI 202
 Cantons Lake of the Four, XX 889.
 CANTON'S PHOSPHORUS, VI 202
 Cantor (Dr), on the fishery of the Poly-nemus, XII 278—on the fighting-fish of Siam, 289
 Cantova (P. Juan Antonio), on the Caroline islands, XVIII 269.
 CANTRED, or Cantrith, VI 202.
 CANTYRE, VI 202; XIII 95—Mull of, VI 202.
 CANUS, or Cano (Melchior), VI 202.
 CANUSIUM, now Canosa, in Apulia, VI 202
 CANUTE, or Knut, VI 202, VII 739—reign of, VIII 661—62—fleet of, XX 119—forest laws of, 209.
 Canutson (Charles), XX 845
 CANVAS, VI 203—whether used by ancient painters, XVII 52, n 5
 CANY, French town, VI 203.
 Canynge (William), his ship, XX 124.
 CAOUTCHOUC, VI 203, V 73, 206, 204; IX 537—scarcely compressible, I 876, n 2—its use in making Lougus, V 243 value of the imports of, VIII 784—pens made of, XVII 400—mineral, IV 786; XV 124—quantity exported from Para, XVII 265—setons made of, XX 827.
 Caoutchoucine, VI 204.
 Cap (M), on the uses of glycerine, X 685.
 —VI 204—of maintenance, 205.
 —percussion, XI 98—composition of, VI 474; XI 158, n.
 CAPACITY, VI 205.
 CAPALTAN, island, VI 205.
 CAPARASON, or caparison, VI 205.
 CAPE, VI 205; X 483
 —BRETON, island, VI 205.
 —CLEAR, VI 205, VII 372.
 —COAST CASTLE, VI 205, VII 45.
 —FEAR RIVER, VI 205, 246
 —ELATYEN, town in the island of Hayti, VI 205, XI 258
 —HORN, VI 205; XI 631.
 —Marmot, or Cavy, XIV 199.
 —of GOOD HOPE, VI 205; X 711.
 See Good Hope (Cape of).
 —Town, X 714—Table Mountain and the "table-cloth," XIV 655.
 —VERD, VI 205; II 229; XXI 543.
 CAPEL (Lord Arthur), VI 206—his execution, V 413.
 CAPELL (Edward), VI 206.
 CAPELLA (M. Minus Felix), VI 206.
 —star, VI 206; IV 79, 82.

CAP—CAP

Capello (Admiral), his expeditions against the Algerines, II 570
 CAPELLUS (Ludovicus), theologian, VI 206.
 Capei, order of plants, V 182.
 — spurge, V 206
 CAPERCAILZIE, VI 206, IX 762; XVI 791—shooting, XX 225—in Norway, XVI 324
 CAPERNAUM, VI 206; XVII 186
 CAPEROLANS, VI 206.
 CAPERS, VI 207; V 182
 Capet (Hugh), X 11
 Capethan dynasty, X 239.
 CAPE, Jewish measure, VI 207.
 CAPIAS, executive writ, VI 207
 CAPIDUT, VI 207.
 CAPILLARY, VI 207
 — ACTION, VI 207; XII 90, I 890
 — experiments on, by Hanksbee, Taylor, Jurin, &c., 731, 732—Poisson's theory of, XII 75—Laplace on, I 820, 890, 732—its effects on barometrical tubes, IV 455
 — vessels of the human body, II 796; XVII 662.
 — in the lungs and foot of the toad and frog, II 797—pulmonary capillaries, 798—calibre of the tubes, ib.
 CAPILUTZ (Camillo and Leloh), VI 219
 CAPISCOLUS, VI 219
 CAPITAL, VI 219.
 — in architecture, III 508
 — in political economy, defined, VII 198—alone gives employment to labour, 139—accumulation and employment of, XVIII 223 *et seq.*—required for working a farm, II 366—its natural distribution disturbed by indirect taxes, XXI 57—taxes falling on, 38, 43—not a proper test of the ability of a country to bear taxation, 75—wages dependent on the amount of, 675—comparative increase of, 676—inefficiency of government interference to increase, 677.
 — punishments, XIV 445—cases, in England and Wales, VIII 750
 CAPITANATA, in Naples, VI 219; XX 255
 CAPITANIA, VI 219.
 CAPITATION TAX, VI 219.
 CAPITE, in law, VI 219—cens, ib
 CAPITO, or Koepstein (Wolfgang Fabricius), VI 219
 CAPITOL, in Rome, VI 219; XIX 358—museum of the, 369.
 — at Washington, XXI 766, 431.
 CAPITOLINE GARDENS, VI 220.
 — hill, XIX 356, 357
 CAPITOLINUS (Julian), historian, VI 220
 CAPITULARIES, VI 220
 CAPITULATION, VI 221.
 CAPITULUM, VI 221—in botany, V 115
 CAPMANT (Antonio de Montpalan y), VI 221—on insurance, XII 393
 Capnio (Johann) See Reuchlin.
 CAPNOMANT, VI 221.
 Capo di Monti, porcelain factory of, XVIII 438.
 CAPO D' ISTRIA, in Illyria, VI 221
 — (Joan), count, VI 221, XI 23, 29, 30.
 Capota, genus of fishes, XII 257.
 CAPOK, VI 221.
 CAPONTIERE, in fortification, VI 221.
 Capordamite, mineral, XV 75.
 CAPPADOCIA, VI 221—coins of, XVI 378
 — AD TAURUM, VI 221; XV 283.
 Cappandaceae, nat. order of plants, V 182.
 Capped Hock, XXI 559.
 CAPPERONIER (Claude), VI 223—his edition of Quintilian, V 787.
 CAPPOQUIN, town in Ireland, VI 223
 Capra, genus of mammalia, XIV 211.
 CAPRAJA, ancient Capraria, island, VI 223; XIX 633.
 CAPRI, island near Naples, VI 223; XX 240—azure grotto at, XVII 874—Tiberius's abode on, XXI 245—wines of, 888.
 CAPRIATA (Pietro Giovanni), VI 223.
 CAPRICORN, VI 223—tropic of, 224; IV 11; X 481.
 Caprification, V 152; IX 530; XI 708.

CAP—CAR

Caprifoliaceae, nat. order of plants, V 195—region of, XVII 627
 Caprimulgus, genus of birds, XVI 758
 Caprina, fossil mollusks, XVII 107
 Caprinella, fossil mollusks, XVII 107
 Caprodon, genus of fishes, XII 265.
 Capromys, genus of mammalia, XIV 180
 Caprophonus, genus of fishes, XII 299
 Capros, genus of fishes, XII 299
 Caprotina, fossil mollusks, XVII 107.
 CAPSA, town in Numidia, VI 224
 CAPSICUM, VI 224, 357; V 201; XI 745, XIV 717
 CAPSTAN, VI 224, XIV 415; XX 23.
 Capsule, in botany, V 137.
 — of the eye, III 44.
 CAPTAIN, VI 226—naval, XVI 103—of the fleet, ib.
 CAPTION, in Scots law, VI 226.
 CAPTIVITY, VI 226; XII 767.
 CAPTURE, VI 226
 CAPUA, VI 226—taken by Hannibal, 296
 — Hannibal's conduct at, ib—taken by the Romans, 298
 Capuchin monkey, dentition of, XVI 455.
 CAPUCHINS, VI 226
 CAPUT, VI 227—Baronius—Lupinus—Mortuum, ib.
 Cappybara, in zoology, XIV 188—teeth of, XVI 453, 454.
 CAR, VI 227
 Carabidi, tribe of insects, IX 80.
 CARABINE, VI 227.
 CARADINEERS, VI 227.
 Carabolo, battle of, IV 818
 Carabus, genus of insects, IX 96
 Caracal, in zoology, XIV 171.
 CARACALLA, Roman emperor, VI 227; XIX 346—his cruelties at Alexandria, II 470, XIV 455—baths of, IV 503—ciculus of, VI 734—his war with the Parthians, XVII 313.
 — an ancient Roman garment, VI 227
 Caracanthus, genus of fishes, XII 282
 Caracua, genus of birds, XVI 741
 CARACAS, in Venezuela, VI 227, XXI 537—climate of, II 673.
 CARACCI (Lodovico), VI 227; XVII 73.
 — (AGOSTINO), VI 227, XVII 73
 — (ANNIBALE), VI 227, XVII 73—on the works of Coreggio, II 588
 Caraccioli, the letters of Pope Clement XIV. written by, VI 761
 — (Francesco), Prince, execution of, XVI 136.
 CARACOL, VI 228.
 — town in Guayaquil, XI 78
 CARACTACUS, British king, VI 228; V 277
 Caradoc sandstones, XV 196.
 CARAIRES, or Karates, Jewish sect, VI 228; VII 504, 505—in Russia, XIX 533.
 CARAMAN, in Asia Minor, VI 229.
 CARAMANIA, VI 229—Alexander the Great in, XIII 771.
 Caramaru, V 280, 281
 Caiambola, tropical fruit, XI 729
 CARAMNASSA, river in Hindustan, VI 229.
 Carangas, silver mines of, IV 825
 Carangichthys, genus of fishes, XII 297.
 Carangus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 345.
 Caranx, genus of fishes, XII 297
 Carapus, genus of fishes, XII 234.
 CARAT, VI 229; III 767; VIII 2; XV 430 and n. 1.
 Caraudan, his process for manufacturing alum, II 641.
 CARAUSIUS, emperor of Britain, VI 229, V 380; II 588.
 CARAVACA, in Spain, VI 229.
 CARAVAGGIO, town in Lombardy, VI 229
 — (MICHAEL ANGELO AMERIGHI DA), VI 229; XVII 69.
 — (FOLDORO CALDARA DA), VI 230
 CARAYAN, VI 230—Asiatic commercial, III 751, 755; VII 640—of Morocco, XV 597—from Damascus, VII 640—in Tunis, XXI 365—of Chinese Turkistan, 367.
 CARAVANSERAI, VI 230; XVII 424—number in Baghdad, IV 363.

CAR—CAR

CARAVANSERAI, VI 230
 CARAWAY, VI 230, V 195; XI 745—oil of, XVI 496—seed, II 337—cultivated in Essex, IX 337.
 CARBON, VI 230, 471, XV 64, 145—in plants, II 374; V 94—bisulphuret of, 477—its compound with hydrogen, nitrogen, and chlorine, 473, 474—alimentary principles containing, VIII 18, 19—quantity given off by the lungs, XVII 663—in coal, XX 629. See Charcoal.
 Carbonaceous substances, composition of, XV 146—as food, XIX 610
 CARBONARI, VI 231; XII 655
 Carbonate of lime, XV 91, 142—silver, 107—magnesia, 145—iron, XII 540.
 Carbonates of potash and soda as manure, II 413
 Carbonic acid, VI 471, 472—a component part of the atmosphere, IV 181; II 375, VI 484—its influence on health, XIX 609—absorbed by the leaves of plants, II 379, IV 182; V 105—decomposition of, II 383, V 105—Dr Black's discovery of, IV 737—Mr Cavendish on, VI 351—in mines and coal-pits, VII 643—poisonous quality of, XIV 436; XVIII 135—specific gravity of, XII 89—mode of separating it from coal-gas, X 416—deterioration of coal-gas by mixture with, 432—springs impregnated with, XVII 602—produced by respiration, 662, 665; XVIII 73—in mineralogy, XV 61—compressibility of, XX 564
 — oxide, VI 471; X 430—poisonous quality of, XIV 436.
 Carboniferous period, in geology, XV 200
 — upper series of rocks, 202—plants of, V 234; XVII 640—fishes of, XII 243, 349, 350, 351; XVII 117, 125, 640—formations in Russia, XIX 517; in Scotland, 790, 791
 Carbonometer, described, XXI 542.
 CARBOY, VI 231.
 CARBUNCLE, VI 231
 — in heraldry, VI 231
 Carburetted hydrogen, X 430—in the air, II 376—the cause of "ignis fatuus," X 409—its poisonous quality, XIV 436—discharged from the earth, XVII 602.
 CARCAGENTE, Spanish town, VI 231.
 Carcass-roofing, XIX 387.
 CARCASSONNE, in France, VI 231.
 Carcel's lamp, XIII 172.
 CARCERES, VI 231.
 Carchartas, genus of fishes, XII 323—fossil, 341—teeth of, XVI 422.
 Carcharidae, family of fishes, XII 821, 823.
 Carcharodon, genus of fishes, XII 324—fossil, 341—teeth of, XVI 422
 CARD, for combing wool, VI 231—for cotton, VII 443.
 — punching, XXI 787. See Carding.
 CARDAMOMS, VI 232; V 211
 CARDAN (Jerome), VI 232—an instance of the union of genius with weakness, I 557—on aeronautics, II 168—his improvements in algebra, 484, 517; I 557.
 Cardan's rule, XXI 339
 CARDASS, VI 232.
 CARDERS, VI 232.
 CARDIA, city in the Thracian Chersonesus, VI 232
 CARDIA, VI 232
 CARDIA, family of mollusks, XV 349—fossil, XVII 107.
 CARDIFF, in Glamorganshire, VI 232; X 642
 CARDIGAN, VI 234
 — (Earl of), XIX 505.
 CARDIGANSHIRE, VI 233—lead mines of, XV 245—population and value of property, XVII 754
 Cardilia, fossil mollusks, XVII 107.
 CARDINAL, VI 235—numbers, ib—signs, ib—winds, ib.
 — points, VI 235; IV 1, X 480
 — ecclesiastical prince in the Romish Church, VI 235—cardinals in France, X 267—classes of, XVII 244—college

CAR—CAR

of cardinals, VII 113; VI 235; election of a pope by, XVIII 317.
 Cardinia, fossil mollusks, XVII 108.
 Carding of cotton, improvements in, by Hargreaves, VII 441—and by Arkwright, 443—wool-carding engine, XXI 922—in weaving, 787.
 CARDIOM, an algebraic curve, VI 236.
 Cardiola, fossil mollusks, XVII 106.
 Cardiomorpha, fossil mollusks, XVII 108.
 Cardiopoda, genus of mollusks, XV 377.
 Cardita, genus of mollusks, XV 350—fossil, XVII 108
 Carditis in animals, XXI 574
 Cardium, genus of mollusks, XV 349, 347—fossil, XVII 107.
 CARDONA, Spanish town, VI 236—precipice of rock-salt at, XVII 623.
 Cardoon, culture of, XI 743.
 CARDS, playing, VI 231—early history of, XVIII 523.
 CARDUCHI (the modern Kurds), VI 236; XIII 136.
 Carduelis, genus of birds, XVI 761.
 CAREENING of ships, VI 236.
 CAREER, VI 236.
 Carelophus, genus of fishes, XII 310.
 Careni, Caledonian tribe, VI 74.
 CARET, VI 236
 CAREW (George), VI 236.
 — (GEORGE), earl of Totness, VI 236; XII 479.
 — (RICHARD), author of the Survey of Cornwall, VI 236
 — (THOMAS), English poet, VI 237; XVIII 122.
 CAREY (Henry), VI 237
 — (H. C.), on international copyright, V 32—on the sales of British works in America, ib
 — (WILLIAM), VI 237.
 Carez, his polytypes, XVIII 552.
 CARGADORS, VI 237
 CARGILL (Donald), one of the leaders of the Covenanters, VI 237; V 432
 CARGO, VI 237—super-cargo, ib
 CARIA, in Asia Minor, VI 237—coins of, XVI 376.
 CARIACO, town in Venezuela, VI 238.
 Caribacou, island, XI 58.
 Cariana, genus of birds, XVI 797.
 Caraners, Asiatic tribe, XIII 55.
 Carans, their war with the Egyptians, VII 469
 CARIBBEAN SEA, VI 238; XVII 577
 CARIBBEE ISLANDS, VI 238, III 272; XXI 837—granted by James I. to the Earl of Carlisle, IV 429. See Antilles, Lesser
 Caribs, XI 57; IX 348; XXI 837—their skulls and complexions, II 677—their character, 683—in Honduras, XI 614—language, XIII 224.
 Caribet, X 4.
 CARICATURE, VI 238.
 CARICOUS, VI 238.
 Carides, crustacea, VII 541.
 Caries, disease in the bones of animals, XXI 557.
 CARIGNANO, Italian city, VI 238
 CARILION, a chime of bells, VI 238.
 CARIMATA, island, VI 238
 CARINA, VI 238—in botany, V 124
 Carinaria, genus of mollusks, XV 377—*C. Mediterranea*, ib—fossil, XVII 109.
 CARINT, town of Sicily, VI 238
 CARINTHIA, VI 238, IV 311, 309; XII 364.
 Caris, genus of arachnides, III 389
 CARISBROOKE, VI 238, XXI 862—Charles I. prisoner at, V 410, 411.
 CAREK, VI 238
 Carlen (Madame), her novels, XIX 298, 702.
 CARLETON (Sir Dudley), VI 238; V 390.
 CARLI (Gian-Rinaldo, Count of), VI 238
 — on castes among the Peruvians, 316.
 CARLINE, or Caroline thistle, VI 239.
 — Neapolitan silver coin, VI 239.
 CARLINES, in a ship, VI 239.
 CARLINGFORD, Irish town, VI 239—light-house of, XIII 466—bay, 701.

CAR—CAR

Carlings of a ship, XX. 187. See Carlines
Carlini (M), of Milan, I. 826, 827
CARLISTE, VI. 239—table of mortality at,
III. 255, XII. 400—railway, XXI. 842.
—fifth earl of, VI. 239.
—(Sir ANTHONY), VI. 239—on the
chemical effects of the voltaic pile, I
965; XXI. 628.
Carlists, XX. 477, 480 *et seq.*
CARLOOC, VI. 239.
Carloman, X. 7, 578.
CARLOS (Don), his attempts to obtain the
Spanish crown, XX. 477, 478 *et seq.*
481—takes refuge in France, X. 210—
renunciation of his claim to the Spanish
crown, XX. 482
—(SAN), town in Venezuela, VI. 239
CARLOWINGIAN, dynasty, VI. 239; X. II,
239.
CARLOW, in Ireland, VI. 239, 240—extent
of land under crops, XII. 515—produce
of crops, 517.
CARLOWITZ, Austrian town, VI. 241
CARLSBAD, in Bohemia, VI. 241—climate,
XIV. 678—its thermal springs, XV. 37,
39 and n. 1; XVII. 602
CARLSBURG, in Transylvania, VI. 241.
CARLSHAMN, in Sweden, VI. 241
CARLSKRONA, in Sweden, VI. 241.
CARLSON (B. A.), his work on insects, IX.
20.
CARLSRUHE, German city, VI. 241
CARLSTAD, in Sweden, VI. 241, 242.
CARLSTADT, in Croatia, VI. 242.
—Luther's opposition to his views
respecting the real presence, XIII. 730,
731, XVIII. 831.
CARLUKE, in Lanarkshire, VI. 242
CARLYLE (Joseph Dacre), orientalist, VI.
242.
—(Thomas), on Novalis, XVI. 342—
his Life of Sterling, XX. 691, 692—on
Talleyrand, XXI. 11, 14—his character
of Wither's poetry, 896.
CARMAGNOIA (Francesco Bussone di), VI.
242.
—town in Piedmont, VI. 242.
CARMEL (Mount), VI. 242, XVII. 182
CARMELITES, order of mendicant friars,
VI. 242; XVII. 182.
CARMENTALIA, Roman festival, VI. 243
CARMICHAEL (Arch. Nisbet), of the Edin-
burgh Academy, VI. 243.
—(J. and C.), their steam-engine
valve-gear, XX. 584.
—(Prof.), on Grotius, I. 88.
—(Sir T. Gibson), his experiment in
irrigation, XII. 620.
CARMINATIVE, VI. 243.
CARMINE, VI. 243—in dyeing, VIII. 284.
CARMONA, Spanish town, VI. 243.
CARNAC, French village, VI. 243
—temple of, VI. 243; III. 436; VIII.
507, 461—to whom dedicated, XI. 384
and n. 7.
Carnat, mineral, XV. 84.
CARNATIC, in India, VI. 243; XI. 490
et seq.
CARNATION, in painting, VI. 244.
—flower, VI. 244—culture of, XI. 753.
CARNAUL, VI. 244. See Kurnool.
Carne (Mr), on the produce of the Cor-
nish tin mines, XV. 241
CARNAPPE, founder of the New Academy
at Athens, VI. 244—Grotius' estimate of
his ethics, I. 381.
CARNEPPO, VI. 244.
CARNEIA, ancient festival, VI. 244.
CARNELIAN, VI. 244, 67; II. 231; XV. 69
—mines of, in Hindustan, XI. 458.
Carnic Alps, II. 624.
CARNEFEX, VI. 244.
CARNIOLA, VI. 244; IV. 811, 309; XIII. 136.
CARNIVAL, VI. 244.
CARNIVORA, XIV. 153—their bones, III.
79 *et seq.*—muscles, 91—organs of smell,
94—dentation, XVI. 459 *et seq.* 464—
eyes, III. 97—long intestines, 110—
peculiarities of organisation, 172—flesh
generally unfit for food, 179—pairing
of, 181—oils from, XVI. 493—of Africa,
II. 217—of America, 713—fossil, XVII.
171—distribution of, 681.

CAR—CAR

Carnivora, insects, IX. 77.
CARNIVOROUS, VI. 244.
CARONACA, Caledonian tribe, VI. 74.
CARNOT (Lazare Nicolas Marguerite), VI.
245; X. 132—on the defence of fort-
ified places, IX. 816—his merits as an
engineer, 838—on the character of Tal-
leyrand, XXI. 12
Carnore Point, XXI. 845, 846
CARNUNTUM, VI. 245
CARO (Annibale), Italian poet, VI. 245
Carob-tree, V. 190.
CAROCOLLA, genus of mollusks, XV. 373.
CAROLAN (Twalogh), blind harper, VI. 245
Caroli (Peter), VI. 109
CAROLINA (North), VI. 245; XXI. 419—
—newspapers of, XVI. 185—rice in,
XIX. 157—settlers in, XXI. 438—debt
of, 428.
—(South), VI. 247; XXI. 419—news-
papers of, XVI. 185—rice in, XIX. 157
—tea-plant in, XXI. 81—settlers in,
438—debt of, 428—opposition to the
union, 441.
CAROLINE, consort of George IV., V. 612,
614, 627—her arrival in London, 628
—bill of pains and penalties against,
629—trial, 1b—death, 633—character of
the proceedings against her, 629
—consort of George II., her conver-
sations with Whiston, XXI. 850.
—ISLANDS, VI. 248; XVII. 583,
XVIII. 269,
—Books, VI. 248.
CAROLOSTADT (Andrew Bodenstein), VI.
248.
CAROLUS, gold and copper coins so called,
VI. 248; XII. 669.
CAROMEL, or Caramel, VI. 248; V. 331
Caron (M), on European imports to
Japan, XII. 696
CAROOR, town in Hindustan, VI. 248.
CARORA, in Venezuela, VI. 248.
CAROTIDS, arteries, VI. 248, III. 65
CAROUGE, town in the canton of Geneva,
VI. 248
CARP, VI. 248; IX. 764; XII. 255—
angling for, III. 160
CARPEA, ancient dance, VI. 248
Carpal bones, III. 33, 81, 86
CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS, VI. 248, IV. 312;
IX. 382, XII. 9, 10, XVII. 596, XIX.
514; XXI. 682, heights of, XVII. 642
Carpasium mare, VI. 248.
CARPATIUS, now Scarpanio, island, VI.
249
Carpel, in botany, V. 118, 120, 134.
CARPENTARIA (Gulf of), VI. 249.
CARPENTER (Lant, L.L.D.), VI. 249.
—(Dr), on odorous emanations, XIV.
564—his objection to Brewster's theory
of the line of visible direction, 574, n.
3—on fairy rings, IX. 471—on mol-
lusks, XV. 327, 337—on the organology
of phrenology, XVII. 559—on cerebral
action, 561—on zoophytes, XXI. 1006,
1007.
—VI. 249—distinguished from a
joiner, V. 746—work of, in building, 1b;
in a farm steading, II. 372—health of
carpenters, XIV. 442—naval, XVI. 104.
—(General), V. 454.
CARPENTERIANA, II. 739.
CARPENTRAS, in France, VI. 249; XXI.
580.
CARPENTERY, VI. 249—skill of the Romans
in, III. 445—distinguished from joinery,
XII. 804—strength of different kinds of
wood, VI. 249; XX. 170 *et seq.*; of
beams, 760 *et seq.*, 768, 769. See
Beams, Centre, Joinery, Roof, Strength
of Materials, Timber, Wood.
CARPENTUM, VI. 269.
CARPET, VI. 269—weaving of, XXI. 780—
French, X. 252; XXI. 920—of Kidder-
minster, XIII. 76; XXI. 928—Turkish,
384.
CARPET-KNIGHTS, VI. 272
CARPET, town in Italy, VI. 272.
—(GIROLAMO DA), painter, VI. 272
—(UGO DA), painter, VI. 273—his im-
provements in wood-engraving, XXI.
903.

CAR—CAR

Carpi (Dr), on the magnetism of the solar
rays, XIV. 12
CARPINI (Giovanni de Plano), VI. 273; X.
469
CARPINO, Italian city, VI. 273.
CARPOBALSAMUM, IV. 401
CARPORATES, Gnostic, X. 688. VI. 273
CARPOCRATANS, branch of the Gnostics,
VI. 273
CARPOLOGY, VI. 273, V. 136.
Carpus, in man, III. 33—the mammalia,
81—birds, 86
Carr (Mr), on weights and measures, XXI.
802
CARRAC, or Carrack, VI. 273; XX. 122.
Carrageen, or Irish moss, V. 218
Carratnchill, XIII. 72
CARRARA, Italian town, VI. 273—marble,
1b; XV. 92; XIX. 843.
—(M), his work on the Italian glow-
worm, IX. 18.
Carre (Robert), Earl of Somerset, V. 388.
CARRENNO DE MIRANDA (Don Juan),
painter, VI. 273.
Carrera (Peter), on the eruptions of
Etna, II. 194-95
—(Juan Jose), a leader in Chili, VI.
553
Carrett, Marshall & Co, their steam-en-
gines, XX. 608, 610, 614.
CARRIE, VI. 308—disaster of the Ro-
mans at, XVII. 811.
CARRIAGE, VI. 273; VII. 42—duties on
carriages, 43, XIII. 436—wheel car-
riages, II. 279—roadway, III. 493—me-
tropolitan carriages act, XVIII. 194—for
railways, 781, 783. See Coach, Chariot.
CARRICK, district of, VI. 273, IV. 382
—on SHANNON, in Leitrim, VI. 273;
XIII. 329.
—on SUIR, in Tipperary, VI. 273;
XXI. 288—woollen manufacture at, 770.
CARRICKFERGUS, in Ulster, VI. 273; III.
283.
CARRICKMACROSS, in Monaghan, VI. 274—
coal near, XXI. 409—population, 411
CARRIER, VI. 274.
—French revolutionist, X. 93, n. 1.
—pigeon, VI. 275
—shells, XV. 382
Carrion-flowers, V. 182
CARRON, river in Scotland, VI. 275, XX.
702.
—iron-works, VI. 276, IX. 474;
XIX. 245, XX. 703; XXI. 702, 703, 775
—strength of Carron iron, XII. 567, 569.
—(Loch), fishery of, XIX. 427, IX.
640, 642
CARRONADE, VI. 276, XI. 140, 133—table
of ranges for, 147—invented at Carron,
XX. 708.
CARROT, VI. 276; V. 195; IX. 760—cul-
ture of, II. 320; XI. 740.
—dy, XI. 740.
CARROUSAL, VI. 276.
CARRUCA, ancient car; a plough, VI. 276.
Carrucage. See Carriage.
CARRUCATE, VI. 276.
CARRYING, VI. 276.
CARSE, VI. 276—of Gowrie, 1b; XVII. 456,
457, 458; XIX. 792—analysis of the soil
of, II. 393—of Falkirk, IX. 474—of
Stirling, VI. 276, 760; XIX. 791; XX.
703.
CARSON (Agilony Ross, L.L.D.), rector of
the High School of Edinburgh, VI. 276
CARSTAIRS (William), VI. 276
CARSTENS (Jan), his voyage, IV. 252.
CART, VI. 277—of war, 1b—agricultural,
II. 279.
—rivers (White and Black), XIX. 8,
9; XVII. 89.
Cart-horse, II. 388; XI. 661.
Cartago, VII. 428.
CARTE (Thomas), VI. 277.
CARTE-BLANCHE, VI. 277.
CARTEL, VI. 277—cartel-sh'p, 1b.
Carter (John), his work on pointed archi-
tecture, III. 457.
Cartelet (Captain), his discoveries in Aus-
tralasia, IV. 264
—(Sir George), XVI. 176.
—islands, IV. 264.

CAR—CAR

CARTES (Réné des), or DESCARTES, VI.
277; I. 56, 609—Condorcet's character
of, 56—may be regarded as the father
of the experimental philosophy of the
mind, 1b—his clear and precise concep-
tion of *reflection*, 57—on the mind, 1b *et
seq.*, 243—unacquainted with the works
of Bacon, 244—the articles of common
belief which he proposed to subject to
severe scrutiny, 59—consciousness of his
own existence, 1b; XIV. 616—his ar-
gument for the existence of God, I. 69,
and n. 4; yet accused and persecuted
as an atheist, 60, n. 1—his precocity of
genius, 61—principal articles of his
philosophy, 62—his mathematical re-
searches the most solid basis of his
fame, 62 and n. 1—his claims to the
discovery of certain leading ideas erro-
neously ascribed to later metaphy-
sicians, 63—early progress of his doc-
trines in England, 63, 64—coincidences
between passages in his works and in
Novum Organon, 59, 244—origin of the
true philosophy of mind to be dated
from his Principia, 67—his errors, 68—
his theories as to the connection be-
tween soul and body, 1b—on the *prim-
ary* and *secondary* qualities of bodies,
63, 245—reasons why he fixed on the
pneal gland as the seat of the soul, 69
—Bacon never mentioned by, 70—
merits of his Meditations, 243—errone-
ously called a nihilist, 246—his merits
as a writer, 247—his doctrines concern-
ing ideas misunderstood, 109, n. 2, 251-
52—on the freedom of the will, 267—
Coleridge's assertion, that he antici-
pated Hobbes in his discourse on meth-
od, erroneous, 444—his mode of phil-
osophising opposite to that of Bacon,
and greatly inferior, 584, 585—on the
theory of motion, 594—on the preserva-
tion of the same quantity of motion in
the universe, 1b—on centrifugal force,
1b—first who attempted to reduce all
the phenomena of the universe to the
same law, 809—his theory of vortices,
610—his claim to the discovery of the
true law of refraction 1b founded, 627—
his theory of light, 628—his optical dis-
coveries, 628-29, 747, II. 87, XVI. 530,
578—his explanation of the rainbow,
629—on the force of a moving body, I.
654—his improvements in, and new ap-
plications of, algebra, 560; II. 488, IX.
671—on the pressure of the atmo-
sphere, IV. 450—his barometer, 458
—his attempt to solve the problem of
Apollonius, III. 802—his opinion of
brutes, V. 700—on burning-glasses, VI.
1, 4—his theory of the deluge, VII. 720
—on magnetism, XIV. 4—on equations,
IX. 287—analytical geometry originated
with, X. 542—on metaphysics, XIV.
600, n. 1 and 2 *et seq.*—did his opinions
give rise to those of Spinoza? XVII. 234
—on pneumatics, XVIII. 27—on tele-
scopes, XXI. 119—his dictum, "cogito
ergo sum," 185—on the ontological
proof of the existence of God, 186, 187.
Cartesian devils, XVIII. 51.
CARTESIANS, VI. 280.
CARTIAGE, VI. 280; VIII. 16—site of, II.
223—commerce, VII. 185—wars with
the Romans, XIX. 309, 310; and Syra-
cusans, VI. 283, 285; XX. 899—final
destruction of, 314—conquests in Spain,
457—naval power of, 117—vessels,
XVIII. 161, n. 2—foundation of, XXI.
405—ruins of, 365.
CARTAGENA, VI. 303—building of, 292
—or Cartagena, capital of New Gra-
nada, VI. 304, X. 797—British expedi-
tion against, V. 458—plundered by
Ponins and the bucaners, 712.
Cartaginian alphabet (Punic), II. Plate
—army, III. 629—voyages, X. 460, 461
—human sacrifices, XIV. 261—slavery,
XX. 320.
Cathalo, Cartaginian general, VI. 289.
CATHAMUS, a dye-stuff, VIII. 286
CARTHUSIANS, VI. 304; V. 697.

CAR—CAS

Cartier (James), Gulf of St Lawrence discovered by, II 699; VI 168.
 Cartilage, II 831, IX 758—whether contained in bone, II 827, 829—structure of, 832—synovial membrane of, II 840—ensiform, III 9—the five cartilages of the larynx, 50—of the ribs, 10—of the windpipe, 66—fibro-cartilage, II 832.
 Cartilaginous fishes, XII 205, 319
 Cartismandua, queen of the Britons, V 377, 378
 Cartland Craigs, XIII 174—bridge at, III 339.
 CARTOON, VI 304; XIX 867 and *n*—Raphael's, XVII 68—Angelo's, XVIII 750.
 CARTOUCHE, VI 305—in hieroglyphics, *ib* CARTRIDGE, and cartridge-box VI 305—wire, XX 214.
 CARTWRIGHT (Edmund), D.D., VI 305—power-loom invented by, VII 450, XXI 787—his combing-machine, 924—(Rev Edward), his lope-machine, XIX 406.
 —(THOMAS), Puritan divine, VI 305.
 —(WILLIAM), VI 305.
 CARUCATURIUS, VI 305
 Caruncle of the eye, III 45—in the ruminants, 97—wanting in the rodentia and in birds, 97.
 Caruncles, in botany, V 140
 CARUPANO, in Venezuela, VI 305.
 CARUS, Roman emperor, XIX 349
 —(C. GUSTAVUS), his works on insects, IX 15—his remarks on the dissection of minute animals, 29—on the circulation of an ephemera, 50—on the infusoria, III 197—on phenology, XVII 565.
 CARVAGE, VI 305
 Carvalho, marquis of Pombal, his administration, V 284, 285.
 CARVER, VI 305—and glider, V 755.
 CARVING, VI 305, XIX 843.
 CARWAR, in Hindustan, VI 306.
 CARY (Lucius), Lord Falkland, VI 306 See Falkland.
 —(ROBERT), LL.D., VI 306
 —(Mr), his marine barometers, IV 458.
 CARYA, or Caryatis, ancient festival, VI 306
 CARYATIDES, VI 306; III 442, 467, 508.
 Carychium, genus of mollusks, XV 375
 CARLY (John), English poet, VI 306.
 —(JOSSEPH), nonconformist divine, VI 306
 Caryocatactes, genus of birds, XVI 765
 Caryophyllaceae, nat. order of plants, V 184—region of, 227; XVII 627.
 Caryophyllus, genus of entozoa, XXI 979.
 Caryopsis, a kind of seed-vessel, V 137.
 CARYOTA, genus of palms, VI 306.
 Carystot (Lord), on weights and measures, XXI 799.
 CASA SANTA, VI 306 See Loretto
 CASAL MAGGIORE, town in Lombardy, VI 306.
 CASALE, in Italy, VI 306.
 CASALNUOVO, Neapolitan town, VI 306.
 Casanata library, at Rome, XIII 412.
 Casanova, effects produced on, by a work entitled *La Cité Mystique*, &c., I 442.
 CASAR-DE-CACERES, Spanish town, VI 306.
 CASAS (Bartolommeo de las), VI 306.
 CASATI (Paul), VI 307
 CASAUON (Isaac de), VI 307; XVII 523—on diptera, VIII 43—Casauboniana, II 739—his intimacy with Denis Pétau, XVII 480—his editions of Strabo's Geography, XX 744.
 —(ALEXIC), VI 307.
 CASBIN, Persian city, VI 308.
 Casbols (Prof.), his method of making barometers, XII 101.
 CASCADE, VI 308. See Waterfall.
 —mountains, XVI 705; XVII 845; XXI 766.
 CASCAES, Portuguese town, VI 308.
 CASCARILLA, a tonic bark, VI 308; V 206.
 Casco. See Cuzco.

CAS—CAS

CASE, VI 308—in grammar, *ib*; X 748, 789—in printing, VI 308; XVIII 539—case-shot, VI 308, XI 142.
 CASE-HARDENING, VI 308
 Casene (vegetable), II 882; IX 757—in the milk of the cow-tree, VII 470
 —(animal), the chief ingredient of cheese, VII 624; VI 523, XV 11; XVII 654; XIX 610—composition of, II 382.
 Casentino, in Tuscany, XXI 893
 CASERTA, town of Naples, VI 308—palace of, XV 782; XXI 522.
 Cash-accounts, in Scotch banks, XV 455
 Cash-book, in book-keeping, V 17—petty cash-book, 23.
 CASHAN, Persian city, VI 308.
 CASHEL, in Tipperary, VI 308; XXI 287, 288—rock of, 286, 288.
 CASHW, or Cashew-nut, VI 308; V 190, XVI 395—yields a black dyestuff, VIII 304.
 —order of plants, V 189.
 Cashgar, III 755, XIII 54.
 CASHER, VI 308.
 CASHMERE, in northern India, VI 308; XVII 598—wool, XXI 906—shawls, VI 809, XIV 211; exports of, from France, XXI 920—trade with Tuckestan, 367
 —goat, XI 455; XIV 211.
 CASHY, in Hindustan, VI 310
 Casimir, kings of Poland so named, XVIII 138, 140, 141, 142, 144; XX 851.
 CASIR (Michael), VI 310
 CASE, VI 310—invention and construction of, VII 341—made by machinery at Deptford, VIII 80—gauging of, XIV 524—largesize of sherry casks, XXI 851.
 CASLON (William), letter-founder, VI 310
 Casmarhynchus, genus of birds, XVI 750
 Casnomia, genus of insects, IX 82.
 Caspe, Spanish city, VI 310
 Casper (D.), on the statistics of mortality, V 623, 634
 CASPIAN SEA, VI 310; X 469, XVII 606—its level lower than that of the ocean, IV 468; VIII 591
 —languages, XIII 216
 —gates, XVII 420.
 CASQUE, VI 312
 CASSANA (Nicolo), Italian painter, VI 312
 CASSANDER, king of Macedon, VI 312; XIII 775.
 CASSANDRA, VI 312.
 CASSANO, town of Naples, VI 312.
 Cassation (Court of), in Belgium, IV 614—*in* France, X 282—the Two Sicilies, XX 253
 CASSAVA, VI 313; V 206, 294; XIV 716
 Casse (Du), his Memoires, XV 796.
 Cassegrain (M.), his telescope, XVI 533, XXI 127.
 CASSEL, in Germany, VI 313, XI 362
 —in France, VI 313
 Cassencarte, granite quarry at, XIII 101.
 CASSIA BARK, VI 313; IV 445; VI 737—cassia buds, 813—oil of cassia, XVI 496.
 Cassiani, ammonites, XVII 113.
 CASSIANUS, or Joannes Elemta, VI 313.
 Cassius, genus of birds, XVI 762.
 Cassida, genus of insects, IX 143.
 Cassidaria, fossil mollusks, XVII 110.
 Cassidiaria, family of insects, IX 143.
 Cassidula, genus of mollusks, XV 375.
 Cassidulide, fossil echinoida, XVII 100; XXI 991.
 CASSIMIRE, or Cashmire, VI 313 See Cashmire.
 CASSINI (Johannes Dominicus), VI 313—director of the Royal Observatory of Paris, III 802—his astronomical discoveries, I 614; III 803; IV 69—on the planets Venus, Mars, and Jupiter, 63, 68, 69—his barometer, 454—on refraction, 9—on the orbits of comets, VII 167—on the annual variation of the needle, XIV 52, 53—his micrometer, 758—on the degree of meridian, IX 549—his telescopes, XXI 119.
 —(JAMES), VI 313—his astronomical labours, III 805

CAS—CAS

CASSINI (De Thury, Cæsar François), VI 313, III 805—on the arc of meridian, IX 549—his memorial to the British government respecting longitude, 550; XXI 330
 Cassino (Monte), XIII 387.
 CASSIODORUS (Magnus Aurelius), VI 313.
 CASSIOPEIA, VI 314—a constellation, *ib*; IV 78.
 Cassiquiare, river, XVI 716; XVII 604.
 CASSIS, ancient helmet, VI 314
 —genus of mollusks, XV 366—fossil, XVII 110.
 —a French seaport, VI 314.
 Cassiterides, V 376
 Cassiterite, mineral, XV 109.
 Cassiterotantalite, XV 110.
 Cassius (Avidius), XIX 344.
 —(CAIUS), VI 314
 —(C. LONGINUS), VI 314.
 —(LONGINUS and SPURIUS), VI 314.
 —a Roman surgeon, XX 812.
 —powder of, VI 314.
 Cassivelaunus, British chief, V 377.
 CASSOCK, VI 314.
 CASSOOK, in architecture, VI 314; III 508
 CASSOWARY, or Cassuary, VI 314, XVI 796; XVII 634—in Paraguay, 268.
 CAST, VI 314—casts of medals, 325—of animals, vegetables, &c., 324 See Casting.
 Cast-iron, XII 568. See Iron.
 Cast metal and cast-iron. See Iron.
 CASTAGNO (Andrea del), painter, VI 314
 Castalia, genus of mollusks, XV 349.
 CASTALIA FONS, or Castalia, VI 314.
 CASTANEA, genus of plants, VI 314; XI 717.
 CASTANET, VI 314
 Castanha nuts, V 192.
 CASTE, VI 314—in India, V 267; XI 471; effects of there, VII 437—in Ceylon, VI 393—no sanction for in the sacred books of the Hindus, XVII 541—English society once divided into castes, VIII 761—feudal system essentially one of caste, X 737.
 CASTEL (Louis Bertrand), VI 320
 —(Mons), his experiments in hydraulics, XII 113, 117, 121, 122 *et seq*
 CASTEL GRANDOLFO, Italian village, VI 321.
 —NAUDARY, town in France, VI 321
 —beet, XX 798.
 —SARRASIN, town in France, VI 321
 —VETRANO, town in Sicily, VI 321.
 CASTEL-A-MARE, city on the Gulf of Naples, VI 320; XX 240.
 —town in Sicily, VI 320—gulf of, XX 843.
 CASTELL (Dr Edmund), VI 321—aided in the publication of Walton's Polyglot Bible, XXI 695.
 CASTELLAN, VI 321.
 CASTELLATION, VI 321.
 CASTELLI (Bernardo), VI 321.
 —(GIOVANNI BATTISTA), VI 321.
 —(Don Benedetto), on hydrodynamics, XII 70—on the formation of bars in rivers, XVI 80
 —(VALERIO), VI 321.
 —Peruvian general, IV 832.
 Castellina, mines of, XXI 393
 CASTELLO (Sebastian), VI 321.
 CASTELLON DE LA PLANA, VI 321.
 CASTELLORUM OPERATIO, VI 321.
 CASTELO BRANCO, Portuguese town, VI 321.
 —DE VIDE, Portuguese town, VI 321
 CASTELVETRO (Ludovico), VI 321.
 CASTI (Giambattista), Italian poet, VI 321.
 CASTIGATION, VI 322.
 CASTIGATORY, for scolds, VI 322
 CASTIGLIONE, numerous towns in Italy so called, VI 322.
 —(BALDASSARE), VI 323.
 —DELLA STIVIERE, VI 323—battle of, III 690.
 —(GIOVANNI BENEDETTO), VI 323.
 —or Gabli, X 364.
 CASTILE, Old and New, VI 323, XX 493—differences with Portugal, XVIII 380,

CAS—CAT

382—Moorish kingdom of, XX 461, 462—canal of, 491.
 Castle soap, XX 368, 367.
 CASTILLON, town in France, VI 323.
 CASTING, VI 323—history of the art of, 180, 181—of cannon, 178, 183 *et seq*—in sand, or earth, 323, IX 843—of specula for telescopes, XXI 135—of types, 401, 402—with plaster of Paris, VI 323; XV 293; XI 172—in the manufacture of pottery, XVIII 441—of statues, XIX 843.
 —a horse, &c., XXI 559, *n* 1.
 Casting-net, XIX 81.
 CASTLE, VI 323—castle-stead, 327.
 —Campbell, in Clackmannanshire, VI 321.
 CASTLEBAR, town in Ireland, VI 327; IX 372.
 CASTLEBLATNEY, town in Ireland, VI 327, XV 411.
 CASTLECAIRY, station on the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, VI 327.
 —town in Somerset, VI 327.
 CASTLECOMER, Irish town, VI 328—colleagues of, XIII 84—rainfall at, XII 504.
 CASTLE-DEERMOT, Irish town, VI 328.
 CASTLE-DOUGLAS, Scotch town, VI 328; XIII 100.
 —and Portpatrick railway, XX 746
 CASTLE-ISLAND, Irish town, VI 328.
 CASTLEREAGH, Irish town, VI 328
 —(Lord), his accession to power, V 601—charge against, concerning the barter of a Bengal writership, 605—his duel with Cumming, 606; VI 176—secretary of foreign affairs, 612—consequences of his death, 637.
 Castlesburg, in Norfolk, XVI 291.
 Castleton, in Derbyshire, VII 754, 755.
 CASTLETOWN, in the Isle of Man, VI 328; XIV 245, 246.
 Castnia, genus of insects, IX 209
 CASTOR, VI 328—in astronomy, *ib*—in zoology, XIV 185.
 —cake, as manure, II 405—analysis of, *ib*.
 —oil, VI 328; V 206; XVI 495—its specific gravity, XII 89—employed to form microscopic lenses, XIV 769—male flower of the plant yielding, V 128.
 —AND POLLUX, VI 328; VIII 36; XIX 298—stars, X 447—meteor, VI 328; VIII 588, XIV 470
 CASTOREUM, or Castor, VI 328; IV 555
 CASTRATION, VI 329, IX 375—of horses, II 339; XXI 571—lambis, II 349—crime of, XIV 428 See Eunuch.
 Castrén (Alex.), on Turanian philology, XVII 635.
 CASTRIS, in France, VI 328.
 Castri, Greek village, VII 710.
 CASTRO, Neapolitan sea-port, VI 329
 —Del Rio el Real, and Urdales, Spanish towns, VI 329.
 —Giovanni, Nuovo, Reale, Sicilian cities, VI 328.
 —(Isaac de). See Orobio (Baltasar).
 —Villari, town in Naples, VI 329.
 CASTRUCCIO (Castracani), VI 329.
 CASTRUM DOLORIS, VI 330
 CASUALTY, VI 330—as applied to human actions, XIII 262—idea of, as referable to reasonings on human character and conduct, XIX 123
 Casuarinaceae, nat. order of plants, V 208.
 Casuarus, genus of birds, XVI 796.
 CASUSTR, VI 330.
 CASUSTRIT, VI 330.
 CASVERN, VI 330.
 CAT, VI 330; XIV 170—its fur, X 349—its power of resisting starvation, III 180—worshipped by the Egyptians, VIII 432—tailless cat, XIV 243.
 CATS'-EYE, a gem, VI 330; XV 63.
 Cat-fish, XII 309; IX 764; XVI 424
 CAT-GUT, VI 330.
 CAT-HEAD, VI 333.
 CAT-SALT, VI 330.
 CATIA, a prefix, VI 330.
 CATACHESES, VI 330.

CAT—CAT

CATACOMB, VI 330.
 Catadioptric light, XIII 474—lenses, 477—glass mirror, 478—microscope, XIV 769.
 —holophotal apparatus, XIII 477.
 CATADROMICS, VI 330.
 CATAFALQUE, VI 330.
 CATAGOGIA, VI 330.
 CATAGRAPHA, VI 330.
 Catalan forge, XII 538, 544.
 CATALANES, VI 330; XVII 700.
 CATALOGUE, VI 331—raisonné, ib—catalogues of the fixed stars, ib., IV 80, 95, 143; III 791—bibliographical, IV 713, 715—for libraries, XIII 377—of monastic libraries, 387.
 CATALONIA, VI 331, X. 493—vineyards of, XXI 884.
 Catappa *syriacifolia*, XVII 764.
 Catalysis, in chemistry, VI 441.
 Catalysotype, XVII 551.
 CATALAN, VI 331; XIII 803.
 Catamarca, in La Plata, XVII 779.
 CATANUANTES, island, VI 331.
 CATANIA, VI 331; XX 244, 255—laid waste by the eruptions of *Ætna*, II 193—4—amber found at, 656—ancient coins of, XVI 366.
 Catantostoma, fossil mollusks, XVII 110.
 CATANZARO, Neapolitan city, VI 331.
 Cataphagus, genus of insects, IX 106.
 CATAPHRACT, VI 331.
 CATAPULTA, VI 332.
 CATARACT, VI 332—of the Nile, VIII 425, 514—in Lapland, XIII 234. See Waterfall.
 —disease of the eye, VI 332; XIII 461—in domestic animals, XIII 578.
 Catarhina, dentition of, XVI 466.
 CATARRH, VI 332—in the domestic animals, XXI 572.
 Catastomus, genus of fishes, XII 257.
 CATASTROPHE, VI 332.
 Catalus, genus of mollusks, XV 365.
 Catawba wine, XXI 888—river, IV 246, 247.
 CATCH, in music, VI 332—catch-word, ib.
 Catch-work irrigation, XII 614.
 Catcot (Mr), on the Deluge, VII 720.
 CATEAU (Le), town in France, VI 332—battle of, X 37.
 CATECHESIS, VI 332.
 CATECHISM, VI 332—why not used in Apostolical times, I 494—proper to be used now, 502—Cranmer's, VII 433, n. 7.
 CATECHIST, VI 332.
 CATECHU, VI 332—as a dye stuff, VIII 296—in tanning, XIII 306.
 CATECHUMEN, VI 333.
 CATEGORICAL, VI 333.
 CATEGORY, VI 333—Aristotle's categories, III 552.
 Catalan (Abbé de), IX 676.
 Catena (Paulus), VII 307—his cruelties in Britain, V 380—burnt alive, VII 307.
 Catenaia, mountains in Tuscany, XXI 392, 393.
 CATEPHILAN CURVE, VI 333; III 406; IX 748; X 505; XX 544—James Bernoulli on, IV 672—geometry of the, I 876.
 CATERPILLAR, VI 333; IX 53, 204 *et seq.*—processionary, 213—geometrae or surveyors, 216—aquatic, 218—fungus parasitic on, V 217.
 Catesby, his connection with the Gunpowder Plot, V 384.
 —(Mr), on birds, XVI 726—on the turtle, XIX 19—on the guana, 33—green lizard, 35—on a species of rattlesnake, 69.
 CATHERINA SANTA, VI 333. See: Santa Catharina.
 CATHARINE, VI 333—knights of St Catharine of Mount Sinai, ib.—fraternity of St Catharine at Sienna, ib.
 —de Medici, Davila's character of, VII 666.
 Cathartes, genus of birds, XVI 789.
 CATHARTICS, VI 333.
 Cathart (General), XIII 35.

CAT—CAT

Cathart (Lord), on national defences, XXI 702.
 CATHEDRA, VI 333.
 CATHEDRAL, VI 333—Gothic, III 447, 468, 480—architecture of, 409, 516, 517—libraries, XIII 394—society in cathedral cities, X 694—erection of, by freemasons, XIV 337.
 Catherine, consort of Henry the Eighth, VIII 697, 698, 701.
 —I, empress of Russia, VI 333—reign of, XIX 481—accessions of territory under, 494.
 —II, empress of Russia, VI 334—reign of, XIX 484—science encouraged by, II 65.
 —PARR, VI 333. See Parr, Catharine.
 —(St), order of, VI 337.
 Catherineburg, meteorological observations at, XIV 686.
 Catherine-wheel window, IV 512.
 Catherwood, his illustrations of the monuments of Central America, III 502—on the origin of these remains, ib.
 CATHETER, VI 337, VII 601, XX 831.
 CATHESTRUS, VI 337—of incidence—of reflection—of obligation—in architecture, ib.; III 508.
 CATHOLIC, VI 337—church—king, ib.—meaning of the term, I 484, n.
 —Association, in Ireland, XII 501; V 642, 647, 653.
 CATILINA (Lucius Sergius), VI 337, 717—his conspiracy, XIX 323.
 Catkin, in botany, V 115.
 Catla, genus of fishes, XII 257.
 Catlow (Maria E), her work on insects, IX 23.
 CATMANDOO, city in Hindustan, VI 337; XIII 76; XVI 144, 148.
 CATO, the Censor, VI 337; XIX 314—his mission to Carthage, VI 300—on irrigation, XII 621—his dislike to the medical profession, XIV 453.
 —or UTICA, VI 338; XIX 323, 326; XXI 498—his speech on Catiline's conspiracy, XX 675.
 —(Dionysius), IV 435, n. 1.
 —Street conspiracy, V 628.
 Catopra, genus of fishes, XII 277.
 Catoptrion, genus of fishes, XII 247.
 Catopterus, genus of fossil fishes, XIII 334.
 CATOPTRIS, VI 339; XIII 451, XVI 552—catoptric lights for lighthouses, XIII 468, 471—catoptric micrometers, XIV 749.
 CATOPTROMANCY, VI 339.
 Catoptrophorus, genus of birds, XVI 805.
 Catopygus, fossil echinoides, XVII 92, 100.
 Catopxantha, genus of insects, IX 105.
 CATRINE, in Ayrshire, VI 339—weaving factory at, VII 450.
 CATROU (François), VI 339.
 Cats (Jacob), Dutch poet, XI 591.
 CATSKILL, town in New York, VI 340.
 —mountains, VI 340; XVI 213.
 Catsup, IX 765.
 CATTARO, in Dalmatia, VI 340.
 CATTAGAT, VI 340; IV 402, 403.
 CATTI, an ancient German nation, VI 340; XIII 111; X 576.
 Cattle, breeds of, II 340—breeding and management of, 343—dairy breeds, 342; VII 621—grazing of, II 325—fattening of, 344—mode of housing, 345—diseases of, XXI 554—of Ayrshire, III 627—England, VIII 723—America, II 714—Arabia, III 347—New South Wales, IV 280—Derbyshire, VII 755—Devonshire, 704—Dumfriesshire, VIII 236—Dumfriesshire, 237—Durham, 267—Lincolnshire, XIII 491—Lombardy, 648—Egypt, VIII 432—Herefordshire, II 341; III 349—Galway, XIII 100—Leamington, 175—cattle-trade of Ireland, XII 619—history of, XIV 214—wild cattle at Chillingham Castle, XVI 800—of Norway, 325—fed on fish, XIII 241—in the different counties of Scotland, XIX 798, Sweden, XX 861—Switzerland, 889—Sussex, 839—Wurtemberg, XXI 938.

CAT—CAV

Cattle murrain, II 49.
 CATTOICA, town in Sicily, VI 340.
 CATULLUS (C. Valerius), Roman poet, VI 340—poetry of, XVIII 104.
 Catulus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 336, XVII 126.
 Catwater, V 307, 308, XVIII 17.
 CATZ (Jacob), VI 340.
 CAUBUL, VI 340, II 201 *et seq.* See Cabul.
 Cauca, in New Granada, X 797.
 Caucasian race of man, II 775; XI 541—languages, IX 390, XIII 199, 215—aborigines of America compared with, II 678—its subdivisions, 775.
 CAUCASUS, VI 340. IX 382, III 734; XVII 420, 597; XIX 514, 551, heights of, XVII 643.
 Cauchy (Augustin Louis), I 920—his vast mathematical labours, ib—his modification of Fresnel's theory of reflection, ib—on the dispersion of light, and its non-dispersion in free space, 921—his theory of waves, XII 74—on equations, XI 290, 306—on optics, XVI 546, 686.
 Caudal vertebra, III 76, 84—in fishes, 89.
 CAUDEBERG, French town, VI 343.
 CAUDETE, Spanish town, VI 343.
 Caudex, in tree-ferns, V 143.
 Caudine Forks, disaster to the Roman army at, XIX 304.
 CAUFIRISTAN, in Asia, VI 343.
 CAULKING, or caulking of ships, VI 343; XX 118, 189, 190.
 CAULBAGH, town in Hindustan, VI 343.
 CAULMOUNT (Duke of Vicenza), X 160, 167, 168, 172.
 Caulfield (Mr), on salmon fisheries in Ireland, IX 625.
 Cauliculus, in architecture, III 508.
 CAULIFLOWER, VI 344; IX 760—culture of, XI 787.
 Cauquenas, hot springs of, VI 543.
 CAUSINES, Italian usurers, VI 344.
 CAUS (Salomon de), his steam apparatus, XX 574.
 Causality, or causality, XIV 599, 600—law of, as applied to human actions, XIII 262—phenological faculty of, XVII 553.
 CAUSANS (Chevalier de), his fancied discovery of the quadrature of the circle, XX 522.
 CAUSATION, XIV 600 and n. 4, 601—Malebranche on, I 78—Hume's theory of, 211, XIX 710—Glanvil on, X 643—Aristotle on, III 540—Dr T. Brown on, V 668.
 CAUSE, VI 344.
 —and effect, Dr Brown on the relation of, V 683—charge against Sir J. Leslie for his opinions on, XIII 345—Kant on, 47.
 CAUSEWAY, VI 344.
 CAUSSEADE, town in France, VI 344.
 CAUSSIN (Nicholas), VI 344.
 CAUSTIC CURVE, VI 344; XVI 571, 576, 578.
 CAUSTICS, VI 344.
 CAUTERY, VI 344; XX 815 *et seq.*
 CAUTIONER, in Scots law, VI 344.
 Cautiousness, XVII 562.
 Cauby, river, VI 343, 356, XXI 18, 328, 329.
 CAVA, a town of Naples, VI 344.
 Cavaignac, General, X 238.
 —(Godfrey), X 205, 208.
 CAVAILLON, French town, VI 344.
 CAVALCANTI (Guido), VI 344.
 CAVALIER, VI 344—English cavaliers of the seventeenth century, V 401.
 —in fortification, VI 344, IX 821.
 CAVALIERI (Bonaventura), VI 344—his mathematical attainments and discoveries, I 552—55; IX 671—on the concentration of cold by reflection, VII 99, n. 2, I 762.
 CAVALLINI (Pietro), VI 344.
 CAVALLO (Tibetius), VI 344—Volta's letters to, I 963—his experiments in aeronautics, II 170—on electricity, XVIII 567, 602—his self-charging electrical jar, 618—on the electrophorus,

CAV—CAY

607—his atmospheric collector of electricity, 608—his mode of using the electrical doubler, 615—his electrical multiplier, 616—his electroscopie, ib—on the air-pump, XVIII 41—on magnetism, XIV 22—magnetism of brass, 26—his micrometer, 759.
 Cavallo, Turkish town, XIII 55.
 CAVALLUCI (Antonio), painter, VI 347.
 CAVALRY, VI 347, 602—Roman, III 633—British, 665—Austrian, 645—Prussian, 646—Russian, 648—French, 640, X 270—Spanish, III 643—Turkish, 658. See Army.
 CAVAN, in Ireland, VI 347.
 CAVANILLES (Antonio Jose), VI 349.
 CAVY, VI 350, XVII 601—artificial caves, III 435—of Baumanns, IV 514—temperature of, VI 778—in Hungary, XII 10—Kentucky, XIII 69—Indiana, XII 375—Honduras, XI 609—caves with fossil remains, XVII 639; in Britain, ib.; XV 215—in Skye, XX 317—Sutherland, 841—Tipperary, XXI 286. See Grotto.
 —(EDWARD), printer, VI 350—literary employment given by, to Dr Johnson, XII 795.
 —(Dr WILLIAM), VI 350—on miracles in the fourth century, II 668.
 CAVEDONE (Jacopo), VI 350.
 Cavendish (Charles, Lord), on the depression of mercury in capillary tubes, XII 91.
 —(HENRY), VI 350—biographical notice of, I 929—his wonderful range of scientific knowledge, ib—lightness of hydrogen determined by, II 170—on the composition of the atmosphere, IV 180—his claims to the discovery of the composition of water, I 929, 930; VIII 594—on chromatids, VI 645—his chemical discoveries, I 929—his experiments on latent and specific heat, 930—singular personal characteristics of, 931—his philosophical character, ib—on electricity, 987, 988; VIII 530, 533—his experiment on the density of the earth, I 894, 895—on the torpedo, VIII 574; his artificial torpedo, I 988—on electricity as a chemical agent, VIII 594—on the electrical shock, 602—on the Leyden jar, 613—thermometers constructed by, XXI 222—experiments on airs, 776.
 —(Lord John), V 500 *et seq.*
 —(MARGARET), duchess of Newcastle, VI 355.
 —(THOMAS), of Suffolk, VI 355—his visit to the Ladrone islands, XVIII 269.
 —(Sir WILLIAM), VI 355.
 —(WILLIAM), first duke of Devonshire, VI 356.
 —tobacco, XXI 294.
 CAVERY, or Cauby, river, VI 356, 243. See Cauby.
 Cavetto, in architecture, III 468, 508.
 Cavia, genus of mammalia, XIV 188.
 CAVIARE, VI 356—from the sturgeon of the Oural, XIX 551.
 Cavitaures, entozoa, XXI 981.
 CAVITE, town in the island of Luzon, VI 356.
 Cavoleau (M), on the variety of French wines, XXI 882, 883.
 Cavy, in zoology, XIV 189—cape-cavy, 139—Patagonian, cranium and teeth of, XVI 453.
 Cawley, his steam-engine, I 770, XX 575.
 CAWNPORE, in Hindustan, VI 356—outbreak of the Sepoy mutiny at, XVI 305—relief of by General Havelock, 306—atrocities committed at, 306, 306.
 CAXAMARCA, city of Peru, VI 357.
 CAXTON (William), VI 357; XVIII 534—works printed by, 533—his types, XXI 401—his second-hand translations of the classics, IV 710.
 CATENNE, in French Guiana, VI 357; XI 84.
 —island, VI 357; XI 84.
 —pepper, VI 357; V 201; XVII 404, XXI 161—adulterations of, IX 770. See Capsicum.

CAY—CEL

Cayla (Madame du), X. 181, 188.
 Cayley (Sir George), his flying apparatus, IX. 748.
 CAYLUS (Comte de), VI. 357—on encaustic painting, VIII. 654.
 Caymanas, or Cayman isles, XII. 682.
 Caymans, XIX. 23.
 CAYSTER, or Caystrus, VI. 358.
 CAZALLA DE LA SIERRA, Spanish town, VI. 358.
 Cazim (Mahommed), his description of Assam, III. 763.
 CAZIQUE, or Cacique, VI. 358.
 CAZORLA, town in Spain, VI. 358.
 CEBES, of Thebes, VI. 358.
 Cebileptus, genus of birds, XVI. 751.
 Cebrio, genus of insects, IX. 106.
 Cebionites, tribe of insects, IX. 106.
 Cebus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 143—dentition of, XVI. 453, 456.
 Cecidomyia, genus of insects, IX. 226.
 CECIL (ROBERT), VI. 359.
 —(WILLIAM), Lord Burleigh, VI. 358; VIII. 711.
 CECILIA (St), VI. 359.
 CECORUM, in Athens, IV. 168.
 CECROPS, VI. 360, IV. 159, 192.
 CEDAR, VI. 360; V. 209—as timber, XXI. 275, 278—red, XIII. 19—Jamaica, XII. 681—specific gravity of the wood, 89—used in the houses of Nineveh, XVI. 272—Deodar cedar, XVII. 760.
 —Chilean, VI. 548.
 —of Lebanon, V. 209, XVII. 190, 757, 760.
 Cederborg, Swedish novelist, XIX. 702.
 Cederström (Frederic), XX. 857.
 Cedrelaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 187.
 CEDRENTUS (Georgius), VI. 360—on religious theatrical exhibitions, VIII. 143.
 Ceely (Robert), proves the identity of cow-pox and small-pox, XXI. 502.
 CERALI, in Sicily, VI. 360.
 CEREGRIN, Spanish town, VI. 360.
 CERLING, in architecture, VI. 360; III. 438—lathing and plastering of a, V. 742—in ship-building, XX. 187.
 CERMELLA, VI. 360.
 CERMELOPHYLLAX, VI. 360.
 Cerniog, river in Denbighshire, VII. 735.
 Celafu, city in Sicily, XX. 243.
 CELANO, lake, VI. 360, X. 817; XX. 238.
 CELARENT, in logic, VI. 360.
 Celastaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 159—region of, 227; XVII. 627.
 CELASTRUS, genus of plants, VI. 360, V. 159.
 CELATURE, VI. 360.
 Celaya, city in Mexico, XIV. 724.
 CELBRIDGE, town in Kildare, VI. 360.
 CELEBES, VI. 360—the Bugis of, III. 749—language of, XIII. 208, 218—reptiles, XIX. 24, 53, 54.
 CELEBES, Roman soldiers, VI. 361; XIX. 296.
 Celebiac, culture of, XI. 744.
 CELERTY, VI. 361.
 CELERY, VI. 361—culture of, XI. 744—blanching of, V. 67.
 Celestial mountains, XXI. 227.
 CELESTINE, the name of five popes, VI. 361.
 —mineral, XV. 95.
 CELESTINS, a religious order, VI. 361.
 CELEUSMA, VI. 361.
 CELIBACY, VI. 362—few inclined to, XIV. 441—of the Catholic clergy, XVIII. 386; policy of, I. 527, n. 2.
 CELIBATE, VI. 362, XVIII. 386.
 CELIDOGRAFIA, VI. 362.
 CELL, VI. 362—cells of plants, V. 65, 66, 67—of bee-combs, IV. 577, 579—cell-formation, II. 784—their influence in formation of tissues, ib., 785—relation between nucleated cells and corpuscula, 785—cell tissues, XVII. 650.
 Cella, VI. 362—a fountain in Aragon, III. 389—in architecture, 508.
 CELLAR, VI. 362—cold of, VII. 100—cellar dwellings, XVIII. 196.
 CELLARER, VI. 362.
 CELLARIUS (Christopher), VI. 363.
 Celle, town in Hanover, XXI. 969.

CEL—CEN

CELLINI (Benvenuto), VI. 363; XIX. 863.
 Cellular tissue, of plants, V. 65, 66—physiology of, 67.
 —of the human body, II. 786, XVII. 650—of brutes, III. 171; IX. 758.
 Cellulares, or cellular plants, V. 65, 178, 179, 217.
 Cellulose, IX. 755; V. 65, 72, II. 379, XIX. 611.
 Celonites, genus of insects, IX. 196.
 Celsius, his centesimal thermometer, I. 759; IV. 457—on the diminution of the Baltic, 403—on the elevation of the Swedish coasts, XX. 860.
 CELSUS (Aurelius Cornelius), VI. 363—his anatomical knowledge, II. 751—his knowledge of medicine, XIV. 454; of surgery, XX. 812—on the qualities necessary in a surgeon, 821—on insanity, XIV. 527.
 CELTÆ, or Celts, VI. 363; II. 776; V. 372 et seq.; IX. 387, XIII. 212; X. 727—Celtic language, V. 374, XIII. 200, 212; XVIII. 797; IX. 393—phology, XVII. 530, 538—Celtic origin of the Irish, XII. 462—Celtic academy, II. 70—Celtic ring-money, XVI. 352, n. 1—barrows, XXI. 879.
 CELTES, VI. 367, IV. 512.
 CETIBERIA, in Spain, VI. 367—people of, XX. 457.
 CEMENT, VI. 367—tissue in the formation of the teeth, XVI. 407, 410—iron cement, X. 418, n.; XIII. 721; V. 361.—for building, VI. 368; V. 742; XX. 713, 714, 735—different kinds of, 714, 715—Parker's Roman, V. 742—Portland, ib.—plastering with, 744—decay of, on walls, ib.—Pozzolana, XVIII. 698; XX. 714.
 CEMENTATION, VI. 368, XVIII. 443, 444.
 CEMENTERY, VI. 368, 22; V. 773—cemeteries in London, XIII. 678—in Glasgow, X. 656—influence of, on health, XIV. 444—situation and management of, XIX. 620—of Sidon, XX. 269—English, at Leigham, XIII. 317.
 CENCI (Beatrice di), VI. 368.
 CENEDA, town in Lombardy, VI. 369—mineral springs of, XIII. 644.
 CENEGILL, VI. 369.
 CENA, genus of mollusks, XV. 370.
 CENOBITE, or Cenobite, VI. 369; VII. 53.
 CENOTAPH, VI. 369.
 CENSOR, VI. 369.
 CENSIO, VI. 369 See Censor.
 CENSITUS, VI. 369 See Capitae Cens.
 CENSOR (Roman), VI. 369; XIX. 401—in China, VI. 563.
 CENSORINUS, VI. 370.
 CENSORS of Books, VI. 370; IV. 712, XIII. 357.
 CENSURE, VI. 370.
 CENSUS, VI. 370—of the population of Britain, XVIII. 342—of America, 340, 341 See Population.
 CENT, VI. 371—a copper coin, ib.
 CENTALLO, town of Piedmont, VI. 371.
 CENTAUR, constellation, VI. 371; IV. 80.
 CENTAURI, or Centaurs, fabulous beings, VI. 371—in heraldry, XI. 334.
 Centaurus, genus of fishes, XII. 314, 207.
 CENTAURIUS, VI. 372.
 Centenes, genus of mammalia, XIV. 152.
 Centenius Penula, defeat of, VI. 298.
 Center. See Centre.
 CENTESIMÆ USURÆ, VI. 372.
 CENTESIMATION, VI. 372.
 Centetes, dentition of, XVI. 452.
 CENTIGRADE THERMOMETER, VI. 372; IV. 457; XXI. 222.
 CENTLOQUIUM, VI. 372.
 Centipedes, XV. 747, 749.
 CENTIVIRUS (Susanna), VI. 372; VIII. 165.
 CENTO, VI. 372.
 —Italian town, VI. 372.
 CENTORBI, VI. 372.
 CENTRAL AMERICA, VI. 372. See America, Guatemala, &c.
 —FORCES, VI. 372; VIII. 358.
 Centarchus, genus of fishes, XII. 277.
 CENTRE, VI. 372; V. 748—of effort or resistance, in ships, XX. 12, 159—that used for the bridge of Orleans, 759.
 CENTRE OF GRAVITY, VI. 385; XX. 146, 147 et seq., 546—in a ship, 16—progressive motion of, XIX. 439.
 —or motion, VI. 385.
 —of a circle, X. 513.
 —of percussion, XIX. 434—of gyration, 436—of spontaneous rotation, 439.
 —(Canal du), X. 244.
 CENTRIFUGAL FORCE, VI. 385, XIV. 409—couple, 409.
 —inflorescence, V. 115.
 —process, in sugar-making, XX. 795.
 —pump, XII. 179.
 Centrina, genus of fishes, XII. 325.
 Centrinus, genus of insects, IX. 140.
 CENTRIPETAL FORCE, VI. 385—inverse problem of, VIII. 361.
 —inflorescence, V. 114.
 Centrus, genus of insects, IX. 200.
 Centrus, genus of fishes, XII. 305, 209; XVII. 117.
 Centrodon, genus of fossil fishes, XVII. 125.
 Centrolinead (the), XVII. 446.
 Centrophus, genus of fishes, XII. 298.
 Centronot, tribe of fishes, XII. 297.
 Centrophorus, genus of fishes, XII. 325.
 Centropomus, genus of fishes, XII. 275.
 Centropistis, genus of fishes, XII. 276.
 Centropus, genus of birds, XVI. 778.
 Centrosyllium, genus of fishes, XII. 325.
 Centrotus, genus of insects, IX. 170.
 Centurion, genus of fishes, XII. 232.
 Centumalus (Fulvius), defeated by Hannibal, VI. 298.
 CENTUMVIRI, VI. 385.
 Centuria, division of a county, XII. 9.
 CENTURION, VI. 386, III. 631.
 CENTURY, VI. 386.
 —a division of the Roman people, VI. 386; XIX. 297 et seq., 316.
 CEOLLES, VI. 386.
 CEOS, now Zea, island, VI. 386; VII. 607—coins of, XVI. 374.
 CEPHEUS, genus of plants, VI. 386; V. 196.
 Cephalacanthus, genus of fishes, XII. 282.
 Cephalaspide, family of fossil fishes, XII. 338.
 Cephalaspis, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 339; XVII. 121.
 Cephalia, genus of insects, IX. 251.
 CEPHALIC, VI. 386.
 CEPHALONIA, VI. 386; XII. 452—insurrection at, in 1848 and 1849, XII. 456—coins of, XVI. 372—cotton, XII. 445—wines of, XXI. 886.
 —pine, XII. 453, n. 1.
 Cephalopoda, class of mollusks, XV. 390, 322—fossil, XVII. 111—extinct genera of, 115—bed of, XV. 207.
 Cephaloptera, genus of fishes, XII. 328.
 Cephalopteræ, family of fishes, XII. 326, 328.
 Cephalopterus, genus of birds, XVI. 749.
 Cephalotes, genus of mammalia, XIV. 148.
 Cephaluma, genus of entozoa, XXI. 982.
 Cephas, genus of insects, IX. 184.
 Cephren, Egyptian king, VI. 526.
 Cephus, genus of birds, XVI. 810.
 Cepola, genus of fishes, XII. 303.
 CERAM, island, VI. 386, X. 404.
 Cerambyci, tribe of insects, IX. 144.
 Cerambyx, genus of insects, IX. 145.
 Ceramiaceæ, sub-order of plants, V. 218.
 Ceramicus, and Ceramic edifices, in ancient Athens, IV. 161—outer, 170—Agora, 162.
 Ceramius, genus of insects, IX. 197.
 Cerasine, V. 73; IX. 756.
 —mineral, XV. 105.
 Cerastes, genus of serpents, XIX. 71—power of abstinence, II. 52—statement by Bruce regarding, XIX. 45.
 Ceratias, genus of fishes, XII. 312.
 Ceratina, genus of insects, IX. 199.
 CERATON, VI. 386.
 Ceratites, fossil mollusks, XVII. 113.
 Ceratodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 341.

CEN—CER

istance, in ships, XX. 12, 159—that used for the bridge of Orleans, 759.
 CENTRE OF GRAVITY, VI. 385; XX. 146, 147 et seq., 546—in a ship, 16—progressive motion of, XIX. 439.
 —or motion, VI. 385.
 —of a circle, X. 513.
 —of percussion, XIX. 434—of gyration, 436—of spontaneous rotation, 439.
 —(Canal du), X. 244.
 CENTRIFUGAL FORCE, VI. 385, XIV. 409—couple, 409.
 —inflorescence, V. 115.
 —process, in sugar-making, XX. 795.
 —pump, XII. 179.
 Centrina, genus of fishes, XII. 325.
 Centrinus, genus of insects, IX. 140.
 CENTRIPETAL FORCE, VI. 385—inverse problem of, VIII. 361.
 —inflorescence, V. 114.
 Centrus, genus of insects, IX. 200.
 Centrus, genus of fishes, XII. 305, 209; XVII. 117.
 Centrodon, genus of fossil fishes, XVII. 125.
 Centrolinead (the), XVII. 446.
 Centrophus, genus of fishes, XII. 298.
 Centronot, tribe of fishes, XII. 297.
 Centrophorus, genus of fishes, XII. 325.
 Centropomus, genus of fishes, XII. 275.
 Centropistis, genus of fishes, XII. 276.
 Centropus, genus of birds, XVI. 778.
 Centrosyllium, genus of fishes, XII. 325.
 Centrotus, genus of insects, IX. 170.
 Centurion, genus of fishes, XII. 232.
 Centumalus (Fulvius), defeated by Hannibal, VI. 298.
 CENTUMVIRI, VI. 385.
 Centuria, division of a county, XII. 9.
 CENTURION, VI. 386, III. 631.
 CENTURY, VI. 386.
 —a division of the Roman people, VI. 386; XIX. 297 et seq., 316.
 CEOLLES, VI. 386.
 CEOS, now Zea, island, VI. 386; VII. 607—coins of, XVI. 374.
 CEPHEUS, genus of plants, VI. 386; V. 196.
 Cephalacanthus, genus of fishes, XII. 282.
 Cephalaspide, family of fossil fishes, XII. 338.
 Cephalaspis, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 339; XVII. 121.
 Cephalia, genus of insects, IX. 251.
 CEPHALIC, VI. 386.
 CEPHALONIA, VI. 386; XII. 452—insurrection at, in 1848 and 1849, XII. 456—coins of, XVI. 372—cotton, XII. 445—wines of, XXI. 886.
 —pine, XII. 453, n. 1.
 Cephalopoda, class of mollusks, XV. 390, 322—fossil, XVII. 111—extinct genera of, 115—bed of, XV. 207.
 Cephaloptera, genus of fishes, XII. 328.
 Cephalopteræ, family of fishes, XII. 326, 328.
 Cephalopterus, genus of birds, XVI. 749.
 Cephalotes, genus of mammalia, XIV. 148.
 Cephaluma, genus of entozoa, XXI. 982.
 Cephas, genus of insects, IX. 184.
 Cephren, Egyptian king, VI. 526.
 Cephus, genus of birds, XVI. 810.
 Cepola, genus of fishes, XII. 303.
 CERAM, island, VI. 386, X. 404.
 Cerambyci, tribe of insects, IX. 144.
 Cerambyx, genus of insects, IX. 145.
 Ceramiaceæ, sub-order of plants, V. 218.
 Ceramicus, and Ceramic edifices, in ancient Athens, IV. 161—outer, 170—Agora, 162.
 Ceramius, genus of insects, IX. 197.
 Cerasine, V. 73; IX. 756.
 —mineral, XV. 105.
 Cerastes, genus of serpents, XIX. 71—power of abstinence, II. 52—statement by Bruce regarding, XIX. 45.
 Ceratias, genus of fishes, XII. 312.
 Ceratina, genus of insects, IX. 199.
 CERATON, VI. 386.
 Ceratites, fossil mollusks, XVII. 113.
 Ceratodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 341.

CER—CER

Ceratoidæ, XXI. 991.
 CERATONIA, genus of plants, VI. 386; V. 190.
 Ceratophris, genus of reptiles, XIX. 77.
 Ceratophylaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 206.
 Ceratopogon, genus of insects, IX. 225.
 Ceratoptera, genus of fishes, XII. 328.
 CERBERA, genus of plants, VI. 386.
 CERBERUS, VI. 386—constellation, IV. 80.
 Cercaria, genus of animalcules, III. 203; XXI. 976, 980.
 Cercocetus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 140.
 Cercomya, fossil mollusks, XVII. 108.
 Cercopis, genus of insects, IX. 170.
 Cercopithecius, genus of mammalia, XIV. 139—fossil, XVII. 167.
 Cercus, genus of insects, IX. 114.
 CERDONTIANS, ancient heretics, VI. 387.
 CEREBALIA, a festival of Ceres, VI. 387—esculent seeds of grasses, VI. 387; XVII. 630—produce of, in Ireland in 1855, XII. 517—used as food, IX. 758.
 CEREBELLUM, VI. 387, II. 818, III. 51, 52—weight of, 52—function of, XVII. 674—of brutes, III. 103. See Brain.
 Cerebratules, genus of entozoa, XXI. 982.
 Cerebro-spinal diseases, XVII. 700, 702.
 CEREBRUM, VI. 387; II. 818; XVII. 668. See Brain.
 CEREMONIAL, VI. 387—laws of the Mosaic dispensation, I. 469.
 CEREMONIES, master of the, VI. 387.
 CEREMONY, VI. 387.
 Cereopsis, genus of birds, XVI. 816.
 CERES, goddess, VI. 387; IV. 67, VII. 373—priests of, 616—mysteries of, 629; IX. 753.
 —one of the planets, VI. 387—its discovery, III. 808; IV. 67.
 CERET, French town, VI. 387.
 Cerexochus, Egyptian deity, XI. 386.
 Cerna, genus of insects, IX. 238.
 Ceranthidia, polypes, XXI. 1004.
 CERIGNOLA, Neapolitan city, VI. 387.
 CERIGO, island, VI. 387, XII. 454.
 Cengotto, island, XII. 454.
 Cern, mineral, XV. 90.
 CERINTHANS, heretics, VI. 387.
 Cernithus, Gnostic, X. 637; XVIII. 265.
 Certe, mineral, XV. 91.
 Centhiada, family of mollusks, XV. 383—fossil, XVII. 110.
 Centhium, genus of mollusks, XV. 383.
 CERUR, a metal, VI. 388, 488; XV. 66.
 CERNE-ABBAS, town in Dorset, VI. 388—abbey at, VIII. 112.
 Cerooma, genus of insects, IX. 184.
 CEROMA, VI. 388.
 Ceromya, fossil mollusks, XVII. 108.
 Cerones, two Caledonian tribes, VI. 74.
 Ceropales, genus of insects, IX. 195.
 Cerophytum, genus of insects, IX. 106.
 CEROKYXON ANDRICOLA, genus of palms, VI. 388.
 CERRATO, town of Naples, VI. 388.
 Cerro di Pasco, town in Peru, XVII. 331, 474—silver mines of, XV. 235, XVII. 471.
 CERTALDO, town in Tuscany, VI. 388.
 Certallum, genus of insects, IX. 145.
 Cethia, genus of birds, XVI. 768.
 CERTORANI, in law, VI. 388.
 Cerialin, VIII. 301.
 CERUMEN, VI. 388.
 CERUSE, or white-lead, VI. 388—manufacture of, XIII. 301.
 Cersusite, mineral, XV. 105.
 CERVANTES (Saavedra Miguel de), VI. 388—his Don Quixote, I. 96, VI. 619; XIX. 235—wounded at Lepanto, XII. 456, n. 1—dramas of, XVIII. 114—his novels, XIX. 285.
 Cervantite, mineral, XV. 113.
 Cervato, river, XX. 238.
 CERVERA, Spanish town, VI. 389.
 CERVIA, town in the Papal States, VI. 389.
 Cervical vertebrae, III. 5, 75, 84.
 —muscles, III. 88.
 Cervidia, fossil, XVII. 170.
 Cervus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 205—fossil species, XVII. 170.

CER—CHÆ

Cerylon, genus of insects, IX. 142.
 CESARE, a kind of syllogism, VI. 389.
 CESARI (Guseppe), VI. 389.
 CESAROTTI (Melchiorre), VI. 389.
 CESSNA, town in the Papal States, VI. 389.
 Cessart (M. de), his plan for Cherbourg breakwater, V. 308—his plans for the Pont du Louvre, XII. 580.
 Cess-pools, building of, V. 735.
 CESSIO BONORUM, VI. 389, IV. 415.
 Cestidae, zoophytes, XXI. 1001.
 Cestoidea, zoophytes, XXI. 979, 976, 977, 978.
 Cestraciontoides, family of fossil fishes, XII. 340.
 Cestracion, genus of fishes, XII. 322, 324; XVII. 117—jaw and teeth of, XVI. 424.
 Cestraciontidae, family of fishes, XII. 324; XVII. 116, 117—dental characters of, XVI. 424.
 Cestræus, genus of fishes, XII. 291.
 CESTUS, VI. 390.
 — a boxer's glove, VI. 390, 58; V. 252.
 Cetacea, XIV. 216, 237—II. 774, 775; XVII. 633, 635—their bones, III. 76—organs of smell, 94—eyes, 95—ears, 98 et seq.—vocal organs, 101—nervous system, 108—teeth, 105—stomach, 109—odontology of, XVI. 442, 443, 444, 445—of America, II. 718—oils produced by, XVI. 493. See Whales.
 Cetiosaurus, fossil reptiles, XVII. 153.
 Cetonia, genus of insects, IX. 127.
 Cetonides, family of insects, IX. 127.
 Cetopsis, genus of fishes, XII. 261.
 Cetosia, genus of insects, IX. 207.
 Cetotolites, XVII. 165.
 Certe, French town, VI. 390.
 Cetti (Francesco), on birds, XVI. 729.
 Cetus, constellation, VI. 390; IV. 83.
 Ceulen (Ludolph Van), II. 560, X. 504; XX. 522.
 CEUTA, fortress on the coast of Fez, VI. 390—taken from the Moors, XVIII. 382.
 — promontory, XV. 594.
 Centorhynchus, genus of insects, IX. 140.
 CEVA, VI. 390.
 CEVENNES, mountains, VI. 390; IX. 383.
 CEYLON, VI. 390; XXI. 351—castes in, VI. 315—cultivation of cinnamon in, 727—missions established in, XV. 271—Buddhism in, X. 724—pearl divers of, VIII. 56—pearls, XVII. 356, 357—use of betel in, IV. 686—flora of, V. 228; XVII. 628—height of mountains, 646—reptiles, XIX. 53, 54, 65—varieties of rice, 157—reasons for supposing it to have been Eastern Tarshish, XXI. 27, 28—cultivation of tea in, 81—weights and measures, 810.
 Ceyx, genus of birds, XVI. 773.
 Chabannes (Marquis de), his hot-water apparatus, XIX. 614.
 Chabasse, optical properties of, XVI. 542.
 Chabaste, mineral, XV. 76.
 CHABLUS, town in France, VI. 401.
 CHABRIAS, Athenian general, VI. 401.
 Chabrier (J.), his work on the flight of insects, IX. 15.
 Chaca, genus of fishes, XII. 263.
 Chaco (Gran), plain in La Plata, XVII. 777.
 Chadwick (Mr.), on the allowance to the poor, XVIII. 308, n. 1—on the rate of wages in Lancashire, XXI. 680.
 Chamaichthys, genus of fishes, XII. 306, 307.
 Charemon's lost work on hieroglyphics, XI. 411.
 Charephon, XX. 391.
 CHÆRONIA, in Boeotia, VI. 401—battle of, XIII. 765; consequences of, XXI. 179.
 Chæropotamus, fossil mammal, XVII. 165.
 Chærops, genus of fishes, XII. 267.
 Chærites, fossil corals, XVII. 97.
 Chætodon, genus of fishes, XII. 301, 302.
 Chætodontidae, or Chætodonts, family of fishes, XII. 299, 302—fossil, 344.

CHA—CHA

Chætoproterus, genus of annelides, XI. 300.
 — genus of fishes, XII. 288.
 CHAFERT, VI. 401.
 Chaff, as manure, II. 406.
 Chaff-cutters, II. 283.
 CHAFFINCH, VI. 401, XVI. 761.
 Chafin (Rev. William), on fox hounds, XII. 43.
 CHAGRES, river and town, VI. 401; II. 712; XVII. 226.
 Chahorra, volcano, VI. 165.
 Chailetiaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 189.
 CHAIN, VI. 401—use of, in surveying, ib.—BRIDGES, VI. 401. See Iron Bridges.
 — book, in surveying, XXI. 348.
 — cables, XX. 23.
 — PUMP, VI. 401, XII. 183.
 — rigging, XX. 23.
 — SHOT, VI. 401.
 Chair, for railways, XVIII. 756, 757, 759.
 CHAISE, VI. 401.
 Chaka, Kafir chief, XIII. 36; XV. 803.
 Chakoor, or fire-eater, bird, XVI. 143.
 Chalaiza, in botany, V. 133, 139.
 CHALAZA, VI. 401.
 CHALCEDON, in Bithynia, VI. 401.
 — council of, VIII. 474.
 Chalcedony. See Calcedony.
 Chalceus, genus of fishes, XII. 247.
 Chalcedes, genus of reptiles, XIX. 39.
 Chalcedius, tribe of insects, IX. 192.
 CHALCIDIUS, philosopher, VI. 401.
 Chalcinus, genus of fishes, XII. 247.
 CHALCIS, VI. 401; XVI. 129.
 — genus of insects, IX. 192.
 Chalco, in Mexico, XIV. 722, 723.
 CHALCOCONDYLES, Byzantine historian, VI. 401.
 Chalcolite, mineral, XV. 104.
 Chalcopyllite, mineral, XV. 103.
 Chalcopyrite, XV. 116.
 Chalcotrichite, mineral, XV. 112.
 Chaldaic language, in the Scriptures, XIX. 833, 834—Targums, 838; XXI. 23.
 CHALDEA, VI. 401; IV. 345—mother-country of diviners, VIII. 54—monarchy, XV. 412.
 Chaldeans—their astronomy, III. 782—day, VI. 75—their dial, VII. 772—mythology, XV. 763—sculpture, XIX. 846.
 CHALDEAN LANGUAGE, VI. 401; XIII. 200, 209—alphabet, II. 614—portions of the Bible in the, IV. 694.
 — PARAPHRASE, VI. 401.
 CHALDRON, a dry measure, VI. 401.
 CHALEST, VI. 401.
 Chaleus, Day of, XVI. 162.
 CHALICE, VI. 401.
 Chalcite, mineral, XV. 76.
 CHALK, VI. 401; XV. 92, 146, 210, 211—black, VI. 402; XV. 83—its resistance to crushing, XX. 718—specific gravity of, XII. 88—composed chiefly of animalcules, XVII. 588—as a manure, II. 303—drawing in, VIII. 171; engraving of chalk drawings, 804—French and red, VI. 402—chalk-marl, XV. 210—chalk flints in Scotland, XIX. 793.
 — FORMATION, VI. 402; XV. 210—fishes of, XII. 349, 350 et seq.; XVII. 640—fossil sponges of, 89—Bryozoa of, 98—in Russia, XIX. 518; Spain, XX. 455.
 — STONES, VI. 402.
 CHALLENGE, VI. 402; VIII. 230—of jurymen, XIII. 24.
 Challis (Prof.), his results of theory respecting waves, XII. 74—his researches in hydrodynamics, 76—on Laplace and Poisson's theories of capillary attraction, 101—his search for the planet Neptune, III. 817, IV. 93; I. 830 and n.—on light, XVI. 547.
 CHALMERS (Alex.), biographer, VI. 402.
 — (George), VI. 402, 191—on the agriculture of Scotland, II. 251—on the Mosquito territory, XV. 664—his estimate of the corn raised and consumed in the United Kingdom, VII. 395—on the history of Caledonia, XIX. 741 et seq.
 — (Dr THOMAS), VI. 403—his venera-

CHA—CHA

tion for Prof. Robison, I. 873, n. 1—on the wonders displayed by the microscope, III. 197—on Butler's Analogy, VI. 33—on moral philosophy, XV. 533, 538—his exertions for church extension, XVIII. 498—veto proposed by, 494—his Bridgewater treatise, V. 364—on the character of Dr Andrew Thomson, XXI. 233.
 CHALONER (Sir Thomas), VI. 407.
 — (Sir THOMAS, the younger), VI. 407.
 — (Thomas), his alum-works, II. 637.
 CHALONS-SUR-MARNE, VI. 407.
 CHALONS-SUR-SAONE, VI. 407.
 CHALUS, town in France, VI. 407.
 Chalybeus, genus of birds, XVI. 748.
 CHALYBEATE, VI. 408—waters, XV. 38, 39— in Clare, VI. 753.
 Chalybite, XV. 99.
 CHAM, of Tartary, VI. 408.
 Chama, genus of mollusks, XV. 349, 347—fossil, XVII. 107.
 CHAMADE, in war, VI. 408.
 Chamelaucaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 192.
 Chamaeleonidae, family of reptiles, XIX. 37. See Cameleon.
 CHAMAS (St), town of France, VI. 408.
 Chamavi, tribe of Franks, VII. 806.
 CHAMBER, VI. 408.
 CHAMBERLAIN, VI. 408—Lord, XI. 775—vice, ib.
 CHAMBERLAYNE (Edward), VI. 408.
 — (JOHN), VI. 408.
 CHAMBERS (David), VI. 408.
 — (Dr), on corpulence, VII. 414.
 — (EPHRAIM), VI. 408.
 — (Sir WILLIAM), VI. 408—on Greek and Roman architecture, III. 448, 456—his low estimate of the principles of Vitruvius, 451—his merits as an architect, 455—his depreciation of Greek architecture, 456—on Chinese gardens, VI. 593.
 Chamberlain, wine, XXI. 883.
 CHAMBERX, in Italy, VI. 408; XIX. 633, 640.
 CHAMBORD, chateau in France, VI. 409.
 CHAMELEON, VI. 409. See Cameleon.
 Chamfer, in architecture, III. 508.
 CHAMFRAIN, VI. 409.
 Chamidae, family of mollusks, XV. 349.
 CHAMIER (Daniel), VI. 409.
 CHAMISSE (Adelbert von), VI. 409; XVI. 123—on the salpian mollusks, XV. 335.
 CHAMMOIS, VI. 409, XIV. 211—among the Alps, II. 626—hunters of Glarus, X. 644—confined to the Alps, XVII. 630.
 — leather, XIII. 305, 210.
 CHAMOMILE, VI. 409, V. 197; XI. 745—used in dyeing, VIII. 297—oil of, XVI. 496.
 CHAMOND (St), town in France, VI. 409.
 Chamosrea, genus of mollusks, XV. 350.
 CHAMOUNT, or Chamonix, VI. 409—valley of, XV. 509, glaciers descending into, ib.
 CHAMPAONE, in France, VI. 409; X. 277.
 — (PHILIPPE DE), painter, VI. 409—wine, XXI. 883, 890—alcohol in, 889, 890.
 CHAMPAIN, in heraldry, VI. 409, XI. 325.
 Champaubert, battle of, X. 167.
 CHAMPION, VI. 409.
 — of the king, VI. 409.
 — his attempt on the life of Louis Philippe, X. 213.
 CHAMPLAIN, lake, VI. 409; XVI. 214; XXI. 550—military operations near, in 1813, V. 617—canals and railways connected with, VI. 155; XXI. 550—geology of, XVI. 215.
 Champneuf (F. G.), his work on insects, IX. 12.
 CHAMPOLLION (Jean François le Jeune), VI. 410; XXI. 964—on Egyptian architecture, III. 435, 436—his method of interpreting ancient Egyptian characters, XI. 377—his merits and discoveries, 408—his system of hieroglyphics, VIII. 196—his birthplace, IX. 546—his Grammar and Dictionary of

CHA—CHA

Hieroglyphics, XI. 431—on the Egyptian "Book of the Dead," XVII. 263.
 Champre, on the chemical effects of voltaic electricity, XXI. 628.
 Chañareillo, mines of, VI. 548.
 CHANCAY, town of Peru, VI. 410.
 CHANCE, VI. 410, XVIII. 591—history of the doctrine of, I. 819—its chief applications, ib. See Probability.
 — (Messrs), their glass establishment near Birmingham, IV. 732; X. 664.
 CHANCEY, VI. 410.
 CHANCELLOR, VI. 410—in Ireland and Scotland, 411—of a cathedral, ib—of the Duchy of Lancaster, ib—of the exchequer, 412—of the order of the garter, ib—of a university, ib; XXI. 446—of Oxford, 456—Cambridge, 462—London University, 466—St Andrews, 475—Marischal College, Aberdeen, 481—Edinburgh, 483—Dublin, 489.
 CHANCERY, VI. 412, 411—innings of, XII. 384.
 CHANDERNAGORE, French settlement in Bengal, VI. 412, XI. 484.
 CHANDLER (Richard), D.D., VI. 413—his account of Ephesus, IX. 269.
 — (Dr SAMUEL), VI. 413.
 Chandos (Sir John), VI. 621.
 CHANG CHAU, Chinese town, VI. 413.
 Channel islands, XII. 730, 731; VIII. 792 vessels belonging to, 742—cattle of, II. 342; VII. 621—consumption of tea in, XXI. 91.
 — of rivers, XIX. 200, 201.
 CHANNING (William Ellery), VI. 413—on the credibility of the Scriptures, XIX. 832.
 Channock Chase, XX. 529.
 Channomurena, genus of fishes, XII. 282.
 Chanos, genus of fishes, XII. 254.
 CHANT, VI. 415.
 CHANTIAN, town of Siam, VI. 415.
 CHANTILLY, in France, VI. 415.
 CHANTREY (Sir Francis), VI. 415—character of his sculpture, XIX. 868.
 CHANTREY, VI. 415.
 Chaones, in Epirus, IX. 277.
 CHAOS, VI. 415.
 Chapala, lake, XIV. 715.
 CHAPEAU, in heraldry, VI. 416, 205; XI. 336.
 CHAPEL, VI. 416—knights of the, ib—chapels of ease, in the Scotch kirk, XVIII. 493.
 — EN-LA-FRITH, in Derbyshire, VI. 416.
 — HILL, in America, VI. 416.
 CHAPELAIN (Jean), VI. 416.
 Chapelle (C. E. L.), I. 108 and n. 1.
 — ardent, VI. 380; XIV. 339.
 — or stove-grate, XVIII. 73.
 CHAPERON, VI. 416, 205.
 Chapingo, in Mexico, XIV. 723.
 CHAPLAIN, VI. 416—chaplain's of the pope, ib—pension to widows of regimental chaplains, VII. 203—naval, XVI. 105; pay of, 110, 114—of ships, XX. 28.
 CHAPLET, VI. 416.
 — water-raising machine, XII. 183.
 CHAPMAN (George), VI. 416.
 — (William), on dry rot, VIII. 207, 208, 211, 212—on the durability and strength of ropes, XIX. 402, 403—his rope-machinery, 407, 408.
 — (Mi), his estimate of the value of the woollen and worsted manufactures in Great Britain, XXI. 918.
 — origin of the name, VI. 600.
 CHAPPE (Claude), VI. 416.
 — D'AUTTROCHE (Jean), VI. 416.
 CHAPTAL (Jean Antoine Claude), VI. 416—his process for making alum, II. 635, 641—on dyeing nankeen yellow, VIII. 300—his mode of whitening the leaves of books, IV. 771—on the price of wheat in France, VII. 403.
 CHAPTER, VI. 417.
 CHAPU, Chinese town, VI. 417.
 Chapuis (M. F.), his work on insects, IX. 24.
 Char, fish. See Charr.
 Characeae, nat. order of plants, V. 217—reproductive organs of, 143.

CHA-CHA

Characnidae, family of fishes, XII 245
 CHARACTER, VI 417—literal characters, ib.—particular—universal, ib.—of abbreviation, 419, II 21—numeral, VI 418—Chinese characters, 572—essential, in natural history, V 175
 —in poetry, VI 420—difficulty of estimating national, IV 210—the phrenological art of reading character, XVII 568.
 Charadrius, genus of birds, XVI 797.
 CHARADE, VI 420
 Charax, genus of fishes, XII 287.
 CHARCOAL, VI 421, 471—electricity developed in the combustion of, VIII 567—its use in filters, IX 580, 581—its power of sweetening tainted meat, 767—its use with the blow-pipe, IV 791—for gunpowder, XI 153; proportions of, in gunpowder, 151—used in iron manufacture, XII 539, 542—as fuel, X 318; for laboratories, 360—fusion of, by voltaic electricity, XXI 626. See Carbon.
 CHARD, VI 421.
 CHARDIN (Sir John), traveller, VI 421.
 CHARADE, in France, VI 421.
 CHARENTE-INFERIEURE, VI 422
 CHARENTON-LE-PONT, town in France, VI 422
 CHARLES, of Rhodes, statuary, VI 422—colossus of Rhodes executed by, XIX 858
 CHARGE, in heraldry, VI 422; XI 327, 330.
 Charger, XI 656.
 CHARLES, XX 389.
 Charing-Cross, London, XIII 659, 660
 CHARLOT, VI 422—triumphal, ib
 —races, X 398
 CHARISUS, surname of Jupiter, VI 423
 CHARISTIA, Roman festival, VI 423.
 CHARISTICARIES, VI 423
 Charitable Corporation, V 457.
 —Establishments in England, VIII 743. See London, Dublin, &c.
 CHARITÉ (La), town of France, VI 423
 CHARITÉS, the three Graces, VI 423, X 741.
 CHARITON, Greek writer, VI 423.
 CHARITY, VI 423; XVII 502, n—establishments for purposes of, in England, VIII 743. See Alms, Mendicants, Mendicancy.
 —(Brothers and Sisters of), VI 423
 CHARKOV, or Kharkov, in Russia, VI 423; XIII 76
 CHARLATAN, VI 423.
 CHARLEMAGNE, VI 423—reign of, X 7—dates of his coronation and death, VI 607—his proceedings in Germany, X 578—academy founded by, II 61—Lombardy conquered by, XIII 643, XII 643—his books against image-worship, 356—the Jews protected by, 777—from crown of, X 136 and n. 1—his encouragement of learning, XIII 388; V 14; XIV 457; XXI 444; and of art, XVII 60—homiliaries of, XI 606 his wars with the Saxons, X 7, 8, 9; XIX 685—his invasion of Spain, XX 462.
 Charlemont (Lord), his account of Hume in Paris, XII 4.
 —(Earl of), XII 466.
 CHARLEBOR, in Belgium, VI 423; XXI 717, 718.
 CHARLES MARTEL, VI 424; X 6.
 —le Gros, VI 424.
 —the Simple, X 11.
 —the Fair, X 15.
 —the Prudent, X 20.
 —I. of England, VI 424—his matrimonial visit to Spain, while Prince of Wales, V 387—his reign, 389—his character, ib—his wars with the parliament, 402 *et seq*—throws himself on the Scottish army at Newark, 408—sur-rendered to the English, ib—his trial, 411—execution, 412—Influence of the civil war of 1640 on the intellectual character of the nation, I 48—archery in his reign, III 425—his fondness for chess, VI 538—his visits to Edinburgh,

CHA-CHA

VIII 392—his Irish policy, XII 480—his navy, XVI 92, XX 130—a patron of Shakespeare, 73—an accomplished prince, ib, n—his encouragement of the theatre, XXI 169—foreign weavers exiled by, 780
 Charles I. of Spain (V. of Germany), his reign, XX 468—his abdication and character, 469. See Charles V
 —II of England, VI 424—his expedition to Scotland, V 413—his coronation at Scone, 414—his invasion of England, and defeat at Worcester, 415—escape to France, ib—his restoration, 420—history of his reign, ib—his death and character, 433—Robert Barclay's dedication to, IV 442—his treatment of Colonel Blood, 788—his regulations as to the coinage, VII 76, 78—act regulating the exportation of corn, 377—state of the drama, VIII 161; its gross immorality, 162—Edinburgh in the reign of, 392—dwelling, 231—his policy towards Ireland, XII 486—his navy, XVI 93; XX 130—specimen of newspapers in the reign of, XVI 183.
 —II of Navarre, XX 464.
 —II of Spain, XX 470
 —III of Spain, XX 471.
 —IV. of Spain, XX 471.
 —V., emperor of Germany, VI 424—his expedition against Algiers, II 568—dominions of, IV 302—his wars in the Netherlands, III 636; and policy towards that country, XI 562—his wars in Italy, XII 651—Robertson's History of, XIX 231; Stirling's, ib, n. 2—his Spanish reign, XX 468—abdication and character, 469—his patronage of Titian, XXI 291.
 —V., king of France, X 20—his library, V 12—Paris improved by, XVII 278
 —VI. of France, X 20.
 —VII of France, X 23—established the first standing army, III 636.
 —VIII of France, X 28—his army, III 636—his invasion of Italy, XII 651.
 —IX. of France, X 32.
 —IX. of Sweden, XX 847.
 —X. of France, X 189—departure from France, 202—death, 212—character, 202—law for his banishment, and that of his descendants and relations, 204—state of Paris under, XVII 279.
 —X. of Sweden, XX 851
 —XI of Sweden, XX 852
 —XII of Sweden, VI 424, VII 741—his reign, XX 852—his army, III 637—his designs against George I, V 455—his fondness for chess, VI 538—wars with the Russians, XIX 477 *et seq*.
 —XIII. of Sweden, XX 850.
 —XIV. and XV., kings of Sweden, XX 860.
 —(Duke of Burgundy), XI 561—his invasion of Switzerland, XX 855.
 —Edward Stuart, his expedition to Scotland, V 400—escape to France, 461 his visit to Dumfries, VIII 239—Edinburgh taken by, 393; V 460
 —Gustavus, king of Sweden, VII 740.
 —(Mons.), his hydrogen gas balloons, II 175, 176—his observation of the thermometer and barometer, VI 780.
 —of Anjou, king of Sicily, X 13;
 XX 258.
 —of Bourbon, king of Sicily, XX 260, 264
 CHARLES'S WAIN, seven stars in Ursa Major, VI 425.
 CHARLESTON, in South Carolina, VI 425, 247.
 CHARLESTOWN, in Massachusetts, VI 425.
 —in Flie, mining operations at, IV 756.
 CHARLETON (Walter), VI 425—his improvements in anatomy, II 762.
 CHARLEVILLE, in France, VI 425.
 —in Ireland, VI 425

CHA-CHA

CHARLEVOIX (Pierre François Xavier de), Jesuit missionary, VI 425
 Charlotte (Princess), grant to her and her husband, V 621—her death, 623—church services in Scotland on the death of, XXI 232.
 CHARLOTTENBURG, in Brandenburg, VI 426
 CHARLOTTESVILLE, in Virginia, VI 426.
 CHARLOTTE-TOWN, in Prince Edward's island, VI 426; XVIII 578.
 —in Dominica, XIX 423.
 CHARM, VI 426—modern Egyptian charms, VIII 447
 CHARNEL, or Charnel-house, VI 426.
 Charnock, on the history of marine architecture, XX 117, 123—on the ship Henri Grace à Dieu, 125—his account of a ship built by James IV of Scotland, 126—on the dimensions of French ships, 133
 CHAROLLES, town in France, VI 426.
 CHARON, VI 426; XX 785.
 CHARONDAS, VI 426.
 Charons, a Hindu sect, XI 91, 92
 CHARPENTIER (François), VI 426
 —(Toussaint de), his works on insects, IX 13, 18.
 —(M.), on the descent of glaciers, X 637, 638.
 CHARR, VI 426; XII 241, 439—angling for, III 158
 Charrha, battle of, XIX 325. See Carrha.
 CHARRON (Pierre), VI 426—relations between him and Montaigne, I 52, 53—on the power of custom, XV 543.
 CHARTIUS, American people, II 677
 CHART, VI 426; XVI 3, 27—plane—Mercator's, ib; X 496—globular, VI 426—hydrographic—selenographic—topographic, ib—wreck chart, XIII 446—of the variation of the needle, XIV 49; I 990—recent improvements in, XX 27.
 CHARTA, VI 426
 CHARTER, MAGNA CHARTA, VI 426—granted by King John, VIII 677
 —PARTY, VI 428—charters of community, 736
 Charterhouse, London, VI 426; XIII 667.
 CHARTISTS, VI 428; IV 671—insurrection of the, V 667—their monster petition, ib—Influence of Cobbett's Weekly Register on, XVI 180.
 CHARTOPHYLAX, VI 428.
 CHARTRES, in France, VI 428
 CHARTREUSE, LA GRANDE, VI 428; XII 627.
 CHARTULARY, VI 428
 CHARTYDIS, VI 429; XX 244.
 CHASE, or Chace, VI 429; XX 210, n. See Shooting.
 Chase-mortise in carpentry, V 748.
 Chasewater steam-engine, XX 575.
 Chasidians, Jews, III 776.
 Chasing, or enchasing, VIII 654.
 Chasmodens, genus of fishes, XII 309.
 Chasmodia, genus of insects, IX 123
 Chasé (General), his defence of the citadel of Antwerp in 1830, IV 606; and in 1832, 609; X 208, IX 826.
 Chascloup on fortification, IX 833.
 Chassot (Cail de Florencourt), on life assurance, XII 400.
 CHASTELLE (Madame du), VI 429—notice of her writings, I 185—86—on the force of moving bodies, 655, 656, n. 1—her connection with Voltaire, XXI 658.
 CHASTITY, VI 429—duty of, XV 568.
 See Rape.
 Chat Moss, XIII 177—reclamation of, II 361—railway across, XVIII 760.
 Chateau Margaux, wine, XXI 883.
 CHATEAU-GONTIER, in France, VI 430.
 Chateau-Neuf, disaster at, from lightning, VIII 586.
 CHATEAU-THIERRY, in France, VI 430.
 CHATEAUBRIANT (François Auguste, Vi-comte de), VI 429; X 184, 185, 191, 193, 194 *et seq*—his dismissal from office in 1824, 187—on the scenery of Greece, XI 18—passage in the Mer-

CHA-CHE

cure written by, XVI 197—his novels, XIX 289.
 CHATEAUBRIANT, French town, VI 429.
 CHATEAUDUX, town in France, VI 430.
 CHATEAUBOUX, in France, VI 430.
 CHATELLEAULT, in France, VI 430.
 Châtelet (Madame du) See Chastellet.
 CHATHAM, VI 430, XIII 65—dockyard at, VIII 81—population of, XIII 67—convict labour at, XVIII 588.
 —ISLANDS, VI 430; IV 268.
 —(William, Earl of). See Pitt.
 —(J., second Earl of), his conduct of the Walcheren expedition, V 607
 Chat, feline animal, XIV 170.
 CHATELON-SUR-SEINE, VI 430—congress of, X 166
 Chatossus, genus of fishes, XII 237.
 CHATRE (La), VI 430.
 CHATSWORTH, seat of the Duke of Devonshire, in Derby, VI 430; VII 756—founded by Sir William Cavendish, VI 356.
 CHATTAOOCHEE, North American river, VI 431.
 Chattelaine, his engravings, VIII 808.
 CHATELLE, VI 431.
 Chatterers, birds, XVI 850.
 CHATTERTON (Thomas), poet, VI 431—Bryant's work on his Rowley's Poems, V 705—place where he pretended they were found, 370—his poetry, XVIII 124—publication of Rowley's Poems, XXI 410—Warton on his Poems, 736.
 CHAUCER (Geoffrey), VI 432—compared with Barbour, IV 436—his description of an archer, III 427—obscenity of his Canterbury Tales, VI 610—his language, VIII 795; understood by the descendants of an English colony in Wexford, XXI 847—on May-day, XIV 367—his intimacy with Gower, X 739—his acquaintance with Petrarcha and Boccaccio, XVII 500—poetry of, XVIII 120
 CHAUD-MELLE, in Scots law, VI 434.
 CHAUNDS ARGUES, in France, VI 434.
 Chaudor (Max de), his entomological works, IX 19.
 Chaunias (Guy de), his medical writings, XIV 458; X 817.
 Chanleu, poetry of, XVIII 117.
 Chaniodes, genus of insects, IX 179.
 Chaniodus, genus of fishes, XII 247.
 Chaunies (Duke de), on the colours of concave mirrors, XVI 613.
 CHAUMONT, town in France, VI 435; XIV 312.
 —gypsum quarries of, XV 165.
 Chaunax, genus of fishes, XII 312.
 Chauna, genus of birds, XVI 807.
 CHAUNT, town in France, VI 435.
 Chausse-trapes, IX 799.
 Chausser (M.), on the skin, II 834—on medical jurisprudence, XIV 424.
 Chauvelin (Mons.), ambassador, V 546; X 76; XXI 11.
 Chauvet, blind organist, IV 781.
 CHAUVIN (Stephen), VI 435
 CHAUX-DE-FOND (La), Swiss town, VI 435.
 CHAVES, Portuguese town, VI 435
 Chaworth (Mr), killed in a duel with Lord Byron in 1765, VIII 232.
 CHEAZELLES (Jean Mathieu de), VI 435.
 CHEADLE, town in Staffordshire, VI 435.
 CHECKY, in heraldry, VI 435; XI 328, 326.
 Cheddar-cheese, XX 410—method of making, VII 625; introduced into Scotland, XXI 864.
 CHEDURA, island in the Bay of Bengal, VI 435.
 Chedufau (M.), his discoveries in Arabia, III 355.
 Cheek-bone, human, III 22.
 Cheeronjee oil, XVI 496.
 CHEESE, VI 435, 523—dairies, VII 624—different kinds of British, 625—imports of, VIII 794—of rein-deer's milk, XIII 239—Cheshire, VI 529—green-cheese of Glarus, X 644—Gloucester, 680—

CHE—CHE

Gouda, 730—Dunlop, IV. 333—Stilton, XIII. 320—Parmesan, 651—Gruyère, X. 304, 305—occasionally poisonous, IX. 761—in Holland, XI. 682; quantity exported from, 585—inferiority of Irish, XII. 518—Cheddar (see Cheddar).

Cheese mite, III. 388

Chelalis, river, XXI. 766

Chelinus, genus of fishes, XII. 267

Chelio, genus of fishes, XII. 267

Chelobranchius, genus of fishes, XII. 229

Chelodactylus, genus of fishes, XII. 278

Chelodipterus, genus of fishes, XII. 275

Chelostoma, polypes, XXI. 1002

Chelotrema, genus of fishes, XII. 286

Chelracanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 334, XVII. 123

Cherolepis, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 334, XVII. 123

Cheromys, genus of mammalia, XIV. 178—dentition of, XVI. 455

Cheronectes, genus of fishes, XII. 206, 310, 311

Cheroptera, mammalia, XIV. 146—odontology of, XVI. 452

CHEROTHEIUM, fossil animal, VI. 436; XVII. 138—foot-prints of, 140

CHEKE (Sir John), VI. 435

CHE-KIANG, in China, VI. 436

CHERIDONIAS, VI. 436

Chelifer, genus of arachnides, III. 386

Chelmon, genus of fishes, XII. 300, 302

CHILMSFORD, town in Essex, VI. 436

Chelone, fossil, XVII. 153

Chelonia, genus of insects, IX. 214—genus of reptiles, XIX. 16—number known, 51—chief works on, 21, n. 2—fossil, XVII. 153—geographical distribution of, 154

Chelonichthys, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 337

Chelonus, genus of insects, IX. 183

Chelostoma, genus of insects, IX. 199

CHELSEA, VI. 436—suspension-bridge, XIII. 676—its porcelain, XVIII. 437, 438—botanic garden, XX. 334 and n—hospital, XIII. 672

CHELTONHAM, in Gloucestershire, VI. 436, X. 632—bridge, XII. 606—mineral waters of, XV. 39—inferior oolite near, 207

Chelydra, fossil chelonian, XVII. 153

Chelyosoma, genus of mollusks, XV. 334

Chelys, genus of reptiles, XIX. 21

CHEMISE, in fortification, VI. 436

CHEMISTRY, VI. 437—progress of, I. 800, 801—vague and extravagant views of the first experimenters in, 569—its beneficial application to pharmacy, 570—discoveries of Van Helmont and Roger Bacon, ib.—chemical constitution of animal bodies, II. 778 *et seq.*—Bayen's analyses, IV. 523—use of the blow-pipe in, 791—Mr Cavendish's influence in promoting discovery in, VI. 351; I. 929—his experiments on factitious air, VI. 351; and on air, 352, 353—crystallization, VII. 545—knowledge of, in Egypt, VIII. 442—application of electricity to, 530; XXI. 637—chemical changes produced by electricity on inorganic bodies, VIII. 590—electricity of chemical action, 566—filtration in, IX. 582—furnaces used in, X. 357—heat from chemical action, XI. 275—chemical effects of light, XIII. 459; I. 921—chemical equivalents, 938—chemical theory of galvanism, 964, 968, 978—heat considered as a branch of, 925—Dalton's atomic theory, 935, 936—its importance to the progress of chemistry, 937, see Atomic Theory—use of chemical analysis in medicine, XIV. 484—chemical properties of minerals, XV. 60—influence of their chemical composition on their external characters, 62—chemical reaction of minerals, 63—chemical rocks, 129, 142—influence of magnetism on chemical action, XIV. 41—chemical effects of the solar spectrum, XVI. 594—foundation of modern, XIV. 460—physiological, XVII. 643—chemical and electrical forces identical, I. 978—chemical theory

CHE—CHE

of combination and oxidation, 932—evidence in cases of poisoning, XVIII. 132—antidotes to poison, 134—chemical effects of voltaic electricity, XXI. 628; of thermo-electricity, 652—chemical application of electricity, 637. See Cold, Heat, Electro-chemistry, Oxygen, &c., Dalton, Davy, &c.

CHEMISTRY, ORGANIC, VI. 501—of vegetation, V. 94—chemical changes during germination, 165—of tea, XXI. 82. See Agricultural Chemistry.

Chemistry, XVIII. 554

CHEMNITZ (Martin), VI. 525—town of Saxony, VI. 523—its manufactures, XIX. 684

CHEMOSIS, VI. 525

CHEMOSIS, inflammation of the eyes, VI. 525

Chenalopec, genus of birds, XVI. 816

CHENAU, or Chendb, river in the Punjab, VI. 525; XVIII. 687, 688

CHENETRE (Marie Joseph de), VI. 526

Chenendopora, fossil sponges, XVII. 93

Chennium, genus of insects, IX. 153

Chenopodiaceæ, nat order of plants, V. 203

Chenu (J. C.), his work on insects, IX. 19

CHENOS, Egyptian king, VI. 526—pyramid of, III. 437, XVII. 454

Chenpaw (Walter), printer, XVIII. 538

CHENPOTOW, in Monmouthshire, VI. 526, XV. 497, 498, XXI. 948—castle, XV. 499—iron bridge at, XII. 601

Chequers, origin of, as a sign, III. 324

CHEUR, in France, VI. 526

CHERASCO, town in Piedmont, VI. 526

CHERBOURG, in France, VI. 526—break-water of, V. 302, XI. 219—dock-yard established by Bonaparte, V. 305, X. 243

CHERIBON, town in Java, VI. 527

Cherokees, II. 680, 692; X. 564, 565, Cheronasa. See Cheronasa.

Cherons, XI. 466

Cheroots, XXI. 295

CHERNY, VI. 527; V. 191; XVII. 763—in Hertfordshire, XI. 359—specific gravity of the wood, XII. 69—culture and varieties of, XI. 712—cherry-house, 729—introduced into Europe by Lucullus, XIII. 715—gum of the cherry-tree, XI. 93, Laurel, V. 191, red, colour in dyeing, VIII. 291

CHERSO, island, VI. 527

CHILSON, VI. 527. See Cherson.

CHERSONESUS, VI. 527—ancient city, VII. 505, Cimbrica, VI. 723—Taurica, VII. 527. See Crimea.

Chert, mineral, XV. 63, 147

CHERTS, town in Surrey, VI. 527

CHERUB, VI. 527

CHERTUBINI (M. L. C. Z. Salvadori), VI. 527, XV. 700—on fifths in music, 724—on the fugue, 735, 736

CHERUSCI, ancient German tribe, VI. 528, X. 572, 576

Chervil, plant, XI. 745

Cherwell, river, XVII. 86

CHESAPEAKE BAY, VI. 528; XIV. 330, 331

CHESLEDEN (William), VI. 528; XII. 26, XX. 819—his anatomical labours, II. 704, 706—on the vision of a patient couched for cataract, XIV. 558, n. 1

CHESHAM, town in Bucks, VI. 528

CHESHIRE, VI. 528—breed of pigs, II. 355—cheese, VII. 625—constabulary act of 1829, XVIII. 189—salt mines in, XV. 246; XIX. 582 *et seq.*—population and value of property, VII. 754

CHESNE (André du), VI. 528

Chesney (Colonel), his expedition up the Euphrates, IX. 376—on artillery, III. 683, 684

CHESSE, VI. 530—Kempelen's automaton chess-player, III. 138

Chest. See Thorax.

—(water in the). See Hydrothorax.

CHESTER, VI. 538—mysteries performed at, VIII. 143—arms of, XI. 323—Chester and Birkenhead Railway, IV. 728.

CHE—CHI

CHESTERFORD, VI. 539—canal, VII. 754—(Earl of), VI. 539. See Stanhope

CHESTRE-LE-STREET, VI. 539; VIII. 267

CHESTNUT, VI. 539, XVI. 395—culture of the, XI. 717, in France, X. 247, 248—water, V. 192—horse, 186, XVII. 759, 762—sweet, 758—chestnut-timber, XXI. 274, 278

Chethams' library, Manchester, XIII. 406

Chetopoda, genus of annelides, XI. 291, n. 1

Chetore, in Hindustan, VI. 601

CHÉVAL-DE-FRISE, VI. 539; IX. 798

CHÉVALIER, VI. 539—(M), on compound achromatic lenses, XIV. 777

CHEVERON, in heraldry, VI. 539, XI. 328

CHEVIOT HILLS, VI. 539; XVI. 299—sheep, II. 346, 351, north of Scotland chiefly stocked with Cheviots, 350, in Sutherland, XX. 842—height of, XVII. 643—geology of, XIX. 790, 454

CHEVREAU (Urban), VI. 539—his table-talk, II. 738

Chevreul (M.), his analysis of fat, II. 788, VI. 170—iodine discovered by, in the crust of the crustacea, VII. 537—on dyestuffs, VIII. 287 *et seq.*—on saponification, XX. 367—on zoophytes, XXI. 977, n. 1—on the arrangement of coloured flowers, V. 152

Chevolat (A.), his works on insects, IX. 19

Chevy-chase, VI. 429, 539, XX. 212

Cheytius, genus of arachnides, III. 388

CHIDNE (Dr George), VI. 539

Cheynt Sing, XI. 495

CHIDARRA (Gabriele), Italian poet, VI. 539; X. 453—merits of his poetry, XVIII. 112

Chiage (Delle), on zoophytes, XXI. 983, 985

Champa, VII. 48

CHIAPA, or Chiapas, Mexican state, VI. 539; XIV. 726, 718—DE LOS INDIOS, town in Mexico, VI. 539

CHIARAMONTE, town in Sicily, VI. 540

CHIARI, town in Lombardy, VI. 540—(GIUSEPPE), VI. 540

CHIAROSCURO, VI. 540, 758—printing in, 273—engraving, VIII. 799, 800—drawing, 173—in wood-engraving, XXI. 903

Chastolite, mineral, XV. 86

CHIAUDI, VI. 540

CHIAVARI, Italian town, VI. 540

CHIAVENNA, town in Lombardy, VI. 540

CHICAGO, city of Illinois, VI. 540; XII. 362, 363

CHICANE, or Chicanery, VI. 540

Chicha, Peruvian liquor, XVII. 472

Chichimecas, Mexican people, XIV. 698

Chichen, ruins of, II. 697

CHICHESTER, town in Sussex, VI. 540; XX. 838, 839

Chichimeks, II. 683

Chickadee, in zoology, XIV. 210

CHICKEN-POX, VI. 540; XXI. 501

Chickweed, V. 184, 116

CHICLANA, town of Spain, VI. 541

CHICOXY, or Succory, VI. 540; II. 329, 335; V. 150, 197, IX. 761—adulterations of, 769—culture of, XI. 744—laws concerning the sale of, II. 154

CHIER, VI. 541—in heraldry, ib., XI. 327

CHIEFTAIN, VI. 541

CHIERI, Italian town, VI. 541

CHIERI, city of Naples, VI. 541

CHIGI (Fabio), Pope Alexander VII., VI. 541

CHIHUAHUA, state and town in Mexico, VI. 541, XIV. 727, 718

CHILBLAIN, VI. 541

Child (Sir Josiah), on interest, XII. 429—on political economy, XVIII. 215, 216

Child-murder, XIV. 428

Childerbert, X. 4 *et seq.*

Childeic, II. 2

CHILDREMAS-DAY, VI. 541

Childers, race-horse, XI. 685, 689, 643

Childhood, XIV. 425—beauty of, IV. 644

CHI—CHI

Children, less able to want food than adults, III. 180—exposing of, IX. 457—causes of mortality among, XIX. 607—importance of warm clothing to, 611—enactments regulating their labour in factories, XXI. 790

—(Mr), his galvanic battery, XXI. 611; and its results, 626

Childrent, mineral, XV. 94

Childs (Col.), his survey of the proposed ship-canal through Nicaragua, XVI. 245, 246

CHILE, VI. 541, II. 689, 704—climate, 673—ancient civilization of, 690—native tribes of, 691; their probable descent, 695—revolution in, 701—consuls and vice-consuls in, VII. 337—mines of, XV. 235—plants, XVII. 629—Chilian Andes, 592—height of mountains in, 644, 645—production of the precious metals in, XVIII. 461, 462, XV. 245—serpents, XIX. 54—weights and measures of, XXI. 810—volcanoes, 603—map of, VI. Plate

Chileno-Patagonians, IX. 348

Chil pine. See Araucana

—nettle order of plants, V. 192

CHILLAD, VI. 554

CHILLAGON, in geometry, VI. 554

CHILKA, lake in Hindustan, VI. 554

Chilkeah, XIII. 59

Chill, rheumatic affection in animals, XXI. 557

CHILLAMBARAM PAGODA, VI. 554

CHILLANWALLA, in Hindustan, VI. 554—battle of, XVIII. 693

CHILLICOOTHE, town in Ohio, VI. 554, XVI. 490

Chillies, V. 201

Chillingham Castle, wild cattle at, XVI. 300

CHILLINGWORTH (William), VI. 554

Chilmark limestone, as a building stone, XX. 712

CHILLO, one of the seven sages of Greece, VI. 555

CHILLOE, island, VI. 555, 544, 545, 547; XVII. 334

Chilognatha, order of myriapods, XV. 747

Chilomycterus, genus of fishes, XII. 314

Chilonycterus, teeth of, XVI. 452

Chilopoda, order of myriapods, XV. 748

Chiloscyllum, genus of fishes, XII. 323

Chilpene, X. 4

CHILTERN HUNDREDS, VI. 555; V. 722—Hills, V. 721, XVII. 36

CHIMERA, VI. 555—genus of fishes, XII. 319—fossil, 342

Chimæra, family of fishes, XII. 318

CHIMBORAZO, VI. 555; II. 669; XXI. 608—Humboldt's barometrical measurement of, IV. 467—height of, VIII. 386; XVII. 544

CHIME, VI. 555—chimes of clocks, VII. 22

Chimerici (Jacopo), his binocular pictures, XX. 684

Chimera, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 340

Chimerical figures, in heraldry, XI. 334

Chimulpopoca, Mexican king, XIV. 700

CHIMNEY, VI. 555; III. 488—unknown to the Romans, 478; VI. 555—invention of, 487—of furnaces, X. 354, 355—draught in, 353, 354—glass chimneys for gas-burners, 426—nature of the draught in, XVIII. 77—tall chimneys for abating the smoke nuisance, XX. 359—cure of smoke in, 352. See Furnace, Smoke, Stoves, &c.

—sweepers, law of apprenticeship to, XIV. 349—diseases of, 443

Chimney-pieces, building of, V. 740

Chimpanzee, XIV. 137; XVII. 631—dentition of, XVI. 466, 467

CHINA, VI. 557; III. 736; XVII. 610—breed of swine, II. 355—Peruvian civilization probably derived from, 687, 688—government, ib.—agriculture, ib.—mode of disposing of their dead, ib.—human sacrifices, ib.—architecture, ib.; III. 401, 438—rafts, II. 688—early history of, III. 742; VII. 717—conquered by Zinghis Khan, III. 745—visits of

CHI—CHI

missionaries to, 753—trade and manufactures, 756, 757—large bells in, IV. 629—trade in bird's nests, 727—trade at Canton, VI. 199—trade with Cochinchina, VII. 48—cotton manufacture, 439—silk, VIII. 276, IX. 213—silk-worm, ib.—trade with India, XI. 459, XVIII. 472; Japan, XII. 695, 696, Java, 706, IV. 497, Russia, XIX. 551; Siam, XX. 234; Singapore, 307—war with Britain in 1840, V. 668, VI. 596—missions established in, XV. 271—monarchy of, 412—river system of, XVII. 607—emigration from, VIII. 651—cous of, XVI. 391—imports of the precious metals into, XVIII. 407, 468—trade of the United Kingdom causes an unusual increase of exports of the precious metals to, 471—trade of the United States with, ib.—opium trade, 472—cultivation of rice, XIX. 156—use of silk in, XX. 277, quantity exported, ib.; manufacture of, 287—analysis of the soil of the tea-lands, XXI. 84—account of the cultivation and manufacture of tea in, ib. *et seq.*—tea-plant indigenous to, 88—effect of the recent disturbed relations with, on the tea market, 91—weights and measures, 810. See Chinese.

China blue, VIII. 319
—grass, manufactures in, XIII. 495—
—fibre of, XXI. 782—tree producing, V. 206
—ink, VI. 599.
—root, VI. 599.
—stone, VII. 408.
—ware, VI. 599; XVIII. 431, 434, 435—crackle china, 435, honeycomb, 436
Chincha islands, II. 290—their guano, ib., XVII. 469, 478
CHINCHILLA, city of Spain, VI. 599
—rodent quadruped, VI. 599, IV. 824, XIV. 183, 189—its fur, X. 349.
Chin-cough. See Hooping-cough.
Chine-felon, disease in animals, XXI. 557.
Chinese, VI. 557—their method of calculation, II. 8, 9—accents, 76—alphabet, 609—manner of writing, 611—compared with the Peruvians, 687—the uniformity and unchangeableness of their customs much exaggerated, 688, n. 8—their numerals and numerical fancies, III. 573, 576—alleged antiquity of their annals, 215; and nation, III. 541—their architecture, III. 401; its uniformity of style, II. 688—origin, III. 747—character, 749—commerce, 756, 757—astronomy, 783—residents in Batavia, IV. 497—in Java, XII. 709—in Borneo, V. 48—language, VI. 571; XIII. 198, 199, 205—bamboo floats used by, 440—locks, 533—make no use of milk, VI. 201—chronology, 675—consuls and vice-consuls in, VII. 337—mathematical knowledge, X. 503—their filigree work, IX. 579—fuel-balls, X. 318—their mode of japanning, XII. 689—early knowledge of gunpowder, XI. 150, and of the compass, XIV. 1—their sculpture, XIX. 848—pretended ancient knowledge of logarithms, XIII. 555—mythology, XV. 760—use of opium by, XVI. 618—paper, XVII. 249—their supposed resemblance to the Egyptians, 354—printing, XVIII. 522, n. 1—their skill in pyrotechny, 706—their adulterations of tea, XXI. 87—mode of colouring teas, ib.—their imitations of English precedents in regard to the tea-trade, 89—fondness for the Trepan, 985. See China.
—balance, V. 886.
—fire, in pyrotechny, XVIII. 707.
—pavilion, musical instrument, XV. 713.
—Turkestan, XXI. 367, 28.
CHINGLEPUT, in Hindustan, VI. 599.
Chingopamari, mountain, XVII. 598. See Deodunga.
CHIN-SAE, in China, VI. 599.
CHIN-KIANG-JU, VI. 600.
CHINOK, in France, VI. 600.

CHI—CHL

CHINSURA, in Bengal, VI. 600
CHIO, or Chios, VI. 600. See Scio.
CHIOGGIA, Italian town, VI. 600.
Chiolite, mineral, XV. 93.
CHIONE, VI. 600
Chionis, genus of birds, XVI. 808.
CHIPPENHAM, in Wiltshire, VI. 600; XXI. 879—cloth manufacture of, 918.
Chippewa, river, XXI. 893
CHIPPWAY INDIANS, VI. 600; II. 680.
Chippewayan Mountains, XXI. 420. See Rocky Mountains.
Chippewyan (Fort), climate of, II. 674.
CHIPPING, CHIP, CHEAP, names of places signifying a market, VI. 600.
Chipping-Barnet, IV. 447.
CHIPPING-NORTON, VI. 600.
CHIPPING-SODSBURY, VI. 600.
CHIQUITOS, in Bolivia, VI. 600, IX. 349—mountains, III. 129
Chirk aqueduct, III. 338—Chirk castle, VII. 736.
Chirocentrus, genus of fishes, XII. 250.
CHIROGRAPH, VI. 600
CHIROMANCY, VI. 600; VIII. 54
CHIRON, VI. 600, XIV. 451—the presumed father of surgery, XX. 809.—genus of insects, IX. 120.
Chironectes, genus of mammalia, XVI. 448
Chironemus, genus of fishes, XII. 277.
Chironomus, genus of insects, IX. 225.
CHIRONOMY, VI. 601
Chiropodista, XIV. 465.
Chiroptera, bones of, III. 77 *et seq.*—muscles, 91—intestines, 110
Chiroscelis, genus of insects, IX. 130.
Chirotes, genus of reptiles, XIX. 39.
Chiru, in zoology, XIV. 210.
Chirurgery, or surgery. See Surgery.
Chirurgical academies, II. 62
Chirus, genus of fishes, XII. 283
CHISEL, VI. 601—chisels for turning, XXI. 891.
Chisholm (Major), III. 726
CHISLEV, Jewish month, VI. 601.
CHISWICK, in Middlesex, VI. 601.
Chitina, VII. 537, IX. 29
Chiton, genus of mollusks, XV. 379.
Chitonidae, family of mollusks, XV. 379
CHITORE, in Hindustan, VI. 601.
CHITTAGOONG, VI. 601, IV. 651
Chittah, or hunting tiger, XIV. 169
CHITTLEDROOG, town and fortress in Hindustan, VI. 601.
CHITTOOR, VI. 602.
CHITUSA, in Italy, VI. 602.
CHIVALRY, VI. 602—court of, 627—period of, III. 636—origin of, VIII. 230, XIII. 108—influence of the crusades on, VII. 532—Persia the birthplace of, XV. 763—its influence on poetry, XVIII. 107—socio-comic romance of, 110—orders of, in Brazil, V. 295—romances of, XIX. 260.
Civasso, city of Piedmont, VI. 627.
Clive, plant, XI. 741.
Chladni (Ernest), I. 891—on the velocity of sound in different media, ib.—on the vibration of plates, ib.—on meteoric bodies, 892; XIV. 635—on musical sounds, II. 112—on harmony, XV. 702
Chlenaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 185
Chlenus, genus of insects, IX. 94.
Chlamyphorus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 191; XVII. 631.
CHLAMYS, VI. 627.
—genus of insects, IX. 149.
Chloanthite, mineral, XV. 116.
Chlor, VI. 627.
Chlorea, genus of annelides, XI. 297.
Chloephora, genus of insects, IX. 218.
Chloranthaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 207
Chlorate of potash, powder from, XI. 158—its use in making matches, XIV. 351, 352.
Chloric acid, VI. 468.
Chloride of lime, employed in bleaching, IV. 760, 761—tests for, 763—chloroform prepared from, VI. 628—as a deodorizer, XIX. 621.
—of zinc, VI. 491—as a preservative of timber, XX. 167.

CHL—CHO

Chlorides of metals, VI. 463—aluminum, 468—antimony, 494—chromium, 493—arsenic, 495—barium, 496—calcium, 487—magnesium, ib.—iron, 490—bismuth, 496—potassium, 485—manganese, 491—copper, 497—sodium, 485—strontium, 487—uranium, 496—lead, 497—mercury, 498—silver, ib.—gold, 499—titanium, ib.—tin, 493—vanadium, 494—platinum, 499. See Chemistry.
CHLORINE, VI. 627, 466; XV. 64—in plants, II. 388—its compounds with carbon, &c. (see Chlorides)—discovery of, IV. 758—used in bleaching, 758, 760; I. 589; XXI. 776—its power of destroying noxious states of the atmosphere, IV. 184—its use in determining the qualities of gas, X. 429—Sir H. Davy on, I. 969, VII. 670—its specific gravity, XII. 89—its poisonous properties, XIV. 435—as an element in the crust of the globe, XVII. 619.
—protoxide and peroxide of, VII. 670
Chloron, genus of insects, IX. 195
CHLORIS, VI. 627.
Chlorite, mineral, XV. 78.
—schist, XV. 154
Chloritoid, mineral, XV. 78.
CHLOROFORM, VI. 627, 511—employed in the management of bees, IV. 588—manner in which it may cause death, XVII. 703.
Chloromelan, mineral, XV. 79.
Chloropal, mineral, XV. 90
Chlorophate, mineral, XV. 90.
Chlorophane, XV. 93—phosphorescent properties of, VIII. 598.
Chlorophyll, colouring matter of plants, V. 73
Chlorophyllite, mineral, XV. 83.
Chlorops, genus of insects, IX. 257.
CHLOROSIS, VI. 633.
Chlorospermeae, nat. order of plants, V. 218
Chlorospinel, XV. 87.
Chlorous acid, VI. 468
Chloruret of azote, I. 952.
Chnodomarus, VII. 806
Choanites, fossil sponges, XVII. 93.
Chocks, in ship-building, XVI. 98
Choco, platina mines of, XV. 236
CHOCOLATE, VI. 633, 49; IX. 761; VII. 52—electricity of melted, VIII. 565—adulterations of, IX. 769
—order of plants, V. 184.
—colour, dyeing of, VIII. 319.
CHOCTAW INDIANS, VI. 633, II. 680.
Choczna, Russian town, VI. 634—siege of, XXI. 371
CHOĐOWIECKI (Daniel), VI. 633
CHOENIX, Greek measure of capacity, VI. 633.
CHOENILUS, Athenian tragic poet, VI. 633—of Samos, epic poet, VI. 633.
CHOENIX, VI. 633.
Chöerichthys, genus of fishes, XII. 315.
CHOROPOTAMUS, fossil genus of quadrupeds, VI. 633.
Choeopus, genus of mammalia, teeth of, XVI. 448
CHOIR, VI. 633.
Chouseil (Duke de), IV. 479, X. 37.
—d'Allecourt, on the crusades, VII. 527-28.
CHOISY-SUR-SEINE, town of France, VI. 633.
Choke-damp, VII. 643. See Carbonic acid gas.
Chokier (Surlet de), baron, regent of Belgium, IV. 608.
Choking, among cattle, XXI. 564, 571.
Cholalic acid, VI. 520.
Cholæpus, genus of sloths, dentition of, XVI. 441.
CHOLERA, VI. 633—in Paris in 1832, X. 206—in Egypt, VIII. 423—operatives in Manchester factories comparatively exempt from, XIV. 253, n.—may possibly be caused by animalcules, XXI. 975.
CHOLET, French town, VI. 634.
Choleva, genus of insects, IX. 114.

CHO—CHR

Chologaster, genus of fishes, XII. 236.
Cholula, pyramid of, XIV. 719, 720.
Chomatodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 341
Chondrocantus, genus of entozoa, XXI. 982.
Chondrodite, mineral, XV. 89.
Chondropterygians, fishes, XII. 205, 319
Chondrosteus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 338; XVII. 125.
Chondrostoma, genus of fishes, XII. 257.
Chonetes, fossil mollusks, XVII. 105.
Chonikrite, mineral, XV. 80.
CHOPIR, Scotch liquid measure, VI. 634.
Chops of the mouth, III. 48
CHORAGIC, VI. 634—monument of Lysicrates, III. 442, 462, 468, 715; IV. 164—of Thrasylus, III. 462—of Stewart, on the Calton Hill, Edinburgh, VIII. 406
CHORAGUS, VI. 634
CHORASSAN, VI. 634. See Khorassan.
CHORD, or Cord, VI. 634—in music, ib.; I. 728, XV. 720—in geometry, VI. 634, X. 513.
CHOREA, VI. 634; XVII. 700.
CHOREOGRAPHY, VI. 634
Choreutes, devotees, XV. 407.
CHORIAMBA, a foot, in ancient poetry, VI. 634, IX. 770.
Choridactylus, genus of fishes, XII. 283.
Chorinemus, genus of fishes, XII. 287.
Chorion, in animal physiology, XVII. 688
Chorisia, in botany, V. 121.
CHORLEY, town in Lancashire, VI. 634.
Chorlton-upon-Medlock, XIV. 256.
Choroid coat of the eye, III. 43—in various animals, 96—whether the seat of vision, XVI. 693.
—gland of fishes, III. 96.
Choroma, silver mines of, IV. 825.
Choron on theories of harmony, XV. 702—on musical invention, 738
CHORUS, in ancient drama, VI. 634; VIII. 134*—prohibited, 140
—in music, VI. 634.
Chosroes, king of Persia, XVII. 435—Antioch destroyed by, III. 274—his invasion of the Roman empire, VII. 312, XVII. 185—subjugation of Egypt, VIII. 474.
—Parthian king, XVII. 312.
CHOTYN, or Choczyn, Russian town, VI. 634.
CHOUGH, a species of corvus, VI. 634, XVI. 771.
Choumarr, on fortification, IX. 834
CHOUS, Greek liquid measure, VI. 634.
Chowbent, in Lancashire, IV. 174.
CHRISM, VI. 634—pence, ib.
CHRIST, VI. 634—meaning of the name, I. 480, n. 1—establishment of his kingdom, 480—date of his birth, XII. 737, and death, 760—doctrine concerning the, XXI. 207—his twofold estate, 211—his offices, 212—proofs of his divinity, 209. See Jesus, Messiah.
—ORDER OF, VI. 634
Christ's Hospital, London, XIII. 667.
—College, Cambridge, XXI. 466.
—thorn, XVII. 762.
CHRISTCHURCH, town in Hampshire, VI. 634.
—Cathedral, Dublin, VII. 221.
—College, Oxford, XVII. 35; XXI. 459—founded by Wolsey, 901.
Christian era, VI. 667—Christian art, early, XIX. 889.
—VII. of Denmark, VII. 742.
CHRISTIANIA, capital of Norway, VI. 635—libraries at, XIII. 427.
Christianite, mineral, XV. 71.
CHRISTIANITY, VI. 635—dissertation on the rise, progress, and corruptions of, I. 447—in Abyssinia, II. 56—capacity of the American tribes for, 692—Lord Hailes' inquiry into the secondary causes assigned by Gibbon for its rapid progress, VII. 635, 636—intinct to theatres, VIII. 142—renunciation of, in France, X. 84—re-established by Bonaparte, 126, and n.—relation of Mohammedanism to, XV. 307—Gibbon's at-

CHR—CHR

tacks on, X. 615—Kant on, XIII 51—Paley's Evidences of, XVII 200, 202—approximation of some of Plato's doctrines to, 793—its influence on the arts, 59; and on poetry, XVIII 106—Voltaire's disbelief of, XXI 667—its introduction into Britain, V. 380; England, VIII 656; Poland, XVIII 137, Sweden, XX 845; Spain, 459; Russia, XIX 470; Scotland, 744, 749—establishment of, by Constantine, 353—effects of this on Rome, 364 See Christians, Jesus, Religion, Theology, Reformation.

CHRISTIANS, VI 640—a name first given at Antioch, I 485, n. 1—never applied by the Apostles to the members of any Church, 485; nor by Christians themselves to one another, ib., n. 1, 491, n.—demonology of the early Christians, III 311—persecuted in Egypt, VIII 472, 473, 479, 485—Beybar's proceedings against, 484—funeral rites, X. 344—Pliny's letter respecting the early, XVIII 13—persecuted by Nero, XIX 338; Trajan, 342; Hadrian, 343; Aurelius, 344; Trajanus Decius, 348; Dioclesian, 350—favoured by Constantine, 351—discountenanced by Julian, VII 307, 308. See Christianity

CHRISTIANISAND, in Norway, VI 641.

CHRISTIANSTAD, in Norway, VI 641.

— in West Indies, XXI 837.

Christie (Mr), on magnetism, XIV. 10, 11, 12, 33, 35, 38, 55, 56, 57 *et seq*

Christiern, king of Denmark, his invasion of Sweden, XX 846—chosen king of that country, ib.—his tyrannical reign, ib.—his attempts to recover the kingdom, 847.

CHRISTINA, queen of Sweden, VI 641—reign of, XX 851—her correspondence with Bayle, IV. 523—her invitation to Descartes, VI 280.

Christoson, XX. 478 *et seq*.

Christson (Dr), on gas-burners, X. 425, 426—on the deleterious influence of the atmosphere of towns on plants, V. 106, 107—on the alcohol in porter, 332; in wines, XXI 890—his work on poisons, IX. 424

CHRISTMAS-DAY, VI 642, 667; XII 757; I 502.

Chronology, XXI 184, 207. See Christ. Christophe, king of Hayti, XI 257.

Christopher North. See Prof. Wilson.

CHRISTOPHERS (St), or St Kitts, island, VI 642.

Chromate of lead, a dyestuff, VIII 297.

CHROMATIC, VI 643.

CHROMATICS, VI 643; XVI 578. See Optics, Polarization of Light.

Chromatotype, XVII 550.

Chrome, XVII 623.

Chrome-garnet, VI 85.

Chrome-ochre, XV 112.

Chromic acid, VI 493—salts of, ib.

Chromididae, family of fishes, XII 265.

Chromis, genus of fishes, XII 265.

Chromite, mineral, XV 108.

CHROMIUM, VI 662, 493; XV 66.

Chromo-carbon process, employed on the maps of the trigonometrical survey, XXI 337.

Chromo-lithography, XIII 513.

Chromule, V 73.

CHRONIC, VI 662—inflammation of the liver among cattle, XXI 669; cough in, 573.

CHRONICLE, VI 662—of Winton, XXI 892.

CHRONICLES, two books of the Old Testament, VI 662.

— of the middle ages, VII 535.

CHRONOLOGY, VI 664; XI 541—antediluvian, III 267; XI 540—ancient Egyptian, VIII 449—the Parian chronicle, III 720—Sir I. Newton's work on, XVI 208—its relations to philology, XVII 526, 527. See Calendar, Era.

Chronological schemes, number of, XI 540.

— Table of political events, and of inventions and discoveries, from the creation to the year 1854, VI 677.

CHR—CHU

Chronological Table of foreign authors and their works, VI 698.

— Table of British authors and their works, from the sixteenth century, VI 707.

CHRONOMETER, VI 710; VII 27—chronometer escapement, 33, 34—French, IV. 678—Earnshaw's, VII 34—Harrison's, XIII 686—to find the longitude by, 687; XVI 46—improvements on, 109—importance of, in seamanship, XX 27.

Chronometrical thermometer, VII 30.

Chronoscopes, I 987—electro-magnetic, XXI 644.

CHRUUDIM, town in Bohemia, VI 710.

CHRYSALEIS, VI 710; IX 53 *et seq*, 203 *et seq*—of the silk-moth, XX 290.

Chrysammate of potash and magnesia, optical properties of, XVI 669.

CHRYSES, priest of Apollo, VI 710.

Chryseides, tribe of insects, IX 193.

CHRYSEPTUS, Stoic philosopher, VI 710, I 319.

Chrysis, genus of insects, IX 193.

Chrysobalanæ, sub-order of plants, V 191.

CHRYSOBERTIL, a siliceous gem, VI 710, X 87.

Chrysocloris, genus of mammalia, XIV. 151—dentition of, XVI 450.

Chrysocolla, mineral, XV 102.

Chrysocoma, genus of birds, XVI 811.

Chrysogaster, genus of insects, IX 240.

CHRYSOLOITE, gem, VI 710; XV 89.

CHRYSOLORES (Manuel), VI 710.

Chrysomela, genus of insects, IX 150.

Chrysomelinae, tribe of insects, IX 148.

Chrysophane, mineral, XV 79.

Chrysophona, genus of insects, IX 123.

Chrysophrys, genus of fishes, XII 286, 287.

CHRYSOPTERIS, VI 711, 67; II 232, XV 69.

Chrysops, genus of insects, IX 231.

CHRYSSOSTOM (St John), VI 711—Mont-faucon's edition of his works, XV 516.

Chryssotele, mineral, XV 80.

Chrysotoxum, genus of insects, IX 238.

Chrysotus, genus of insects, IX 243.

CHUB, fish, VI 712; XII 256—angling for, III 161.

CHUBB (Thomas), VI 712.

— (Mi), his locks, XIII 536—his latch-lock, 541—his detector, 536—on locks, 535 *et seq*.

CHUDLEIGH, town in Devonshire, VI 712.

Chumbal, mountain, VIII 386.

CHUMBU, river in Hindustan, VI 712.

CHUMPAKEER, in Hindustan, VI 712.

CHUNAM, VI 712.

CHUNAR, or Chunargher, in Hindustan, VI 712; XVII 21.

Chuni. See Hunni.

CHUPPESABITES, VI 712.

CHUPRAH, town in Hindustan, VI 712.

CHUQUISACA, capital of Bolivia, VI 712—climate of, IV. 826—population of, 827, 828—university of, 830.

— department of, IV. 821.

Chuquito, or Tincaca, lake, IV. 822. See Titicaca.

CHUR, Swiss town, VI 713.

CHURCH, VI 713; XII 370—churches founded by the apostles, I 490, few particulars given of them, ib.—spires, III 449—bells, IV. 628—burying in churches, VI 22—consecration of, VII 298—painted glass in the windows of, X. 669—in Chile, VI 546—Greek, XI 33—in Holland, 588—heating of, by stoves, XX 742, 743—no established church in the United States, XXI 422—churches in London, XIII 666, 671, 672; Dublin, VIII 222; Rome, XIX, 368.

— of England, VIII 744, 792—in Ireland, XII 531—proposed union with the Greek Church, XI 35. See Episcopacy.

— Scotch Established, XVIII 492—its extent, 493—constitution, ib.—standards, ib.—endowments, 494—theolo-

CHU—CIC

gical education, ib.—schools, ib.—missions, ib.—its relaxation in doctrine and discipline, 499—early history of the Church in Scotland, XIX 749, 751, 753—proportion of adherents to, 801.

Church, Free. See Free Church.

— (General), XI 29.

Church-rates, VIII 744.

CHURCH-WARDENS, VI 713.

CHURCHILL (Charles), satirist, VI 715; XVII 124—his attack on Dr Johnson, XI 799.

— (John), duke of Marlborough, VI 713; III 217—appointed general of the British forces in the war with France, 1772, V. 447—his continental campaigns, ib. 448 *et seq*, X. 34—disgraced, V 451—his death, 464—his co-operation with Prince Eugene, IX 368—69—palace voted to, by parliament, XXI 518—his wealth and avarice, 519, n. 1.

— (Sarah), duchess of Marlborough, III 216.

Churchman (Mr), on the variation of the needle, XIV. 49.

CHURCHYARD, VI 715.

— (Thomas), poet, VI 715.

CHURN, VI 715; VII 623.

Churning, process of, VII 623.

CHUROO, IV. 691.

Churum, Turkish town, XXI 80.

CHUSAN, island, VI 715, 596, 597.

CHUSITE, mineral, XV 89.

CHUTTERPOOR, city of Hindustan, VI 716.

CHYLE, VI 716; II 782, XVII 660—cells, 650—vessels conveying the, II 761; III 62. See Lacteals.

Chylific ventricle, in insects, IX 51.

Chylification, XVII 660.

Chyliza, genus of insects, IX 252.

Chyme, XVII 659, 660.

CHYTILA, VI 716.

Ciampi (Antonio), VIII 671.

CIBBER (Colley), VI 716—on stage-declamation, VIII 164; XXI 172—his plays, VIII 165, sums paid for, XXI 172, 173—new dramatic characters created by, 174.

— (C. Gabriel), sculptor, XIX 867; VI 716.

— (Mrs), actress, XXI 175.

— (Theophilus), actor, XXI 175—his share in the authorship of *Lives of the Poets*, 518 and n. 1.

CIBORIUM, VI 716.

Cibotum, genus of fishes, XII 313.

CICACOLE, town in Hindustan, VI 716.

Cicada, genus of insects, IX 167.

Cicadaria, family of insects, IX 166.

CICATRIX, VI 716.

CICERO (Marcus Tullius), VI 716—on the law of right reason, I 86—on Cato's stoicism, 433—his anatomical knowledge, II 761—on beauty, IV. 537—on the influence of the Athenian upon the Roman laws, VI 739—his disbelief in a future state, I 462, 463—his visit to the tomb of Archimedes, III 430—on the pleasures of husbandry, II 250—some of his works recovered by Peharica, XVII 469—digest of his works by Bellenden, IV 637—Middleton's alleged plagiarism in his *Life of*, ib.; XIV. 810—discovery of his treatise *De Republica*, IV. 706; XIV. 96, XVII 212—his *Dialogues*, VII 799, 800—on the Roman constitution, VIII 760—his oration for Milo, XV. 18—on mnemonics, 285—on the uniformity of moral judgments, 542—on morals, 554, 556—on virtue, 558, 559—on the universality of moral law, 569—Cathline's conspiracy suppressed by, XIX 323, VI 337—recent discovery of works of, XVII 211—banishment of, XIX 324—recall, 325—death, 328—on ancient sculpture, 864—his high estimate of physicians, XX 812—his friendship for Varro, XXI 628—on the existence of God, 181.

— (Quintus), IX 577.

Cicliophs, genus of fishes, XII 288.

Cicloraceæ, plants, V 197.

Cicindela, genus of insects, IX 78.

CIC—CIN

Cicndeletra, tribe of insects, IX. 78—synoptical table of, 80.

Cicommurus, genus of birds, XVI 768.

CICISBEIO, VI 721; XII 662.

CICLUT, or Cicluch, VI 721.

CICOONARA (Leopold), count, VI 721—on Etruscan art, XIX 850, n.

CICOMA, genus of birds, XVI 799.

CICUTA, water-hemlock, VI 721.

CID, the, VI 721; II 619—Chronicle of, XVIII 112; XX 468.

Cidaræ, family of echinoderms, XXI 991.

CIDARIS, mitre of the Jewish high-priest, VI 721.

— genus of echinoderms, XXI 989, 991—fossil, XVII 99, 100.

Cidarites, echinoderms, XXI 989.

CIDER, or Cyder, VI 721; IX 759—tax upon, in 1763, V. 467—mulberry-cider, XI 717—Devonshire, VII 764—Herefordshire, XI 349—France, X 256.

CIEZA, or Zieza, Spanish town, VI 722.

CIGAR, VI 722; XXI 294, 295—manufacture of, at Seville, XX. 66, 490.

Cigna on electricity, VIII 529.

CIGNANI (Carlo), Italian painter, VI 722.

Cignolis' catalogue of stars, IV. 80.

CIGOLI (Lodovico Cardi da), VI 722.

CILIA, VI 722—in the infusoria, III 207—in zoophytes, XXI 973 *et seq*.

Ciliary circle and processes of the eye, III 43, 96, III 461.

CILICIA, VI 722—coins of, XVI 377.

CILICURUM, VI 723.

Ciliogrades and ciliograda, zoophytes, XXI 1000, 1001.

CIMABUE (Giovanni), VI 723; XVII 61.

CIMAROSA (Domenico), VI 723.

Cimbex, genus of insects, IX 183.

CIMBRI, ancient Celtic nation, VI 723; V. 374; X. 574; XX 883—their war with the Romans, XIX 319—Cimbriæ language, XIII 212.

Cimento, Accademia del, II 63.

CIMMERII, VI 724.

Cimex, genus of insects, IX 163.

CIMOLIA TERRA (Cimolite), VI 724.

Cimolite, XV 84, VI 724.

CIMON of Cleonea, painter, VI 724; XVII 53—catagrapha said to have been invented by, VI 330, XVII 53, n. 2.

— son of Miltiades, VI 724—Athens improved by, IV. 160—his exploits, banishment, and death, 201, 202.

CINALOA, in Mexico, VI 724. See Sinaloa.

CINCIONA, or Peruvian bark, VI 724; IV. 444; V. 196; VII 230—region of the cinchonas, V 228; XVII 629.

Cinchonaceæ, nat. order of plants, V 195.

Cinchonne, VI 518.

CINCINNATI, in Ohio, VI 725, XVI 490—climate, XXI 421—mean temperature, VI 773.

CINCINATUS (Lucius Quintus), VI 726; XIX 300.

Cinclus, genus of birds, XVI 753.

Cinders, use of, in mortar, XX 714.

CINEAS, a Thessalian, VI 726.

Cinematics, branch of geometry, XIV. 884.

CINERITIOUS, VI 726. See Brain.

Cingalese, or Singhalese, VI 391—language, XIII 207.

Cinna, XIX 821.

CINNABAR, mineral, VI 726, 498; VIII 888; XV 122, 237—fibrous and hepatic, 122.

CINNAMON, VI 726; IV. 445, V. 204—imports of, VIII 734—oil of, XVI 496—culture of, in Ceylon, VI 394, 400; Cochín-China, VII 48.

Cinnamon-colour, dyeing of, VIII 313.

Cinnamon-stone, XV 85; XVII 623.

Cinnyris, genus of birds, XVI 769.

Cinquecento, Italian works published during the period so named, XII 660.

— style of architecture, III 450, n. 1, 453 *et seq*; XXI 495.

Cinquefoil, in architecture, III 508.

CINQUE PORTS, VI 727; XVI 89—arms of, XI 323.

Cintio, his romances, XIX 284.

CIN—CIS

- CINTRA, town in Portugal, VI. 727—Convent of, V. 604, XVIII. 887, XXI. 821.
- CINULIA, fossil mollusks, XVII. 109, 111.
- CINTRA, VI. 728.
- CROTAT (La), French town, VI. 728.
- CYPHER, or Cypher, VI. 728; III. 582.
- CIPOLINI, or Cipollino, an Italian marble, VI. 728, XV. 92, 147.
- CIPPUS, VI. 728.
- CIPRIANI (Giovanni Battista), VI. 728.
- CIRCETUS, genus of birds, XVI. 743.
- CIRCARS (Northern), in Hindustan, VI. 728.
- CIRCASSIA, VI. 730—inhabitants of, 342, 731; IX. 346—contests with Russia, XIX. 498.
- CIRCE, VI. 731.
- genus of mollusks, XV. 350.
- CIRCEIDE, zoophytes, XXI. 1000.
- CIROENI, town of Latium, VI. 731.
- CIRCULONES See Cuccumellones.
- CIRCENSIAN GAMES, VI. 731, 733.
- CIRCLE, VI. 732; X. 513, 544, 552—attempts to ascertain the ratio of the diameter to the circumference, I. 699—its incommensurability first demonstrated by Lambert, 700—problems respecting, X. 527—quadrature of, 530; XX. 520—of curvature, in conic sections, VII. 285—mensuration of, XIV. 509—perspective of, XVII. 447—Mural, IV. 153—repeating, Borda's improvement of the, V. 37—of perpetual apparition, and of perpetual occultation, VI. 732.
- CIRCLES, of the sphere—of altitude—diurnal—horary—of latitude—of longitude—polar—Druidical—of the empire, VI. 732.
- CIRCUIT, VI. 732—inconveniences of circuit-courts, VIII. 786.
- CIRCULAR, VI. 732—instruments—numbers—sailing, ib.—saws, XIX. 677—arches, XX. 728.
- Circulation of the blood, see Blood—of the sap in plants, V. 110; C. Coulomb on, VII. 464.
- Circulating trade-museums, XXI. 324.
- CIRCUM, VI. 732.
- CIRCUMCELLONES, VI. 732.
- CIRCUMCISION, VI. 732—practised in Arabia, III. 354—by the ancient Egyptians, VIII. 440—by the Kafirs, XIII. 36.
- Circumduction, action of the muscles, III. 40.
- CIRCUMFERENCE, VI. 733; X. 513.
- CIRCUMFERENTOR, VI. 733.
- CIRCUMFLEX, VI. 733.
- CIRCUMGYRATION, VI. 733.
- CIRCUMLOCUTION, VI. 733.
- CIRCUMPOLAR STARS, VI. 733.
- CIRCUMPOZATIO, VI. 733.
- CIRCUMSCRIBED, VI. 733.
- CIRCUMVALLATION, VI. 733.
- CIRCUS, VI. 733—Maximus, ib.—games of the, VI. 731, 734; X. 399.
- genus of birds, XVI. 744.
- CIRENCESTER, VI. 734; X. 682; XXI. 879—Royal Agricultural College near, X. 680; II. 386.
- Cirillo (Dr Domenico), on the Sicilian papyrus, XVII. 246.
- Cirrhastulus, genus of annelids, XI. 289.
- Cirrhibrabus, genus of fishes, XII. 309.
- Cirrhibrada, echinoderms, XXI. 984.
- Cirrhilabrus, genus of fishes, XII. 287.
- Cirrhinus, genus of fishes, XII. 257.
- Cirrhispinigrada, echinoderms, XXI. 984.
- Cirrhites, genus of fishes, XII. 277.
- CIRRIPEDES, VI. 734—fossil, XVII. 100, 101—their near approach to the crustacea, VII. 543—their classification, XV. 319.
- CIRRUS, cloud, XIV. 656—cirro-cumulus, ib.—cirro-stratus, ib.
- fossil mollusks, XVII. 111.
- CIRTA, city of Numidia, VI. 734; XVI. 850.
- CIS, genus of insects, IX. 142.
- CISALPINE, VI. 734—republic formed, XII. 658.
- CISNEROS (Francisco Ximenes de), VI. 734. See Ximenes.

CIS—CLA

- CISPADANA GALLIA, VI. 734.
- CISSAMPELOS PAREIRA, a plant used in medicine, VI. 735.
- Cissood of Diodes, X. 544.
- Cistaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 183.
- Cistela, genus of insects, IX. 132.
- Cisteldes, tribe of insects, IX. 132.
- CISTERCIANS, VI. 735.
- CISTERN, VI. 735—barometer, IV. 453—blow-up cisterns, XX. 794.
- Cistus-rape order of plants, V. 209.
- CITADEL, VI. 735.
- CITADINESCA, a kind of Florentine marble, VI. 735.
- CITÆRON, mountain in Boeotia, VI. 735.
- CITÆRA, VI. 735. See Lyre.
- Citharinus, genus of fishes, XII. 246.
- CITIZEN, VI. 735—of Rome, XIX. 306, 321—Italians admitted to the rights of Roman citizens, 320, and all subjects of the empire, XX. 458—citizenship in the United States, XXI. 430.
- Citric acid, VI. 515, XIII. 381—used for discharging colours, VIII. 316—scurvy cured by, XVI. 106.
- Citron, V. 186; XI. 729; XII. 445.
- CITREUS, genus of plants, VI. 735; V. 185, 186.
- CITTA DI CASTELLO, town of the Papal States, VI. 735.
- VECCIA, in Malta, VI. 736; XIV. 116.
- CITIZEN, VI. 736.
- CITY, VI. 736—influence of cities on civilisation, XIII. 255.
- CIUDAD RODRIGO, VI. 737—taken by the French, V. 608—stormed by the British in 1812, 611; XXI. 824.
- REAL, in Spain, VI. 737.
- REAL, in Mexico, VI. 737.
- CIUDADELA, in Minorca, VI. 737.
- CIVET, VI. 737, XIV. 166.
- CIVIC CROWN, VI. 737.
- CIVIDADE, in Italy, VI. 737—battle of, XX. 256.
- CIVIL, VI. 737.
- engineers, institution of, III. 506—academical rank of, at Durham, XXI. 472.
- engineering, I. 801—its relation to physics, 805.
- LAW, VI. 737; XIII. 255—study of it accelerated human improvement at the revival of letters, I. 14—venerated by Leibnitz, &c., 92—ought to be the groundwork of speculations on jurisprudence, 93—Cujas on, VII. 572—study of, at Bologna, XXI. 449; Oxford, 452.
- LIST, VI. 748; VIII. 751; XVII. 298—sum fixed for the civil list of the Sovereign, XI. 773—of the United States, XXI. 428.
- STATE, VI. 748.
- war, in Rome, XIX. 321—in Switzerland, XX. 886.
- YEAR, VI. 748, 76.
- CIVILIAN, VI. 748—college of civilians, VII. 113.
- Civilisation, its existence a proof of superhuman instruction, I. 452—low capacity of the aboriginal Americans for, II. 692—American, 683; IX. 348—flourishes most in temperate regions, II. 683—what it consists of, XI. 545—its connection with Christianisation, XV. 974—its progress in Europe, IX. 395—true basis of modern, XIV. 459—linguistic records of, XVII. 537—ancient mysteries supposed to commemorate the origin of, XV. 754—its effect on poetry, XVIII. 96.
- CIVITA CASTELLANA, VI. 748.
- DI PENNE, town of Naples, VI. 748.
- VACCHIA, in Italy, VI. 748; XVII. 240, 243.
- CIVRAY, in France, VI. 748.
- CLAACKMANNAN, VI. 748—trigonometrical survey of, XXI. 334.
- CLAACKMANNANSHIRE, VI. 749; XIII. 95—agricultural statistics, XIX. 798, 797, 798—population, 799.
- Cladacanthus, fossil fishes, XVII. 117.
- Claddagh, X. 892.

CLA—CLA

- Cladius, genus of insects, IX. 183.
- Cladocyclus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 346.
- Cladodactylus, echinoderms, XXI. 986.
- Cladodus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII. 118.
- Cladyodon, fossil reptile, XVII. 141.
- CLAGENFURT, VI. 751. See Klagenfurt.
- CLAGETT (William), VI. 751.
- CLAIR OBSCUR, VI. 751. See Claro-obscuro.
- (St), lake in Canada, VI. 751, 137.
- CLAIRAUT, or Clairaut, (Alexis-Claude), VI. 751—on universal gravitation, I. 693, 780, 781—on the connection of gravity and the figure of the earth, 851 and n —on achromatic glasses, II. 93—on the retardation of Halley's comet, I. 694, 783; III. 809—on the earth's figure, I. 777; IX. 552, 573—on capillary attraction, I. 731; XII. 96, VI. 207—his genus and character, I. 733 and n —on the problem of the three bodies, III. 809; IV. 105—on the inequalities of the moon's motion, IV. 104—on the spectrum, XVI. 583.
- Clairfayt (General), X. 87, 88.
- Clairville, his entomological works and system, IX. 10.
- Clairvoyance, XX. 429, 437, 444—its fallacy exposed, 438, 439, 442—unworthy of credit, 446—a form of spirit-rapping, 445.
- Clamant sins, XXI. 201.
- CLAMECE, town in France, VI. 751.
- CLAMPING, in joinery, VI. 751.
- CLANDESTINE, VI. 751.
- Clangula, genus of birds, XVI. 816.
- CLANS, VI. 751—spirit of clanship among the Arabs, III. 350.
- Clapeyron (M.), on the moving power of heat, XX. 561.
- CLAPHAM, in Surrey, VI. 752.
- caves of, XXI. 957.
- CLAPPERTON (Hugh), African traveller, VI. 752—his discoveries in Africa, II. 210; X. 477—his visit to Borgoo, V. 40—his account of Houssa, XI. 777 et seq.
- CLARE, in Ireland, VI. 752—agricultural statistics, XII. 515, 517.
- or Claremorris, town in Mayo, VI. 755.
- island, VI. 755; XIV. 370.
- Claremont Palace, IX. 332.
- CLARENCIEUX, VI. 755; XI. 820.
- CLARENDON (Constitutions or Institutions of), VI. 755; VIII. 672.
- (Earl of), VI. 755. See Hyde.
- printing-press at Oxford, XVII. 35.
- CLARET, VI. 755; XXI. 883—alcohol in, 890—consumption of, 891.
- CLARI (Giovanni Carlo Maria), VI. 755.
- CLARIAS, genus of fishes, XII. 260, 262.
- CLARICHORD, VI. 755.
- CLARIFICATION, VI. 755—of sugar, XX. 797.
- CLARIGATIO, VI. 756.
- CLARION, VI. 756.
- CLARIONET, VI. 756; XV. 710.
- CLARISSES, order of nuns, VI. 756.
- CLARIUS (Isidore), his critical edition of the Bible, IV. 701.
- Clark (Bracy), on bots, IX. 246; XXI. 569.
- (D. K.), his locomotive furnace, XX. 359—on back-pressure in steam-engines, 801.
- (Edwin), on the strength of iron, I. 874—his work on the Britannia Bridge, &c., 878—on iron bridges, XII. 605, 606, 607.
- (Sir James), on the climate of Madeira, XIII. 799.
- (Prof.), on the hot and cold blast processes, XII. 551.
- (William), on photography by absorption of light, XVII. 551.
- CLARKE (Adam), LL.D., VI. 756—his Biographical Dictionary, IV. 714.
- (Dr), on the size and weight of infants, III. 2.
- (EDWARD DANIEL), LL.D., traveller, VI. 756—his experiments with

CLA—CLA

- the oxyhydrogen blowpipe, IV. 794—on the temperature of springs in the plan of Troy, XXI. 357.
- Clarke (E. M.), his electrometer, XXI. 643—his magneto-electric machine, 647.
- (J. Algonon), on chalking land, II. 303.
- (Mary Anne), her connection with the Duke of York, V. 605.
- (SAMUEL), VI. 757.
- (Dr Samuel), prunus, VI. 757.
- (Dr SAMUEL), secundus, VI. 757—his controversy with Leibnitz, I. 139, 142, n —on the existence of a God, 141, 142—early development of his reflective powers, ib.—character and genius of, 143, 343—his controversy with Collins, 144—on necessity, 149—his moral doctrines, 344—his erroneous application of the term *relation*, 345—difference between his system and Cudworth's, 347—on the force of a moving body, 656—on the different kinds of deists, VII. 701—Butler's correspondence with, VI. 29—his theory on the basis of moral rectitude, XVI. 554.
- (WILLIAM), VI. 758.
- CLARKSON (Thomas), VI. 758—his opposition to the slave-trade, IX. 321—on the complexion of the human species, VII. 223.
- CLAROMONTANUS (Codex), XIX. 838.
- CLARO-OBSCURO, VI. 758—engraving, VIII. 799, 880. See Chiaroscuro.
- Clashbennie, fossil fishes of, XVII. 457, 124.
- CLASS, VI. 758—in natural history, III. 132; V. 175—distribution of classes of plants over the globe, 222—Oken on the classes of animals, XVI. 498. See Classification.
- CLASSIC, VI. 758—different editions of the classics, IV. 709.
- Classical ancient history, XI. 542—historians, 548—classical learning, XVIII. 369—romances, XIX. 256—palimpsests, XVII. 210—classical philology, 513, 522, 525; distinction between classical and comparative philology, 527; old classical philology combined with comparative grammar, 533.
- trpos examination at Cambridge, XXI. 464.
- CLASSICUM, VI. 758.
- Classification, natural and artificial systems, III. 173—Aristotle on, 552.
- of animals, III. 172 et seq., 182, 183—by Aristotle, XIV. 122, 123—by Linnæus, III. 184—Virey, ib.—Lamarck, 185—Dumeril, 190—Blainville, ib.—Maclean, 191—Cuvier, 192—of animals, 194, 196—arachnides, 372—fishes, XII. 226—crustacea, VII. 540—insects, IX. 58 et seq.—importance of the teeth in, XVI. 407, 477—of zoophytes, XXI. 982, 986, 991, 1004. See the different articles on Natural History.
- of plants, V. 174—systems of, 176—artificial systems, ib.—Linnæan, 177—natural systems, 178—Jussieu's system, 179; XIII. 25, 26—De Candolle's, V. 179—Lindley's, ib.—Adanson's views on, II. 131—Cæsalpinus on, VI. 56.
- of minerals, XV. 67.
- of rocks, XV. 129, 155.
- of books, IV. 715.
- of steam-engines, XX. 602.
- CLATHRI, VI. 758.
- CLAUBERG, (John), VI. 759.
- CLAUDE (Jean), VI. 759; XXI. 506—his conference with Bossuet, V. 60.
- LOREAIN, VI. 759; III. 712, 713—his *Liber Veritatis*, 713, n —compared with Turner, XXI. 338—specimen of sketches by, VIII. Plate.
- (Sr), town of France, VI. 759.
- Claudet (Mr), his stereomicroscope, XX. 688.
- CLAUDIA, VI. 759.
- CLAUDIUS (Claudius), Latin poet, VI. 759.
- CLAUDIUS I., Roman emperor, VI. 760; H.

CLA—CLE

- reign of, XIX. 337—resemblance to James I. of England, V. 389, n.
 Claudius II., Roman emperor, VI. 760; XIX. 348.
 CLAUSSE, VI. 780.
 Clausel (General), governor of Algiers, II. 573, 575.
 CLAUSENBURG, VI. 760. See Klausenburg.
 Clausilia, genus of mollusks, XV. 373.
 Clausius, his equation for the latent heat of steam, XX. 567.
 Clausen (Mr.), his method of bleaching flax, IV. 768—his process for making flax-cotton, IX. 656.
 CLAUSTHAL, VI. 760. See Klausthal.
 Claustrahite, mineral, XV. 717.
 Clavagella, genus of mollusks, XV. 350—*C. aperta*, 351—*C. lata*, 343—fossil, XVII. 108.
 CLAVARIUM, VI. 760.
 Clavastus (Angelus), on blasphemy, IV. 754.
 Clavella, fossil mollusks, XVII. 110.
 Clavellina, genus of mollusks, XV. 332.
 Clavellinidae, family of mollusks, XV. 332.
 Clavering (Capt.), his researches in Greenland, XI. 41—on the fire of St Elmo, VIII. 588.
 CLAVES INSULÆ, VI. 760.
 Claviastina, echinoderms, XXI. 991.
 CLAVICORD and Clavichordum, VI. 760.
 CLAVICLE, VI. 760; III. 31. See Collarbone.
 Clavicornes, family of insects, IX. 112.
 CLAVIOTRIBALUM, VI. 760.
 Claviger, genus of insects, IX. 153.
 Clavipalpi, family of insects, IX. 151.
 CLAVIUS (Christopher), VI. 760—on the calendar, 82—on dialling, VII. 778—on geometry, X. 504.
 CLAVUS, VI. 760; III. 187—annalis, ib.
 CLAY, VI. 760; XV. 83, 142; XVIII. 480—*as used in brickmaking*, V. 844—clay soils, 97—nature and kinds of, 343; XV. 82—specific gravity of, XII. 88—clay books, XVIII. 431—eaten by some American tribes, II. 693—composition of potter's, V. 343—Baume's dissertation on, 344—its contraction by heat, XI. 289—its use in modelling, XIX. 844—burnt, *as a manure*, II. 304.
 —(HENRY), American statesman, VI. 760.
 —(Mr.), his process of manufacturing iron, XII. 544.
 Claying fen lands, II. 363.
 —of sugar, XX. 795.
 Clay-plate, XV. 142, 153—in Scotland, XIX. 792—analysis of, II. 391.
 Claystones, XV. 70, 135.
 CLAYTON (Robert), D.D., VI. 760.
 —(Rev. John), his discovery of coal-gas, X. 409.
 —Shuttleworth, and Co., their direct-action horizontal steam-engine, XX. 608, 610—their portable engines, 614.
 Clayton-Bulver treaty, XV. 663.
 CLAZOMENE, town of Ionia, VI. 760—coins of, XVI. 376.
 Cleanliness, its influence on health, XIV. 440—the best preservative from vermin, XXI. 549, 550.
 Cleansing of towns, XIX. 613.
 CLEANTHES, Stoic philosopher, VI. 760—repertee of, I. 320.
 Clear (Cape), VII. 372.
 CLERARCHUS, VI. 760.
 Cleasby (Richard), his dictionary of the old Norse or Icelandic language, XVII. 523.
 CLEAT, VI. 760.
 Cleavage, in minerals, XV. 55—of topazes, VIII. 564—electricity produced by, 563—in rocks, XV. 178.
 CLECHE, in heraldry, VII. 761.
 CLEDGE, VI. 761.
 CLEDONISMAUS, VI. 761.
 CLEF, in music, VI. 761, 419.
 Cleg, insect, IX. 232.
 Clegg (Mr.), his improvements in gas-making, X. 410—his gas-retort, 412—meter, 422—method of separating ammonia from coal-gas, 418.

CLE—CLE

- Cleirac (Mons.), on insurance, XII. 394, 395.
 CLEISTHENES, VI. 761; IV. 193.
 Cleithral, in architecture, III. 503.
 Cleithra, in architecture, III. 508.
 Cleland (Dr.), his statistics of the people employed in the Glasgow cotton-mills, VII. 451—on the mortality in Glasgow, XV. 613.
 CLEMENS ROMANUS, VI. 761.
 —(TITUS FLAVIUS), or Alexandrinus, VI. 761—on Egyptian writings, XI. 375.
 CLEMENT V. (Pope), VI. 761—his collection of Constitutions, 190, 762.
 —VII. (Pope), VI. 761—his conduct in reference to the divorce of Henry VIII., VIII. 699.
 —XI. (Pope), VI. 761.
 —XIV. (Pope), VI. 761—Canova's monument to, 193—Jesuitism suppressed by, XII. 756.
 —(David), on rare books, IV. 709.
 —(M.), on steam, IX. 407.
 —IX. 490, his epistle to the Cornithian church, ib.
 CLEMENTI (Muzio), VI. 761.
 CLEMENTINE, VI. 762.
 CLEMENTINES, Constitutions of Pope Clement V., VI. 762, 190; XVII. 208.
 Clement's Inn, London, XII. 385.
 CLEMENS (Nicholas), VI. 762.
 Clendinning (Dr.), on the weight of the organs of the human body, III. 3.
 CLEOBIS and BITON, VI. 762.
 CLEOBULUS, one of the seven sages, VI. 762.
 CLEOBURY MORTIMER, VI. 762.
 Cleodora, genus of mollusks, XV. 359, 360—fossil, XVII. 111.
 CLEOMBROTUS, VI. 762, XXI. 177.
 CLEOMEDES, Greek astronomer, VI. 762—on optics, XVI. 521.
 CLEOMENES, sculptor, VI. 762.
 —kings of Sparta, VI. 762, IV. 198; XX. 502.
 Cleomenean war, II. 199.
 CLEON, VI. 762; IV. 205; XVI. 251—Aristophanes' ridicule of, VIII. 139.
 Cleonus, genus of insects, IX. 140.
 CLEOPATRA, VI. 762; VIII. 471; XIX. 326, 329, 330—her connection with Mark Antony, III. 238—manner of her death doubtful, 760—Egyptian queens of that name, VIII. 470.
 Cleopatra's Needles, II. 472; VIII. 497.
 Cleophas, father of James the Less, II. 617.
 CLEOSTRATUS, astronomer of Tenedos, VI. 763—his improvement of the calendar, 79.
 Clephus, Lombard king, XIII. 638.
 Clepsina, genus of annelids, XI. 307, 308.
 CLEPSYDRA, water-clock, VI. 763; VII. 564—D. Bernoulli on the construction of, IV. 675—Amontons on the, II. 725.
 Cleptopus, genus of fishes, XII. 267.
 CLEPO (Daniel le), VI. 763; XIV. 462—his character of Paracelsus, I. 18—his History of Medicine, XX. 814, n. 2.
 —(JEAN LE), VI. 763—his controversy with Burman, V. 786—his acquaintance with and respect for Locke, I. 106, n. 1—his Parrhasiana, II. 738—his French New Testament, IV. 701—his edition of Menander and Philemon, V. 787.
 —(Le), his history of worms, XXI. 981.
 —(SEBASTIAN LE), engraver, VI. 763.
 CLERK (Charles), his entomological works, IX. 5.
 CLERGY, BENEFIT OF, VI. 764; III. 706.
 —in Great Britain, VIII. 744—rank of, in England, 743—in Edgar's reign, 659—burning of obnoxious books by, IV. 712—imposition of hands, XII. 205—their fondness for trial by ordeal, XVI. 702—generally long lived, XIV. 442—must always have existed from the times of the apostles, I. 504—reserve fund, in Canada, VI. 159—their exclusion from Parliament, XVII. 294—of Austria, IV. 317—Belgium, 616, 617—Bolivia, 829—France, X. 45, 243; their

CLE—CLI

- impious adulation of Napoleon, X. 134, n.—Greece, XI. 33—Iceland, XII. 199—Ionian islands, 446—Ireland, 530—Italy, 661—Jamaica, 676—Papal States, XVII. 244—Russia, XIX. 526, 527, 529—Turkey, XXI. 380—Scotland, IV. 371, n., 372; V. 384—Sweden, XX. 865—medicine disgraced by their practice of it, 816, n. 3.
 Cleri, tribe of insects, IX. 111.
 CLERK, VI. 764—clerk of the irons, VII. 74—period of hiring, XIV. 350—diseases to which clerks are subject, 442—of the pipe, XVII. 714—number of clerks in London, XIII. 660.
 —(Sir George), on weights and measures, XXI. 802—bill on, proposed by, 803 and n. 2.
 Clerk-marshal and chief equerry, XI. 776.
 CLERKE (Capt. Charles), navigator, VI. 765; VII. 340, 341.
 —(JOHN, of Eldin), VI. 765—his improvements in naval tactics, XXI. 724.
 CLERMONT, or Clermont-Ferrand, French city, VI. 765—population, X. 277—extinct volcanoes of, XXI. 606.
 —DE LOBEVE, in France, VI. 765.
 —MANUSCRIPT, VI. 765.
 —(the), first passenger steam-boat, XX. 638.
 CLEROMANCY, VI. 765.
 Clerus, genus of insects, IX. 111.
 CLEVELAND, city in Ohio, VI. 765.
 —(JOHN), poet, VI. 766.
 —(Duchess of), her intimacy with Wycheley, XXI. 941, 942.
 —in Yorkshire, XXI. 957, 958—its breed of horses, II. 338; XXI. 958.
 CLEVES, Prussian town, VI. 766.
 CLEW, VI. 766.
 Clias (Capt.), on gymnastics, XI. 169.
 Check, in mechanics, XIV. 400.
 CLIENT, VI. 766; XVII. 343.
 CLIFDEN, town in Ireland, VI. 766.
 Clifford's Inn, London, XIII. 385.
 CLIFTON, suburb of Bristol, VI. 766; V. 370.
 —Moor, skirmish of, XXI. 843.
 CLIMACTERIC, VI. 766.
 CLIMATE, VI. 766; XVII. 610—its effect on the active energies of man, II. 683—insignificant effect of the proper heat of the earth on, I. 950—cause of secular change of, ib.—insular and continental, XVII. 612—zones of, IX. 70—that of Britain favourable to exertion, XIV. 277—its modifying influence on animals, III. 161, 182; XI. 633—its influence on man, IX. 342; on trees, XVII. 765; health, XIV. 443; the arts, XVII. 49, complexion, VII. 223—its influence on the distribution of plants, V. 219—influenced by exhalation from the leaves of plants, 104—in geography, X. 464, 484—its dependence on geographical situation, XIV. 637; and elevation above the sea-level, XVII. 610—of America, II. 673—Arabia, III. 341—Asia, 786—Bengal, IV. 643—Canada, VI. 139—Chile, 543—California, 94, 96—Ceylon, 392—Denmark, VII. 746—Orkney, XVI. 719—Europe, IX. 381—England, VIII. 718—Scotland, XIX. 795—France, X. 241—Greece, XI. 13—Himalayas, 442—Hindustan, 450—United States, XXI. 421. See Atmosphere, Cold, Dew, Meteorology, and the geographical articles generally.
 Climatists, genus of fossil fishes, XVII. 117.
 Climatology, general principles of, XIV. 663.
 CLIMAX, VII. 1.
 Chambers, order of birds, XVI. 774.
 Chama, genus of annelids, XI. 802.
 CLINCH, VII. 1.
 CLINOBER, VII. 1.
 CLINCHING, VII. 1.
 CLINTAS, of Tarentum, VII. 1.
 CLINTAL, VII. 1—medicine, XIV. 461, 462.
 Clicker-build, VII. 1.
 Clinkstone, XV. 132, 134.
 Clinocera, genus of insects, IX. 232.
 Clinoclora, mineral, XV. 78.

CLI—CLO

- CLINOMETER, VII. 1.
 Clinton, group of rocks, XV. 199.
 —on the Pelagis, XVII. 371.
 —(Sir Henry), XXI. 750—his operations in the American revolutionary war, 752.
 Clintonite, mineral, XV. 79.
 Clinus, genus of fishes, XII. 309.
 CLIO, one of the Muses, VII. 1; XV. 699—statue of, VIII. Plate.
 —genus of mollusks, XV. 362.
 Clionia, fossil sponges, XVII. 93.
 Clipping of horses, XI. 669.
 Clitellaria, genus of insects, IX. 237.
 CLITHEBROS, in Lancaster, VII. 1.
 CLITOMACHUS, VII. 1.
 CLITOR, town of Arcadia, VII. 1.
 Clitoris, III. 71—erectile tissue of, II. 799.
 CLITUMNUS, river, VII. 1; XIX. 180.
 CLITUS, a Macedonian, VII. 1.
 —genus of insects, IX. 145.
 CLIVE (Robert), Lord, VII. 2—his transactions in India, XI. 482 *et seq.*—accusations brought against him by General Burgoyne, V. 476—his acquittal, 477.
 Clivina, genus of insects, IX. 85.
 CLOACÆ, at Rome, VII. 2—Cloaca Maxima, ib.; III. 443; XIX. 358.
 —in comparative anatomy, III. 112, 113.
 CLOACINA, VII. 2.
 Clock, VII. 2—slow improvement of, III. 706—astronomical, IV. 153—water-clocks, VI. 763, see Clepsydra—Bain's electric, I. 986; XXI. 644; Wheatstone and Steinhill's, ib.—sympathetic, I. 986—American electric-registration clocks, ib.—value of the imports of, VIII. 734—application of a clock movement to telescopes, XXI. 144. See Chronometer, Pendulum.
 —AND WATCH WORK, VII. 2.
 Clockmaker's compasses, VII. 221.
 Clodio, X. 2.
 CLODIUS PULCHER (Publius), VII. 38; XIX. 325—his enmity to Cicero, VI. 718.
 Clodomer, king of Orleans, X. 4.
 CLOHER, in Ireland, VII. 38; XXI. 403, 409.
 Closianus (Codex), XIX. 888.
 CLOSTER, VII. 38.
 Clonakilly, town in Ireland, VII. 370, 371, 372.
 CLONMEL, in Ireland, VII. 38; XXI. 285, 288, 768—taken by Cromwell, XII. 484.
 Cloutz (Anacharsis), X. 58, 71.
 CLOUT (M.), his system of anatomy, II. 767; III. 73—case of a surgical operation during magnetic sleep, related by, XX. 428.
 Clos (La), his romances, XIX. 289.
 Closs, in heraldry, VII. 38.
 Close-times, in salmon rivers, IX. 611, 612—seasons of, for different districts, 614, n. 1—table of, in different districts of Ireland, 621.
 Clossus (Dr.), his discovery of parts of the Theodosian code, VI. 744; and of a document regarding its reception by the Roman senate, 742.
 Closter Seven, capitulation of, V. 464.
 Clot of the blood, II. 780.
 Cloture, king of France, X. 4.
 Clot-Bey, on the diseases of Egypt, VIII. 423—on the population of Egypt, 444—temperature of Egypt, 422.
 CLOTH, VII. 38—cloth trade in Leeds, XIII. 312 *et seq.* See Cotton, Calender, Dyeing, Silk, Weaving, Woollen manufacture.
 Cloth-weavers, foreign, their settlement in England, XXI. 914, 915.
 Cloth-workers, Company of, XXI. 913.
 Clothing, flannel, IX. 654—its influence on health, XIV. 441, XIX. 611.
 CLOTHO, one of the Fates, VII. 38; XVII. 272.
 —genus of arachnides, III. 379.
 Clotilda, wife of Clovis, X. 2.
 CLOUD, VII. 38; XIV. 656—nomenclature of clouds, XIV. 655—colour of, 622—peculiar disposition of, on Crossfell, VII. 578—their electricity, VIII. 681.

CLO—COA

CLOUD (Ss), French town, VII 40
 CLODBERRY, alpine plant, VII 40; XI 719.
 Clouston (Rev Charles), on the flora and climate of Orkney, XVI 719.
 CLOVER, VII 40—culture of, II 322, 327—seed, 336.
 CLOVES, VII 40, V. 192—oil of, XVI 486—culture of, in Amboyna, II 660; and in Bourbon, V. 247—imports of, VIII 784
 Clove-tree, II 660.
 Clovewort order of plants, V 184
 CLOVIO (Giorgio Giulio), VII 40
 CLOVIS I., founder of the French monarchy, VII 40; X 2
 Clowes (William), surgeon, XX 818.
 CLOTNE, in Ireland, VII 40—cathedral of, 370.
 Club-foot, surgical treatment of, XX 835
 Club-moss order of plants, V 216, 144
 Clubs, farmers', II 265
 —in London, XIII 675.
 Clunch, XV 142—used in building, XX 712.
 CLUNY, French town, VII 40
 —(Hotel de), museum of, Paris, XXI 822.
 CLUPEA, genus of fishes, VII 40; XII 237—fossil, 847
 —taken by the Romans, VI 268.
 Clupeidae, family of fishes, XII 235–36—fossil group of, XVII 91
 Clupeonina, genus of fishes, XII 237.
 Clupeosidae, family of fishes, XII 249.
 Clusiaceae, nat order of plants, V 186.
 CLUSIUM, now Chusi, city of Etruria, VII 40.
 CLUSIUS, or Elcuse (Charles d'), VII 41.
 Cluthalite, mineral, XV 75.
 CRUVIER (Philip), VII 41
 CLUDY, VII 41, or Clwyd, 735—vale of, ib—river, ib.
 CLYDE, VII 41; XIII 174; X 645; XIX 791—diving-bell used in improving its navigation, VIII 66; XVI 70—improvement of, X 651, XVI 76—dredging of the, 68, 69—physical characters of, 87—tonnage of vessels built on the, VIII 740—navigation of, X 651—vessels arriving at, ib—canal to the Forth and, VIII 236; XVI 55; XIX 808—falls of, XIII 174; XIX 791.
 —iron-works, XII 551, 552.
 Clydesdale, XIII 174.
 —horses, II 338; XI 662; XIII 175.
 Clyers, in cattle, XXI 571.
 Clymenia, fossil mollusks, XVII 112.
 Clypeaster, fossil echinoides, XVII 100
 —genus of insects, IX 152
 Clypeasteridae, echinoderms, XXI 991
 Clypeastridae, fossil echinoides, XVII 100
 CLYTEMNESTRA, VII 41; II 230
 Clythra, genus of insects, IX 149.
 Cnidaria, polypes, XXI 1004.
 Cnidon, genus of fishes, XII 275.
 CNIDUS, VII 41.
 GNOSSE, or Gnossus, VII 41—labyrinth at, XIII 141.
 COA VESTI, VII 42.
 COACH, VII 42—hackney and stage coaches, 43—origin of the name, XIII 215. See Carriage, Chariot
 —or Couch, VII 43
 —Mail, VII 43. See Mail Coaches.
 Coach-horse, XI 658.
 COACHMAKING, VII 43.
 Coachman, XIII 625.
 Coade's artificial stone, XX 785.
 Coagulum of the blood, II 780.
 COAHUILA, or Cohahuila, in Mexico, VII 43; XIV 713, 718, 728.
 COAK, or Coke, VII 44; X 433; XX 628, 631—Calvert's method of purifying, X 320—for furnaces, 360—in iron manufacture, XII 642—consumption of, by locomotives, XX 353
 COAL, VII 44; XV 123, 143—its geological position among the stratified rocks, VII 116, 118—varieties of, 117, 118; XX 628—methods of searching for, VII 118—boring for, 119—winning, ib—working, 121—different methods of

COA—COA

working, ib—quantity produced annually in the six principal coal countries, 126—extent of the coal areas in these countries, 127—its properties as fuel, X 319—report on, as suited to the steam navy, ib—method of purifying, 320—formation of, XV 146—gas obtained from, X 313, 814 *et seq.*—wood coal of Antrim, III 284—the main cause of developing the cast-iron manufacture in Britain, VI 184—coal measures, XVII 623—distribution of, 624—its composition and decomposition, XX 628—chemistry of the combustion of, 629, 631—heat arising from combustion of, 630—qualities of different kinds in the United Kingdom, as adapted for steam-vessels, 652—evaporative power of, 653—treatment of, in marine furnaces, ib—specific gravity of, XII 88—brown coal, V 237; XV 123, 149; XVII 641—cannel, XV 123, 149—earthy, ib—slate, ib—splint, 149—caking, ib—cherry or soft, ib—consumption of, in London, XIII 665—influence of abundant supplies on manufactures, XIV 276—iron smelting with, XII 543—combustion of, XX 352—composition of, ib—consumption of, by locomotives, 358—in Austria, IV 313—in Bavaria, 517—Belgium, 624—Chili, VI 549—Cleveland, 750—Cumberland, VII 577—Derbyshire, 755—Devonshire, 763—Dumfriesshire, VII 235—Durham, 266—Edinburghshire, 408—England, 716, 725—Europe, IX 387—France, X 250—Glamorganshire, 642—Hindustan, XI 457—Illinois, XII 362—Iowa, 460—Ireland, 504—Japan, 689—Kilkenny, XIII 84—Lanarkshire, 178—Lancashire, 179—Leitrim, 327—Monmouthshire, XV 498—New South Wales, IV 281—Northumberland, XVI 299—Pennsylvania, XVII 395, 624—Prussia, XVIII 668—Russia, XIX 543—Scotland, 804—Staffordshire, XIX 529—Stirlingshire, 702—Sumatra, 805—Sweden, 861—Tennessee, XXI 155—Tupery, 285—Tyrrone, 407—United States, 420—Vancouver's Island, 520—Virginia, 598—Whitehaven, 855—Yorkshire, 958. See Colliery, Coal Trade, and the geographical articles generally.
 Coal-fish, XII 269—fishery of, IX 643; XX 113.
 Coal-gas, VII 473; X 409 *et seq.*—quantity yielded by different kinds of coal, 413, 414—impurities of, 415—apparatus for purifying, ib—analysis of, 430—compared with oil-gas, 428, 429—hunts for the improvement of, 431—economy of, 432—its use as fuel, 322—consumption of, in London, XIII 665.
 Coal-measures, in geology, XV 202—comparative extent of their areas in Europe and America, VII 127. See Carboniferous Period.
 Coal-mines See Coal, Colliery.
 Coal-oil, X 438.
 COAL-TRADE, VII 44—London, XIII 662—Glasgow, X 650—Newcastle, XVI 166—Sunderland, XX 808—number of persons engaged in, VIII 726—proposed duty on coal exported, XXI 60.
 Coal-work. See Colliery.
 Coalbrook coal-mines, XXI 285.
 Coalbrookdale, XX 229, 230—iron bridge of, XII 575, 576, V 363.
 Coalition ministry, V 506; IX 852; XVII 781—its fall, V 613.
 COAMINGS of a ship, VII 45; XX 190.
 COANZA, river in Congo, VII 45.
 Coast, change of level in that of Belgium, IV 611—defences of, III 695—arrangements of lights on, XIII 461—coastlines, XVII 584, 571—elevation of the coasts of Sweden, XX 860—cause of volcanoes being distributed along coastlines, XXI 606—non-volcanic coastlines, 607.
 —CASTLE (Cape), VII 45.
 COASTING-TRADE, VII 45—of Scotland, XIX 806.

COA—COC

COAT, or COAT OF ARMS, in heraldry, VII 45; XI 321—differences of, 326—of mail, VII 45.
 COATIS, or Coati mondis, quadrupeds, XIV 155—dentition of, XVI 462.
 Cob, horse, XI 658.
 COBALT, VII 45; VI 492; XV 66, 246—earthy, 112—in Devonshire, VII 763—Cornwall, 407—in Chile, VI 548—specific gravity of, XII 88—magnetism of, XIV 16, 27.
 —vitriol, XV 98.
 —ochre, XV 112.
 —bloom, XV 104
 Cobaltine, XV 115
 COBBERT (William), VII 45—his Weekly Register, XVI 189.
 Cobden (Richard), his agitation against the corn-laws, V 670.
 Cobham (Lord), follower of Wycliffe, XXI 947.
 —(Elinor), VIII 639.
 COBIA, or Puerto la Mar, in Bolivia, VII 46; IV 827.
 Cobitis, genus of fishes, XII 258, 256—fossil, 346—*C. barbata*, loach, angling for, III 162.
 COBLE, small boat, VII 46.
 COBLENZ, German city, VII 46—group of rocks, XV 199—government of, XIX 145
 Cobra di capello, XVII 634; XIX 64—in India, XI 456; held sacred there, V 267
 COBURG, VII 46. See Saxe-Coburg
 COCA, narcotic drug, VII 46; IV 824, V 186—its general use in Peru, XVII 472.
 Coccu (Samuel de), his commentary on Grotius' work *De Jure Belli et Pacis*, I 92
 COCCERUS (John), VII 46.
 Coccinella, genus of insects, IX 152.
 Coccinelle, mineral, XV 107
 Coccolepis, genus of fossil fishes, XII 334
 COCCOLITE, VII 46; XV 81.
 COCCOLOBA, genus of plants, VII 46
 COCCOSTEUS, genus of fossil fishes, XII 339; XVII 121, 122.
 Coccotenthis, fossil cuttle-fish, XVII 113, 114.
 Coccothraustes, genus of birds, XVI 761.
 Cocculus Indicus, bitter narcotic fruit, V 181.
 Coccus, genus of insects, IX 172
 Coccys, human, III 4, 7—of the lower animals, 76.
 Coccyzus, genus of birds, XVI 778.
 COCHABAMBA, in Bolivia, VII 46; IV 821, 826, 827
 COCHIN, in Hindustan, VII 46
 COCHIN-CHINA, VII 47; III 785.
 —fowls, II 356—prices paid for, 357.
 COCHINEAL, VII 50—its introduction as a dyestuff, VIII 274—its nature and history, 283—its culture in Mexico, XIV 717; in the Canary Islands, VI 164—value of the imports of, VIII 734—Insect, IX 172—plant it feeds on, V 194; XIV 717.
 Cochinealin, VIII 284
 Cochlea of the ear, III 47, 98; XVII 679.
 COCHLEAR, VII 50.
 Cochliodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 341; XVII 118.
 Cochrane (Admiral), his proceedings against the United States, V 617
 —(Lord), his proceedings with the Brazilian squadron, V 287—burning of the French ships by, in 1809, 607—exploit at Callao, XVII 467—his management of the naval affairs of Chile, VI 563—appointed admiral of the Greek fleet, XI 29.
 —(Sir Thomas), his proceedings against the pirates of Borneo, V 49.
 COCK, VII 50—domestic, XVI 788—Ban-hya, 789—Jago, ib—jungle, ib—Macartney, 790—divination by means of cocks, II 460.
 —in clocks and watches, VII 23, 29.
 Cock-chaffer, IX 125—modes of destroying it, XXI 649.

COC—CCE

Cock-dog, XX 220.
 Cock-fighting, VII 50; XVI 789, 790.
 Cock-paddle, fish, XII 306.
 Cock-rrr, VII 50—in a ship of war, 51.
 Cockatoos, birds, XVI 783.
 COCKATRICE, VII 51; IV 486—in heraldry, XI 334
 COCKBURN (Henry Dundas), VII 51—on Sir James Gibson-Craig, 477—his notices of Sir H. W. Moncreiff, XV 415; of Dr Robertson, XIX 232—on Dr Andrew Thomson's appointment to a church in Edinburgh, XXI 232.
 —(Sir George), admiral, his edition of the Queen's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions, XVI 104, 107.
 —Island, XVIII 181.
 COCKERMOUTH, VII 51.
 Cockfield Fell trap-dyke, XV 189.
 Cocklane Ghost, XII 799.
 COCKLE, VII 52; XV 349; IX 765—fossil cockle-shells, XVII 107.
 COCKNEY, VII 52
 COCKROACH, VII 52; IX 156—method of destroying it, XXI 549.
 Cockscamp, plant, V 203.
 —pyrites, XV 115.
 COCKSWAIN, VII 53—pay of, XVI 111.
 COCKLES (Horatius), VII 52; XVIII 366; XIX 298, 357, n. 2.
 COCOA or Cacao, VII 52—imports of, VIII 764—adulterations of, IX 769—tree, V 185—in India, XI 454—Guay-aquil, 73. See Chocolate.
 —plum, V 191.
 COCOA-NUTS, VII 52; XVI 395—tree, V 214—in Ceylon, VII 394, 399, 400.
 COCOON, VII 52; IX 205, 211 *et seq.*—silk, XX 290, 291, 292, 293—produce of silk cocoons, in Lombardy, XIII 654—different kinds of silk cocoons, XX 279
 Cocos, islands, XIII 57.
 Cocote, a disease in cows, XV 11.
 COCTRUS, VII 52.
 COD, VII 52; XII 268—as an article of food, IX 764—mode of curing, 647—migrations of, XVII 636—red, or rock cod, XII 269.
 —oil, and Cod-liver oil, XVI 328, 493
 Cod-fishery, VIII 727—Scotch, IX 645; XIX 804—quantity cured and exported, IX 646—of Newfoundland, 647; XVI 171, 172; XII 268—of Ireland, 634—of France, X 265.
 Coddington (Mr), on the grooved sphere lens, XIV 769, 770 and n.—on the periscope achromatic sphere, 773—his improvement of the compound microscope, 776—on the spherical aberration of lenses, 771.
 CODE, VII 52; XIII 272—Solon's, IV 195—Austrian, 319—Bolivian, 334—Cretan, VII 493—of Louisiana, XIII 272—French codes, X 281, 183; code of conscription, VII 297—of Alarie, II 439—Venetian, of maritime law, VII 533—Mennu, or Hindu code, VI 317, 318; XI 476—Chinese, VI 564—Napoleon, X 132; XIII 272; XV 798—Roman, VI 742—of the Two Sicilies, XX 232—Spanish, 467—international code, XIII 282, 289. See Law, Legislation.
 CODELA, or Codeine, VII 52; VI 518.
 Codex Ephremi, XVII 208.
 Codices, ancient, VIII 42—of the New Testament, XIX 838.
 CODRIN, VII 53; VI 788.
 Codification, XIII 271.
 CODLIN, apple, VII 53; XI 716.
 CODONO, in Lombardy, VII 53.
 CODON, VII 53.
 CODRINGERON (Christopher), VII 53.
 —(Admiral), V 651.
 —(General Sir William), XIX 510.
 CODRUS, last king of Athens, VII 53; IV 193.
 Coelophis, genus of fishes, XII 232.
 Coenban wine, XXI 882.
 COEFFICIENT, in algebra, VII 53; II 490 *et seq.*—in meteorology, XIV 664.
 Coehorn. See Cohorn.
 Coelacanthi, family of fossil fishes, XII 336, 350; XVII 123.

COE—COI

Ceolacanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 336; XVII. 125.
Coele, in Athens, IV. 169.
Coelestius, XVIII. 477—on original sin, XXI. 203.
COELERYA, VII. 53; XVII. 182; XX. 903, 904.
Coeloxys, genus of insects, IX. 200.
Cœlogaster, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 347.
Cœlogenyis, fossil species of, XVII. 173.
Cœlopa, genus of insects, IX. 254.
Cœlorhynchus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 346; XVII. 123.
CELUS, VII. 53.
CEMPITO, VII. 53.
CENA, VII. 53.
Cenites, fossil animals, XVII. 98, 96.
CENOBITE, VII. 53.
Cenomyia, genus of insects, IX. 230.
Cenosis, genus of insects, IX. 250.
Cenus, XIII. 770.
Cercion, one of the means by which religious errors have been kept up, I. 523—Acts, for Ireland, in 1822 and 1823, V. 634, 663.
Coesfeld, Prussian town, XIII. 132.
COFFEA ARABICA, coffee-tree, VII. 53; V. 196—supposed to be originally a native of Abyssinia, XVII. 628—its culture in Arabia, III. 345—Brazil, V. 294—Bourbon, 247—Ceylon, VI. 399—Hayti, XI. 285—Java, XII. 705—Mexico, XIV. 717.
COFFEE, VII. 54; IX. 761—chicory mixed with, *ib.*—Mokka coffee, III. 345; XV. 293—adulterations of, IX. 769.
COFFEE-BERRY, VII. 54.
 —colour, dyeing of, VIII. 313.
Coffee-houses—Procope coffee-house in Paris, VII. 104—in Damascus, 640.
Coffee-trade, VII. 54—quantity imported, VIII. 734—effects of the reduction of the duties on coffee, XXI. 71.
COFFER, in architecture, VII. 55; III. 508—in fortification, VII. 55.
COFFER-DAM, VII. 55; XVI. 71; XX. 722—of iron, 723.
Coffey (Mr), his still, VIII. 50.
COFFIN, VII. 55—impropriety of using lead coffins, XIX. 630—Egyptian, III. 501—coffins kept by the Chinese in their houses, VI. 571.
 —(Captain J.), on ambergris, II. 658—(J. H.), on the polar winds, XVIII. 177.
Coffin-bone, in the mammalia, III. 82.
Cogging, in carpentry, V. 746.
COGGESHALL, Great, in Essex, VII. 55.
COGNAC, French town, VII. 55—brandies of, V. 276.
COGNATE, in Scotch law, VII. 55.
COGNATION, in civil law, VII. 55.
Cognizances, in heraldry, XI. 337, 338.
COGNOMEN, VII. 55; II. 242.
Cognoscentia, in painting, XVII. 98.
Cohahuila, Mexican state, XIV. 728. See *Coshula*.
COHESION, VII. 56—of surfaces, XVIII. 72—strength of materials arises from, XX. 748—the doctrine of, yet a new subject, 755—great varieties of, 756—its force proportional to the area of the section perpendicular to the extending force, *ib.*—of metals, *ib.*—757—woods, *ib.*—758—proportion between the absolute cohesion and the relative strength of timber, 775—cohesive strength of woods and metals, 779.
 —of fluids, VII. 56; XII. 90—Coulomb on, VII. 464—capillary action, VI. 207; XII. 90, 96; I. 731, 732; see that article.
COHORATION, VII. 65.
COHORN (Memo, Baron de), VII. 65—on fortification, IX. 815.
COHORT, VII. 65; III. 631.
COIF, VII. 66.
Coignet (Michael), on navigation, XVI. 4.
Coila, genus of fishes, XII. 237, 213.
COIMBATORE, in Hindustan, VII. 66.
COIMBRA, Portuguese city, VII. 66; XVIII. 898—university of, 897; XXI. 492.
COIN, VII. 68—ancient coins, *ib.*; value

COI—COL

of Jewish, *ib.*—Roman and Grecian coins, 66, 67—adulteration of, II. 154—abrasion of, 47—degradation of the value of, in the sixteenth century, VII. 375, *n* 1—its state in the reign of William III, VII. 378—coins not signs of value; in what sense measures of value, XV. 419—gold coins of different countries, 441, 442; silver, 443, 444, 445—advantages of coined money, 418—arms on coins, XI. 322. See *Numismatics*, *Money*, *Coimage*.
COINAGE, VII. 68, XV. 418—decimal, VII. 691; XV. 430—duodecimal, *ib.*—Boulton's improvements in, V. 246—of Ireland, XII. 528—ancient modes of coining, XVI. 358, 382—probable cause of the die sometimes adhering to the coin, XX. 753—of tin, VII. 407—of Portugal, XVIII. 398—coining of false money, XIV. 427. See *Numismatics*, *Coin*.
Corpu, in zoology, XIV. 186.
COIR, VII. 95—ropes, XIX. 401.
Cotter (Volcher), his anatomical researches, II. 760.
Cotton Arthur, cromlech, XVII. 374.
COKE, VII. 95. See *Coak*.
 —(Sir Edward), VII. 95—on *label*, XII. 856—on the government and laws of England, VIII. 757 *et seq*.
 —(Sir John), on postal arrangements, XVIII. 403, 404.
Cokum, or *Kokum*, oil, XVI. 496.
COL, mountain pass, XVII. 591.
COLABA, in Hindustan, VII. 96; V. 1.—(Angrias territory), VII. 97.
COLAIR LAKE, in Hindustan, VII. 97.
COLAPOOR, VII. 97.
Colaptes, genus of birds, XVI. 777.
COLAR, town in Hindustan, VII. 97.
COLARBASUS, a Gnostic, VII. 97.
Colaris, genus of birds, XVI. 765.
Colaspis, genus of insects, IX. 149.
COLBERG, in Pomerania, VII. 97.
COLBERT (Jean Baptiste), marquis of Segneley, VII. 97; X. 34—his commercial regulations, 257—manufactures improved by, 251; XVIII. 215—dyeing encouraged by, VIII. 274—his formation of the Academy of Sciences, II. 63—his ordinance for publishing bills of mortality in Paris, XV. 617—his exertions to improve the French navy, XX. 134—woollen manufactures promoted by, XXI. 920.
Colby (Colonel), employed on the trigonometrical survey of Scotland, IX. 551—his contrivance for measuring the base line, 554; XVIII. 703; XXI. 332.
Colchagua, in Chili, VI. 547.
COLCHESTER, in Essex, VII. 98; IX. 336.—(Lord) See *Abbot* (Charles).
Colchicaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 213.
COLICUM ACTUMALIS, VII. 98, V. 79, 213—alkaloid from, XIV. 439—order of plants, V. 213.
Colcums, in Asia Minor, VII. 98.
COLCOTHAR, VII. 99.
COLO, VII. 99—reflection of, I. 762—pulsations of, in the air, VI. 783; instrument for indicating these, *ib.*—784—Dr Wollaston's mode of producing artificial, VII. 544—Leslie's, XIII. 846—Dr Currie on the medical effects of, VII. 549—alleged coldness of the moon's rays, 766—preservative effects of, IX. 767—radiation of cold, XI. 264—means of producing, 271, 275—from evaporation, VI. 459; IX. 413—death from, XIV. 431—its effects on the spine, XVII. 702—produced by voltaic electricity, XXI. 626—in Tibet, 247—Siberia, XIX. 549—in the polar regions, XVIII. 178, 179—ebullition produced by, XX. 558. See *Congelation*, *Heat*, *Ice*, *Polar Regions*.
 —a disease. See *Catarrh*.
Cold-Bath-Fields prison, XVIII. 572.
COLDEN (Cadwallader), VII. 103.
COLDINGHAM, VII. 103—priory, IV. 681—fishings at, 680.
COLDSTREAM, VII. 103.
COLE (William), botanist, VII. 103.

COL—COL

Cole (Robert), on roller-spinning, XX. 509.
Cole-fish, XII. 269. See *Coal-fish*.
Colebrookdale, XX. 229—early use of coal at, VII. 116; iron ore of, XX. 230—iron-stone China, *ib.*
COLEBROOKE (Henry Thomas), VII. 108—his translation of a Hindoo mathematical work, II. 487—his comparison between the Indian algebraists and Diophantus, *ib.*—on the Sanscrit grammarian Pāṇini, XVII. 519—his edition of the *Amara-Cōsha*, 527—contributions to philology, 529, 541.
Coleoptera, order of insects, IX. 25, 73.
Coleorhiza, in botany, V. 77.
COLERAINE, in Londonderry, VII. 109; XIII. 680, 682.
COLERIDGE (Samuel Taylor), VII. 109—his mistake as to the *Parva Naturalia* of Aristotle, I. 443—his explanation of Luther's visions, III. 312, *n*—on the German drama, VIII. 167—68—his connection with the drama alluded to, 168—his remark on Shakespeare, XI. 37—on association of ideas, XIV. 596, *n* 3; XV. 286—on the thinking principle, XIV. 617, *n* 1—on Milton, XV. 22—his definition of genius, X. 450—his newspaper writings, XVI. 185—on personality, XIV. 617, *n* 1—on poetry, XVIII. 95—poetry of, 126—his opinion of George Fox, 714—on Rabelais, 742—on Shelley, XX. 102, 104—his opinion of Whitaker, XXI. 851, *n*—on Prof Wilson's waste of talent, 878—his friendship with Wordsworth, 930, 931.
COLERON RIVER, VII. 112; VI. 243.
Colerus (Jean), on the Life of Spinoza, I. 264, XX. 513, 514.
COLESHILL, in Warwick, VII. 112.
COLER (John), VII. 112.
Coleworts, XI. 737.
COLEWONG, in Hindustan, VII. 112.
Colias, genus of insects, IX. 207.
COLIBERTS, in law, VII. 112.
Colic, painters, XIV. 434.
 —in horses, XXI. 566, 565.
COLIGNI (Gaspard de), VII. 112, X. 32.
Colima, Mexican state, XIV. 728, 718.
Colima, hot springs of, in Chile, VI. 543.
Collisa, genus of fishes, XII. 290.
COLLESEM, VII. 112—in Rome, II. 730, 731, III. 469, 515—buildings constructed from its materials, XIX. 366—in London, XIII. 668.
Collus, genus of birds, XVI. 762.
COLL, island, VII. 112; XI. 278.—Castle, XX. 843.
Collado (Luis), on gunnery, XI. 103, 114, 136.
Colladon (Dr), on electro-magnetism, VIII. 601—on the compressibility of liquids, XII. 78.
COLLAR, VII. 112—Knights of the, *ib.*—in mechanics, friction of, XIV. 406.
Collar-bone, in man, III. 31—the mammalia, 80—birds, 85—reptiles, 88.
Collard (M. Royer), X. 196, 198—Reid's philosophy taught by him in Paris, I. 404—his attempts to render speculative philosophy popular in France, *ib.*—his speech on the liberty of the press, X. 193.
COLLATE, VII. 113.
COLLATERAL, VII. 113.
COLLATION, in law, VII. 113.
COLLE (Raffaellino da), VII. 113.
COLLEGE, VII. 113.
COLLEGE, VII. 113—of Surgeons and Physicians, Edinburgh, VIII. 400; London, XIII. 672.
 —of Justice, in Scotland, VII. 114; VIII. 395—institution of, XIX. 771.
Colleges, seats of learning, VII. 113, XXI. 443 *et seq*, in the University of Paris, 447; Bologna, 450; Oxford, 455, 459; Cambridge, 462, 463, 465; St Andrews, 473—in Bengal, IV. 652—in Massachusetts, XIV. 340—New York, XVI. 230—United States, XXI. 423, 428. See *Universities*.
COLLEGIANTS, a religious sect, VII. 115.

COL—COL

COLLEGIATE Church, VII. 115.
COLLET, VII. 115.
Colletes, genus of insects, IX. 193.
Colletta (General), his history of the kingdom of Naples, XX. 261.
Collicat, ammonites, XVII. 113.
Collier (Arthur), on the non-existence of an external world, I. 168, *n* 3, 274.—(Sir F. A.), his attack on the pirates of Borneo, V. 49.—(JEREMY), VII. 115—on the immorality of the stage, VIII. 163; XXI. 173, 516—Congreve's contest with, VII. 247.
Collier's filter, IX. 581, 582.—combing machine, XXI. 924.
Colliers, laws relating to, XIV. 349—their former servile state, XX. 320.
COLLIERY, VII. 116—choke-damp and fire-damp in, 643—means of protection against these, 125—Davy's safety-lamp, 671; Stephenson's, I. 883—collieries in Lanarkshire, XIII. 175; in Lancashire, Cheshire, and North Wales, 179. See *Coal*.
COLLIMATION, line of, VII. 127—error of, *ib.*
Collin (Mr), his fire-escape, XIII. 498.
COLLINGWOOD (Cuthbert, Lord), VII. 127—his conduct at the battle of Cape St Vincent, V. 560; and at Trafalgar, 598.
COLLINS (Anthony), VII. 129—his controversy with Dr Clarke, I. 144; VI. 757—on the doctrine of necessity, I. 148—on the impossibility of liberty, 265; his notion of it the same as that of Hobbes, 268—Locke's regard for, 263—on the tenets of the Epicureans and Stoics, 266—Bentley's answer to his Discourse of Freethinking, IV. 659.—on book-keeping, V. 15.—(Samuel), on comparative anatomy, II. 763.—(WILLIAM), poet, VII. 129—merits of his poetry, XVIII. 124.—(WILLIAM), landscape painter, VII. 129.—(W. Wilkie), his account of the pulchard fishery, IX. 643, 644.
COLLINSON (Peter), naturalist, VII. 130.—(Capt), his expedition in search of Sir J. Franklin, X. 474; XVIII. 174—spars of Franklin's vessels found by, X. 299, *n*.
COLLIQUAMENTUM, VII. 130.
COLLISON, VII. 130.—of vessels at sea, VII. 130.
Colluris, genus of insects, IX. 79.
Colloido-albumen process, in photography, XVII. 549.
COLLODION, VII. 131; XI. 95—processes in photography, XVII. 547, 548.
Collophorinæ, zoophytes, XXI. 1008.
COLLUMPTON, in Devonshire, VII. 132.
COLLUTHUS, VII. 132.
COLLYRIANS, VII. 132.
COLLYRIUM, eye-salve, VII. 132; XXI. 577 and *n*.
COLMAN (George), the elder, VII. 132, XXI. 174—his comedies, VIII. 166.—(George), the younger, VII. 132—his John Bull, VIII. 168.
COLMAR, city of France, VII. 132; XIX. 143.
Colmate, Italian mode of diamming, XXI. 394.
COLME, town in Lancaster, VII. 132.—river, XI. 359; XIV. 807.
Colobata, genus of insects, IX. 253.
Colobodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 337.
COLOCYNTH, VII. 132; V. 193.
COLOGNA, VII. 133.
COLOGNE, VII. 133—early printing at, XVIII. 532—the Rhine at, XIX. 144—government of, 145.
Cololites, fossils, XVII. 101.
Colombat, on stammering, XX. 534.
COLOMBIA, VII. 133; II. 702, 703—history of, IV. 819 *et seq*—now divided into three states, New Granada, Venezuela, and Ecuador, VII. 137; which see—wines of, XXI. 888, map of, Plate.
COLOMBO, capital of Ceylon, VII. 134;

COL—COL

- VI 391 *et seq.*—diurnal change of temperature at, XIV 670.
 Colomesana, II 739.
 COLON, VII 134—*anatomy of*, III 61—*comparative anatomy of*, III 11.
 —in grammar, VII 134; XVIII 685.
 COLONEL, VII 134—colonel-lieutenant, lieutenant-colonel, *ib.*—price of commission and pay, 202.
 COLONI, Roman, XIX 318.
 Colonial period of the history of the United States, XXI 432.
 —tamber, XXI 278—wool, 907; imports and exports of, 911, 912; prices current of, 912, 913.
 —churches, in connection with the Established Church of Scotland, XVIII 494.
 —Universities, XXI 490.
 Colonists of the United States, XXI 435.
 COLONNA, VII 134.
 —CAPE, VII 134, IV 191; XX 808.
 —(GIOVANNI PAOLO), VII 134.
 —Palace, XIX 369.
 —(VITTORIA), VII 134.
 COLONNAGE, in architecture, VII 134.
 Colonnatus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII 125.
 COLONY, VII 134—British colonies, 147; population of, VIII 755, postal arrangements for, XVIII 406, 417—modification of the system of trade with, in 1828, V 643—number of vessels registered at the different British, VIII 740—foreign, VII 149—evils of the Spanish colonial system, XIV 707, 708—bishops in the colonies, IV 734—life assurance in the British colonies, XII 413—colonies of France, X 268—Denmark, VII 745—Holland, XI 582—Portugal, XVIII 398—Roman, XIX 307—reforms in the slave-law of, from 1823 to 1830, XX 324—effects of war on the English colonies, XXI 434—of the United States and those of Great Britain, *ib.*—colonial period in the history of the United States, 432.
 COLOPHON, in Asia Minor, VII 151—in Bibliography, *ib.*, XVIII Plate.
 COLOPHONITE, mineral, VII 151; XV 85.
 COLOPHONY, VII 151.
 Colopuntada, or bitter apple, V 193.
 COLORADO, Mexican river, VII 151; XVII 604, 777.
 COLORATURA, in music, VII 151.
 Colosse, VII 151.
 Colosseum. See Coliseum.
 COLLOSSIANS, Epistle to the, VII 151.
 Colossichelys, fossil tortoise, XVII 640.
 COLLOSSUS, VII 151—of Rhodes, *ib.*; VI 422; XIX 148, composed of bronze, VII 350; probably a light-house, XIII 463—of Cardinal Borromeo, III 673.
 COLOSTRUM, VII 152. See Beesings.
 COLOT (Germain), French surgeon, XX 817.
 COLOUR, VII 152, VI 657; XIII 453—Knight's doctrine as to the beauty of colours, IV 550, 551—their beauty derived from association, 551—primary, resolvable into red, green, and violet, I 751—periodical, VI 646; XVI 598—mistaken notions regarding colour—the cause of much error in philosophy, I 64—Dr Reid on, 65, n. 2—connection between it and extension and figure, 65—its varieties useful in enabling us to distinguish the figures and distances of bodies, 68—Addison on the colouring of nature, 273—separation of, by refraction, VI 644, 653—colours of the aurora borealis, IV 245—of halos and parhelia, VI 645—of the rainbow, *ib.*—of thin plates, 646; XVI 599—of double plates, VI 647, XVI 620, 621—of supernumerary rainbows and glories, VI 648—of striated substances, 649—of mirrors and thick plates, 650; XVI 619—of deflected light, VI 650—of diffracted light, 651—of mixed plates, 652; XVI 623—of doubly-refracting substances, VI 655—of clouds, VII 39; XIV 682—of the electric spark, VIII 545—of

COL—COL

- stars, IV 85—of leaves, V 107—of metals, VI 482; XVI 686—plants, VII 152, V 151—of quadrupeds, XIV 85, 86—of thorough-bred horses, XI 644—of hounds, 769—minerals, XV 53—fashion in colours, IX 487—of heat, I 956—of light, XVI 578—of the atmosphere, 691—of the sea, XVII 574—influence of electricity on, VIII 597—used in mourning dresses, XV 667—of fibres, XVI 622—of thin crystallised plates in polarized light, 648—colours in crystals with one and two axes, 666, 667—of elliptical and circular polarization, 685—of natural bodies, 692—of dispersed light within solid and fluid bodies, 693—produced by the unequal action of light on their es, 696—brilliance of, in marine productions of the tropics, XVII 635—of the camoleon, XIX 37—of serpents, 43—resemblance of the colours of birds to those of the places they inhabit, XX 226—of wool, XXI 905—coloured rings formed on metallic plates by voltaic currents, 692.
 Colour-blindness, VII 153; XVI 696, XVII 678—Dr Dalton's case, VII 637—Dr George Wilson's researches on, XXI 874.
 Colouring, in phrenology, XVII 563.
 —of sculpture, XIX 844, 865 and *n.*
 Colours, perception of, —are the blind capable of distinguishing them by touch? IV 773, 777—incapacity of distinguishing, VII 153.
 —in heraldry, VII 152; XI 324.
 —in the human species, VII 152, 222; II 677.
 —in painting, VII 152—colours used by the ancients, 671—in drawing, VIII 174—discharge of, in dyeing, 316—in pottery and porcelain, XVIII 443—printing in, 555—printing of coloured engravings, XIV 734. See Painting.
 —in glass-staining, X 668.
 Colquhoun (Dr), on the consumption of corn in the United Kingdom, in 1814, VII 395—his analysis of Lanarkshire iron ore, XII 540.
 —on the police of London, XVIII 183.
 —on mesmerism, XX 414—on phrenomagnetism, 441.
 Colza. See Colza.
 COIZ, VII 154; XI 636 *et seq.*
 —(Colonel), his manufacture of revolvers, XI 100, 102.
 Colness iron-works, XII 549.
 COLUBER, serpents, VII 154, XIX 56—fossil species, XVII 153—teeth of, XVI 431, 432—colubriiform serpents, XIX 63.
 Colúgos, teeth of, XVI 452.
 COLUMB-XIII, VII 154; XII 440.
 COLUMBA, pigeon, VII 154; XVI 792.
 —(St), VII 154; XIII 639—his preaching in Germany, X 578—his residence in Iona, XII 441—the Christianizer of Scotland, XIX 744—*ib.*—island in the Firth of Forth, XII 367.
 COLUMBANUS, Irish monk, VII 154; X 578.
 COLUMBARIUM, VII 154.
 Columbellia, genus of mollusks, XV 386.
 Columbellina, fossil mollusks, XVII 109.
 COLUMBLA, U. S., VII 154, XXI 419.
 —College, New York, XVII 280; XXI 493.
 —in South Carolina, VII 154.
 —in Pennsylvania, VII 155.
 —River, VII 155; XVII 604—climate of, II 674—fur stations on, X 346.
 Columbian printing-press, XVIII 558.
 —College, Washington, XXI 493, 768.
 Columbic acid, VI 494.
 Columbite, mineral, XV 109.
 COLUMBRUM, metal, VII 155; VI 494.
 COLUMBRETES, islands, VII 155.
 COLUMBUS (Christopher), VII 155; XX 465—his voyages, X 470, 471—visits to

COL—COM

- Cuba, VII 568—his discovery of the West Indian Islands, II 699; and of South America, *ib.*; of Jamaica, XII 672; Hayti, XI 255; Honduras, 609; of the variation of the needle, XIV 2.
 COLUMBUS (Diego), governor of Jamaica, XII 672.
 —capital of Ohio, VII 159; XVI 490, 491.
 —in Georgia, VII 159.
 —anatomist, II 759, 761.
 COLUMELLA (L. J. Moderatus), VII 159—on irrigation, XII 621—on the cultivation of the vine, XXI 882.
 —in botany, V 135.
 Columellaceae, nat. order of plants, V 198.
 COLUMER, VII 159—different kinds named from their use, *ib.*—in architecture, III 508—Doric, 463, 475, 477—Ionic, 465, 475, 477—Corinthian, 466, 473, 477—considered with reference to architectural composition, 468—building of columns, V 740—strength of, VI 250; XX 758, 771—none found among Assyrian remains, III 500; reason of this, *ib.*—construction of wooden, XII 811—iron columns, their superiority, XX 779.
 COLUMNARIUM, VII 160.
 COLUMNES, VII 160, IV 2.
 Colwith Force, waterfall, XXI 842.
 COLYBA, or Colybus, VII 160.
 Colydidium, genus of insects, IX 142.
 Colymbetes, genus of insects, IX 101.
 Colymbus, genus of birds, XVI 809.
 COLYTON, town in Devonshire, VII 160.
 Colytus, in Athens, IV 169.
 Colza oil, II 335, XVI 495—its advantage for lighthouse lamps, XIII 480.
 COMA, VII 160, XVII 701—death by, 703.
 —BERENICES, constellation, VII 160, IV 661.
 COMACCHIO, town in Italy, VII 160.
 COMANA, in Cappadocia, VII 160; VI 223.
 —in Pontus, VII 160.
 Comarca di Roma, legation, XVII 243.
 Comaster, genus of zoophytes, XXI 995.
 Comatula, echinoderms, XXI 995—fossil, XVII 98.
 COMAYAGUA, in Central America, VII 160, XI 613, 614—plain of, 611.
 COMB, VII 160.
 —or comb, a corn measure, VII 160.
 COMBACONUM, in India, VII 160.
 COMBAT, VII 160; VI 611, 409; XVI 702.
 Combativeness, XVII 562.
 COMBE, or Comb, VII 160.
 —(George), on phrenology, XVII 557, 559, 561 *et seq.*—on a cause of fallacy in mesmeric experiments, XX 440.
 COMBER, or Cumber, VII 160.
 —(Mr), on the produce of wheat in Britain, VII 380.
 Combermere (Lord), his capture of Bhurtpore, IV 694.
 COMBINATION, VII 160—laws of chemical, VI 439; in definite proportions, 441; by volumes, 447—among workpeople, XIV 280, 348, 350.
 —in mathematics, VII 166. See Probability.
 —laws, repeal of the, V 640—effects of that measure, 643.
 Combinations, in mechanics, XIV 390, 391—aggregate, 400.
 Combining of wool, XXI 923, 924.
 Combretaceae, nat. order of plants, V 191.
 Combrune (Mr), on brewing, V 319.
 Combs of bees, IV 577—their durability, 583—Buffon's theory of the formation of, 578.
 COMBUST, in astronomy, VII 166.
 COMBUSTION, VII 166—Lavoisier's theory of, I 932; modified by Davy, 971—spontaneous, causes of, XIV 427—electricity developed in, VIII 587—air necessary to, XVIII 81—oxygen and air necessary to, XX 358—products of,

COM—COM

- 352—of coal, *ib.*—heat liberated by, 353—chemistry of the combustion of coal, 629—heat arising from that of coal and coke, 630—physical conditions of the complete combustion of coal, 631.
 COMBUSTION, spontaneous, of the human body, VII 166.
 COMEDY, VII 166—ancient, VIII 139—Greek, *ib.*—middle and new, 140—Italian, 148—French, 156—English, 157 *et seq.*—gentle, 165—of intrigue, *ib.*—of the fourth period of the English drama, 166—German, 167—of Aristotle, III 530—of Plautus, XVIII 2, 3—imoral tendency of, in the time of Charles II, XXI 171.
 Comephorus, genus of fishes, XII 306, 307.
 COMERCOLLY, town in Bengal, VII 166.
 COMET, VII 167; IV 4, 75, 94, I 784, 855—orbis of, IV 75—their appearance and constitution, 77—account of the most remarkable comets that have appeared during the present century, 94, 95—disturbance of their orbits by the action of the larger planets, 107—just notions of some of the ancients regarding, I 568—methods for discovering the orbits of, 784—number of, IV 79—Mihne's Essay on, I 784, n. 1—notions of the Chaldeans respecting, III 782—Lalande on, XIII 160—Lambert on, 167—Halley's comet, I 782, 855; III 804, 809; IV 76, 94; its peculiar features, I 856; table of its returns, *ib.*—Encke's, IV 76, 94; I 856—Bela's, IV 76, 94; I 858, 859—Gambart's, *ib.*—comets of 1811 and 1843, 859—comet of Faye, *ib.*—steam-boat, XX 638; X 650.
 Comfrey, plant, V 201.
 —prickly, forage plant, II 329.
 COMINES (Philippe de), VII 181.
 —town of Belgium, VII 182.
 Comino, island, XIV 116.
 COMITATUS, in law, VII 182.
 COMITIA, Roman assemblies, VII 182, XIX 296, 316; in Dublin University, XXI 488.
 COMITIALIS MORBUS, VII 184.
 COMMA, VII 184; XVIII 685—in music, VII 184.
 Commagene, province of Syria, XX 904.
 Commander-in-chief, naval, XVI 103.
 Commanders, military, choice of, XXI 702.
 COMMANDERY, VII 184.
 Commandments (the Ten), VII 689. See Decalogue.
 Commelynaceae, nat. order of plants, V 213.
 COMMENDAM, VII 184, IV 647.
 COMMENSURABLE, VII 184; X 617—numbers, VII 184—in power—surds, *ib.*
 COMMENTARY, VII 184.
 COMMERCE, VII 184—history of, *ib.*—principles of, 192—fluctuations of, in the present age, 199—influence of the cotton-manufacture on, 454—evils of the exclusive system, 455—credit, 487—promoted by the crusades, 533—acts of Parliament for the benefit of, in 1823, V 636; and in 1825, 643—commercial distress of 1825, *ib.*—civilisation promoted by, IX 395—characters of abbreviations in, VI 419—prejudice against, among the Greeks and Romans, XVIII 212 and *n.* 1—beneficial results of, 230—employment of capital in, 236—distinguished from agriculture and manufactures, 246—of Asia, III 754, 755, 756—Europe, VIII 732—Scotland, XIX 806—France, X 257—Belgium, IV 625—Denmark, VII 748—India, XI 459—Holland, 584—China, VI 589—of the Mediterranean, XIV 470—Sweden, XX 862—Switzerland, 880—United States, XXI 426. See the different states, countries, &c.
 —chamber of, in Belgium, IV 626—Manchester, XIV 266—Dublin, VIII 226—Glasgow, X 654.
 Commercial Docks, London, XIII 661.
 COMMEROY, town of France, VII 201.

COM—COM

COMMENNA, river in Guiana, VII. 201.
 COMMINATION, VII. 201.
 COMMUNION, VII. 201.
 COMMUNE (John), VII. 201.
 Commissariat department in the British army, III. 664—mismanagement of, in the Crimea, XIX. 506.
 COMMISSARY, VII. 201.
 — COURT, in Scotland, VII. 201.
 COMMISSION AND COMMISSIONER, VII. 201
 — of bankrupt, VII. 201—in commerce, ib.; III. 596—of lunacy, VII. 201—of tunds, 204.
 — MILITARY, VII. 201—prices of, 202—number of officers holding commissions in British army, 204.
 Commissioners for the consolidation of English law, XIII. 273
 — of national education in Ireland, VIII. 223.
 COMMISSURE, VII. 204.
 COMMITMENT, VII. 204.
 COMMITTEE, VII. 204.
 Commodities, taxes on, XXI. 57, 58—*ad valorem* taxes on, ib.—occasion smuggling, ib.—customs-duties on, 59—kinds of, that might be charged with export duties, 60—extent to which taxes should be laid on, 69; should vary with the price of, 70.
 COMMODORS, VII. 204, 339; XVI. 108.
 COMMODUS (L. Aurelius), Roman emperor, VII. 204—his reign, XIX. 345.
 COMMON, VII. 204—in grammar, ib.; X. 747—arithmetic, VII. 204—place-book, ib.—pleas, 205; VIII. 735.
 — in law, VII. 204.
 — law, XIII. 289.
 — PRAYER, VII. 205, XIII. 517.
 — sense, I. 403.
 — terms, in logic, XIII. 569—quantity of, 583—predication through, 584, 585.
 COMMONALITY, VII. 205. See Civil State.
 COMMONER, VII. 205.
 COMMONS (House of), VII. 205; VIII. 768, 770; X. 737; XVII. 289, 293 *et seq.*—clerk of, VI. 764—ventilation of, VII. 670; XXI. 540.
 COMMONTY, in Scotch law, VII. 205.
 COMMONWEALTH, VII. 205—history of England during the, V. 413 *et seq.*—post-office under the, XVIII. 404—decay of the mercantile navy during the, XX. 130.
 COMMONY, VII. 205.
 COMMUNE, VII. 205.
 COMMUNITUS LOCUS, VII. 205—*annus*, ib.
 Communicants and non-communicants, division of Christians into, I. 509.
 COMMUNICATING, in theology, VII. 205. See Supper of the Lord, Communion.
 COMMUNICATION, VII. 205.
 COMMUNION, VII. 205—service, 206.
 COMMUNIS, in botany, VII. 205.
 COMMUNIST, VII. 206.
 Communists, their mischievous schemes regarding property, XVIII. 228, n. 4.
 COMMUNITY, VII. 217—arms of communities, XI. 322. See Corporation.
 Commutation of tithes, XXI. 64.
 COMMENA, VII. 217; XII. 213.
 COMMENS (Alexius), VII. 316.
 Como, lake of, VII. 217; XII. 637; XIII. 644.
 — province and city, VII. 217, 226.
 Comonfort (Ignacio), president of the Mexican republic, XIV. 714.
 COMORES, or Comoro Islands, VII. 217; II. 229.
 COMORIN, Cape, VII. 217; XXI. 326.
 COMORN, Hungarian city, XIII. 129.
 COMPT, VII. 217.
 Compositions in arms, VI. 622.
 COMPANY, VII. 217—commercial companies, 218; XVII. 316—land draining, VIII. 131—companies *en commandite*, in France, XVII. 318 and n. 3. See Joint-stock Companies.
 COMPARATIVE ANATOMY, VII. 218; III. 74—province of, II. 748—cultivated by Aristotle, 750—revival of, 763—individuals by whom it has been cultivated during the eighteenth century, 768—

COM—COM

Cuvier's labours in, VII. 604, 605; John and William Hunter's, XII. 27, 30. See Animal Kingdom, and the different zoological articles.
 COMPARATIVE DEGREE, VII. 218; X. 775, 790.
 — philology, XVII. 527.
 COMPARISON, VII. 218—in rhetoric, ib.—in grammar, X. 775, 790—phrenological faculty of, XVII. 563.
 COMPASS (mariner's), VII. 221; XVI. 12, XX. 27, 121, 124—invention of the, I. 740; III. 706; X. 630; XIV. 1; XVI. 2—action of aurora borealis on, IV. 247—Coulomb on its improvement, VII. 461; one described by him, 462—effects of lightning on, VIII. 600—points of the, X. 482—in globes, 485—discovery of the dip and variation of the needle, XIV. 2, 3; effect of non on the needle at different degrees of heat, 36—Condaminé's description of a variation compass, VII. 230—error of, from attraction of iron in ships, XIV. 9, 90; I. 745, 990—dip of needle, XIV. 57—variation of the needle, I. 990; VII. 692; XIV. 49; XVI. 3, 12, 49—changes in its variation, XIV. 51, 52, 53—form and construction of needle, 78—common and azimuth compasses, 78, 79—variation compass, 80—deviation of the, XVI. 13—compass of proportion, XX. 30—compass observatory, XXI. 926.
 COMPASS-DIALS, VII. 221.
 COMPASSES, VII. 221—various kinds of, ib.—tangent compass, I. 982—to describe an ellipse by, XX. 728.
 Compassionate fund, XVI. 118.
 Compensation reservoir, Pentland hills, III. 337.
 Compensation-balance of watches, VII. 29—31—compensation pendulums, XVII. 387.
 COMPICQUE, in France, VII. 222.
 COMPITALIA, Roman festival, VII. 222.
 COMPLIMENT, VII. 222; XXI. 338.
 COMPLEX, VII. 222.
 COMPLEXION, VII. 222—original of the human species, II. 121—of the American races, 677—of the Japanese, XII. 690.
 COMPLINE, VII. 222.
 COMPTONIAN POLYGLOT, VII. 225; IV. 697; XVIII. 268; XIX. 387.
 COMPTON, VII. 225; III. 472.
 Composite, nat order of plants, V. 196—region of the arborescent, 228; XVII. 629.
 COMPOSITE, VII. 225—numbers, ib.—order of architecture, ib.; III. 451, 469, 475, 477, 487.
 COMPOSITION, VII. 225—of ideas—in grammar—in law, ib.; II. 416—in logic, VII. 225—in music, 226, XV. 739—in the fine arts, VII. 226—in printing, ib.; XVIII. 539—in architecture, III. 485—of motion, VIII. 333—of pressures, 335—of forces, VI. 254; VIII. 384.
 — (Literary), VII. 225—Condillac on, 236—history considered as a form of, XI. 545—Playfair's habits of, XVIII. 7—poetical diction, 93—letter-writing, 327.
 Composer, XVIII. 539, 541 and n. 2, 543.
 COMPOST, VII. 226; II. 302.
 COMPOSTELLA (St James of), order of knighthood, VII. 226; XIX. 623.
 — town in Spain, VII. 226; XIX. 627.
 — town in Mexico, VII. 226.
 COMPOUND, VII. 226—motion, numbers, ratio, ib.
 — INTEREST, VII. 226; XII. 432—tables of increase of L.1 at, III. 253, 254; XII. 434—present value of L.1 at, 435.
 COMPREHENSION, VII. 226—in rhetoric, ib.—scheme of, VII. 226; V. 429.
 Compressibility, of water, II. 103; XII. 77; I. 976—of air, XVIII. 28, 51 *et seq.*—is a property of all bodies, XX. 751—important consequences of this property, 764.
 Compression, failure of timber from, XX. 779.

COM—CON

Compte (Auguste), his system of positivism, VII. 211; XVIII. 401—on law, as ultimately depending on the same causes as customary law, XIII. 260—on social science, 263—on the limits of legislative action, 264—meaning attached to the word *physics* by, XVII. 647.
 COMPTON (Henry), bishop of London, VII. 226
 — (SPENCER-JOSHUA-ABOTYNE), Marquis of Northampton, VII. 226
 COMPTONITE, mineral, VII. 226; XV. 75.
 Comptroller of the household, XI. 774.
 Compurgation, ordeal by, XIII. 22.
 COMPUROGATOR, VII. 226.
 Comme, in Perthshire, XVII. 457—earthquakes at, 616.
 COMUM, city of Gaul, VII. 226.
 COMUS, VII. 227.
 COMYN (John), XIX. 755.
 CONANT (Dr John), VII. 227.
 CONATUS, VII. 227.
 CONCA (Sebastiano), VII. 227.
 CONCAN, in India, VII. 227.
 CONCENTRATOR, VII. 227.
 CONCAVE, VII. 227, 338.
 CONCENTRINA, town in Spain, VII. 228.
 CONCENTRATOR, VII. 228.
 Concentrativeness, XVII. 562.
 CONCENTRIC, VII. 228; VIII. 371—lenses, XIV. 770.
 CONCEPTION, in Chile, VII. 228; VI. 542, 543, 547.
 Conceptacle, in botany, V. 147.
 CONCEPTION, VII. 228—in physiology, ib.—in metaphysics, XIV. 587—symbolical and intuitive, 589.
 — (immaculate), of the virgin, VII. 228, XII. 365.
 Concepts, in logic, the law of, XIII. 582—concept proper, XIV. 589—concept of God, XXI. 184.
 Conceptualism, XVI. 284.
 CONCERN, VII. 228—of princes, V. 540.
 Conchifera, extinct genera of, XVII. 115.
 Conchiosauria, fossil reptiles, XVII. 144.
 CONCHITE, fossil shell, VII. 228.
 CONCORD, VII. 228—construction of the, III. 148—of Nicomedes, 143; X. 501, 544.
 CONCHOLOGY, VII. 228; XV. 319. See Mollusca, Paleontology.
 Conchorynchus, fossil mollusks, XVII. 111, 113.
 CONCHYLIA, VII. 228.
 CONCIATOR, VII. 228.
 CONCLAMATIO, X. 344.
 CONCLAVE, VII. 228.
 CONCLUSION, in logic, VII. 228.
 CONCORD, in New Hampshire, North America, VII. 228; XVI. 174.
 — town and river in Massachusetts, VII. 228; XIV. 340—first collision with the British forces at, in 1775, XXI. 749.
 — temple of, in Rome, XIX. 359.
 CONCORDANCE, verbal index to the Bible, VII. 228—Calaneo's, VI. 66—Cruden's, VII. 523.
 CONCORDAT, VII. 228; X. 267—between Pius VII. and Ferdinand I., XX. 255.
 CONCORDIA, goddess, VII. 228.
 CONCORD, method of mixed examinations among the French, IX. 425.
 CONCRETE, VII. 229, 329—definition, history, and use of, XX. 721.
 CONCRETION, VII. 229—in pathology, XVII. 691—in the duct of animals, XXI. 564.
 CONCURRING, VII. 229.
 CONDAINE (Charles Marie de la), VII. 229; I. 772, 778—his measurement of the length of a degree, IX. 549—experiments on sound, II. 104—on the Amazon, 630.
 CONDAPILLY, town in Hindustan, VII. 231.
 CONDÉ (Louis de Bourbon, Prince of), VII. 231; X. 34.
 — town of France, VII. 233.
 — SUR NOIREAU, VII. 233.
 CONDENSATION, VII. 233—in steam-engines, I. 868—of vapours, VII. 39, see Evaporation—of water, XIV. 646—of gas, X. 415—of air, XVIII. 30.

CON—CON

CONDENSER, VII. 233—of electricity, VIII. 614—in distillation, 49—of steam-engine, I. 868; XX. 576, 589 *et seq.*, 654—best vacuum for, 655—contents of, ib.
 Condensing steam-engines, XX. 602.
 CONDOR, VII. 233.
 CONDILLAC (E. Bonnot de), VII. 233—his erroneous notions of vision, I. 164—on the origin of human knowledge, 173, n. 1—his commentary on Locke, ib. 379—causes of the popularity of his works, ib.—commonly most successful in describing mental phenomena when he follows Locke, 174—most valuable part of his works, ib.—the radical error of his system, 176—influence of his theories in misleading his contemporaries, 177—M. de Bonald on his merits and style, 177, n. 1—on sensation, 380—omits to distinguish between the percipient and emotive part of human nature, ib.—on association of ideas, XIV. 596—on the deaf and dumb, VII. 676—his merits as a philosopher, I. 174 *et seq.*
 Condiments, IX. 765; VIII. 17.
 CONDITIONAL, VII. 237—conjunctions—prepositions—syllogism, ib.
 CONDOM, town of France, VII. 237.
 CONDON, bid., VII. 238; XVI. 738; XVII. 638—in Chile, VI. 549—in Ecuador, VII. 387—among the Himalayas, XI. 456—in Peru, XVII. 473—in La Plata, 778—in Patagonia, 335.
 Condorcet (Jose Gabriel), IV. 831.
 CONDORCET (M. - J. - A. - Nicolas-Caritat, Marquis of), VII. 238; X. 83—on religious Machiavellism, I. 23—on Descartes, Bacon, and Galileo, 56—his intimacy with Calaneo, VI. 44—constitution framed by, X. 79—on Duhamel's style, VIII. 233—on the construction of lenses, XIII. 472—on probability, XVIII. 590.
 CONDOTTIERI, VII. 239; XII. 650.
 CONDRUN, French town, VII. 239.
 CONDUCTION, electrical, VIII. 539; XXI. 621, 622—influence of heat in promoting, VIII. 540, 541—Faraday's new law of, 533, 542, I. 978—Ohm's law of, 982—principal laws of, 983
 — of heat, I. 946. See Heat
 — nervous, theory of, XVIII. 658
 CONDUCTORS OF ELECTRICITY, VII. 239; VIII. 540, 608, 609; XXI. 95, 650—electrical resistance of, 96.
 Conduit-pipes, motion of water in, XII. 131.
 Conductite, mineral, XV. 117.
 Condyles, III. 34.
 CONDLUXA, in zoology, VII. 239; XIV. 152.
 Condy's deodorizing fluid, XIX. 621.
 CONE, VII. 239, 283; X. 540, 558—development of the curve surface of, 492; XII. 807; XX. 727—speed-cones, in mechanics, XIV. 398—mensuration of, 513—its use in masonry, XX. 726—sections of, 727. See Conic Sections.
 CONEGLIANO, Italian city, VII. 239.
 Coneine, VI. 518.
 Cones of eruption in volcanoes, XXI. 604—craterless cones, ib.—conic craters, ib.—new cones, rapid formation of, 605.
 — in botany, V. 115, 139.
 Coney-fish, XII. 269.
 CONFABRATIO, VII. 239.
 Confessionary, adulterations of, IX. 770.
 Confederacy, plundering at Bombay, V. 2.
 CONFEDERATION OF THE RHINE, VII. 239, X. 142, 580.
 — SWISS, IX. 498, XX. 884, 885—Germanic, X. 597; IX. 400.
 Confervaceae, sub-order of algae, V. 218—reproductive organs of, 147.
 CONFERVACE, a division of algae, VII. 240; V. 68—in mineral waters, XV. 38, n.
 CONFESSIO, VII. 240—popish doctrine of, XVIII. 336.
 CONFESSIO OF FAITH, VII. 240; I. 502—rejected by the Independents, XII. 370—of Augsburg, IV. 240; XIII. 736;

CON—CON

XVIII. 823—Westminster Confession of Faith, XIX. 781; its doctrines on predestination, XVIII. 478—of the Druses, XX. 908.

CONFESSIO, VII. 241.

CONFESSOR, VII. 241.

CONFIGURATION, VII. 241.

CONFIRMATION, in an ecclesiastical sense, VII. 241.

CONFLAGRATION, VII. 241—of the world, *ib.* See Fire.

CONFOLENS, town of France, VII. 241.

CONFORMITY, VII. 241.

CONFUCIUS, VII. 241—his works, VI. 560—miraculous birth of, XV. 761.

CONFUSION OF TONGUES, VII. 245. See Tongues, Babel.

CONGÉ D'ELIRE, VII. 245, IV. 733.

CONGELATION, VII. 245, 103—artificial, 104, 106, 107, 545; XIII. 345; XI. 275—of water, 269—of mercury, VII. 107; VI. 352—freezing mixtures, VII. 102; VI. 353; XI. 275—Kirwan's method of calculating the point of perpetual, VI. 772—in hot climates, owing to radiation, IX. 415—electricity of, VII. 566. See Cold.

CONGER, species of eel, VII. 245; IX. 764; XII. 232.

Congeridae, family of fishes, XII. 232.

Congermurena, genus of fishes, XII. 232.

Congestion, XVII. 689, 691.

CONGRUS, ancient liquid measure, VII. 245.

CONGLETON, town in Cheshire, VII. 245.—viaduct, XVIII. 764.

Congliani (P.), his work on insects, IX. 21.

Conglomerate rock, XV. 141.

Congo, county in Africa, VII. 245; II. 227—ants in, III. 263.—or Zaire, African river, VII. 247, II. 214—Captain Tuckey's expedition to, II. 217.

CONGOON, Persian town, VII. 247.

Congosoco gold-mines, V. 299.

Congou, tea, XXI. 86.

CONGREGATION, VII. 247—lords of the, XIX. 779.

CONGREGATIONALISTS, VII. 247; IX. 394—their idea of ordination, XVI. 704.

CONGRESS, VII. 247; XXI. 698—of the United States, 435; powers of, 429; salaries of the members, *ib.*

CONGREVE (William), VII. 247, XXI. 173, 518, 519—his merits as a dramatist, VIII. 162, 163—his character of Dryden, 203—his dramatic reading, XXI. 172—his reply to Collier, 518.—(Sir William), VII. 248—inventor of congrue rockets, *ib.*; his right to be regarded as their inventor denied, III. 698—his improvements of rockets, *ib.*—first used by him in war, 699.—matches, XIV. 352.

CONGRUITY, VII. 248.

CONI, or Cuneo, in Italy, VII. 248.

CONIA, the poisonous principle of hemlock, VII. 248; XIV. 439; XI. 311; XVIII. 130.

Coniasaurus, fossil reptile, XVII. 152.

CONIO SECTIONS, VII. 249—parabola, 252—ellipse, 258—hyperbola, 269—cone and its sections, 283—curvature of, 285—areas of, 289—arches from, XX. 725—Apollonius on, III. 300, 301—Condamine on, VII. 230—connection of the doctrines of astronomy with, X. 505—Dr R. Simson on, XX. 800.

Conical barometer, IV. 454.—refraction, I. 918. See Refraction.

Conicera, genus of insects, IX. 258.

CONICHTHODONTES, VII. 294.

Conidae, fossil mollusks, XVII. 110.

CONIFERÆ, nat. order of plants, VII. 294; V. 209—embryogeny in, 167—fossil, 234, 235, 237—turpentine and resin from, XIX. 88—oil of turpentine and of juniper from, XVI. 496.

CONIOBASTES, VII. 294; XVI. 759.

Conisburgh Castle, Yorkshire, XXI. 959.

Coniston rocks, XV. 197, 198; XXI. 841.

Conistone, mineral, XV. 125.

CON—CON

Conium maculatum, hemlock, V. 195, XI. 311, XIV. 438; XVII. 702.

CONJEVERAM, town in India, VII. 294; XI. 485.

CONJUGATE DIAMETER, VII. 294.

CONJUGATION, in grammar, VII. 294.

CONJUNCTION, in astronomy, VII. 294.—in grammar, VII. 294, X. 779, 791.—in Egyptian grammar, XI. 425.

CONJURATION, VII. 294.

Connaraceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 190.

CONNAUGHT, VII. 294.

CONNECTION, state, VII. 294, XXI. 419—first settlers in, 438—wines of, 888.—river, VII. 296, 294; XIV. 340; XVI. 173—lake, *ib.*

Connecting-rod, in steam-engines, XX. 591, 646.

Connectives, in grammar, X. 791.

Connemara, in Ireland, X. 388, 389.

CONNOISSEUR, VII. 296.

CONNOR (Bernard), VII. 296.—bishopric of, III. 283.

Conocardium, genus of mollusks, XV. 349.—fossil, XVII. 107.

Conodolypus, fossil echinoidea, XVII. 100.

Conodon, genus of fishes, XII. 285.

Conodonts, fossils, XVII. 115.

Conodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 336.

CONOD, in geometry, VII. 296.

Conolly (Dr), his mode of treating the insane, XIV. 528.

CONOR, Athenian general, VII. 296; IV. 208.—of Samos, VII. 296, III. 790.—river, XVI. 87, XIX. 425—pearls in, 426.

Conopallus, genus of insects, IX. 132.

Conophaga, genus of birds, XVI. 749.

CONOPS, genus of insects, VII. 296, IX. 244.

Conoposariæ, family of insects, IX. 244.

Conorbis, fossil mollusks, XVII. 110.

Conoteuthis, fossil cuttle-fish, XVII. 114.

CONOVULUS, genus of mollusks, XV. 375.

CONQUEST, in law, VII. 296.

CONRAD II, Emperor of Germany, VII. 296; X. 578.—III, Emperor of Germany, VII. 296—second crusade headed by, 525.—or Conradin, VII. 296; XX. 257, 258.

CONSAQUINITY, VII. 296.

CONSCIENCE, VII. 297; XV. 558—Aristotle's view of, III. 564—Hutcheson's definition of, I. 364; first called by him a *moral sense*, *ib.*—formation of, from various elements, 424—regarded as the foundation of moral distinctions, XV. 544—proof of the existence of God from the operations of, XXI. 187. See Ethical Philosophy.

Conscientiousness, sentiment of, XVII. 563.

CONSCIOUSNESS, VII. 297—presentative or intuitive, XIV. 560—phenomena of, XIII. 567, XIV. 556—forms of, 561—matter of intuitive, 562—of personality, 584—representative or reflective, *ib.*—philosophy of the realities of, 603—theories of the real not founded on, 611—the real as given in, 613—the modes of, not cognisable by logic, XIII. 567—original data of, violated by Pantheism, XVII. 237—a universal law of mind, XIX. 111—primary distributions of the elementary modes of, *ib.*

CONSCRIPT, VII. 297.

CONSCRIPTION, VII. 297—French code of, *ib.*; X. 271—under Napoleon I., III. 642 and *n.* 2.

CONSECRATION, VII. 298—of bishops, IV. 733.

Consent, as constituting marriage in Scotland, XII. 51.

CONSENTES, VII. 298; VIII. 28.

CONSEQUENCE, in logic, VII. 298.

Consequent, in geometry, X. 517.

Conservatio virum vivarum, VIII. 354.

CONSERVATORY, VII. 298; XI. 755—conservatory plants, 757.—in music, VII. 298.—of Arts and Measures, Paris, XXI. 322.

CON—CON

CONSISTENTES, VII. 298.

CONSISTORY, VII. 299—college of Cardinals at Rome, *ib.*—court, VII. 298.—in the reformed church, VII. 298; XVIII. 485.

CONSOL, in architecture, VII. 298; III. 508.

CONSOLS, VII. 298; VIII. 752.

CONSONANCE, in music, VII. 299.

CONSONANT, VII. 299—consonants in the ancient Egyptian language, XI. 415—pronunciation of, XVII. 679—in short hand writing, XX. 676.

CONSPIRACY—CONSPIRATOR, VII. 299.

CONSTABLE, VII. 299—of France, *ib.*—Lord High Constable of England, *ib.*—of Scotland, *ib.*—inferior constables, *ib.*—(ARCHIBALD), VII. 299—Sir Walter Scott's connection with, XIX. 821, 822.—(JOHN), landscape painter, VII. 299.

Constabulary force of Ireland, XII. 525, XVIII. 206, 207—Constabulary Act of 1836, 206.

CONSTANCE, VII. 300.—Lake of, VII. 300; X. 585; XX. 889; XXI. 242—influx of the Rhine, XIX. 144—climate, XXI. 938—wines from the banks of, *ib.*—fish, *ib.*

CONSTANS, Roman emperor, VII. 303—his visit to Britain, XIX. 742.

CONSTANT (Benjamin), VII. 300; X. 193.—(C. F.), his work on insects, IX. 21.

CONSTANTIA, VII. 300.—wine, XXI. 887; alcohol in, 889.

CONSTANTINA, or Constantine, in Algiers, VII. 300; VI. 734; II. 574, 575—town taken by General Valée, 575.—wife of Gallus Cæsar, VII. 304.

CONSTANTINE THE GREAT, VII. 300, 302—reign of, XIX. 352—his vision, *ib.*—his proceedings in Britain, V. 380—his improvement of Byzantium, VI. 43—his library, XIII. 385—state of Jerusalem and the Jews under, XII. 734, 776—state of art in his reign, XVII. 58—Spain under, XX. 459—probably born at York, XXI. 955.—of Carthage, XIV. 458.—cognomen, XII. 642.—II, Roman emperor, VII. 303.—Russian grand duke, XIX. 492.—Scottish kings so named, XIX. 745.—VII, emperor of the East, VII. 300.

CONSTANTINOPLE, VII. 300—aqueduct near, III. 334—supply of water to, 335—dome of the church of St Sophia at, 402, 411—military establishments in, 659—taken by the Latins in 1204, VII. 318—great fire at, in the fifth century, 311; and in 1203, 317—unsuccessful British expedition against, V. 603—bazaars of, IV. 525—taken and plundered by the crusaders, VII. 318, 526; and by the Turks, 321; XXI. 386—era of, VI. 670—commerce of, VII. 183; XXI. 384—taken by the Turks in 1453, VII. 321—rise of ecclesiastical power at, XI. 33—obelisks at, 387 and *n.* 2, 3—libraries, XIII. 385, 428—plague at, XVII. 743, 749—foundation of, XIX. 353—Russian expeditions against, 469, 470—ancient sculpture once preserved at, 859—revolution at, in 1808, XXI. 373—schools or colleges at, 381—press and newspapers, 383—public libraries, *ib.*—astronomical instruments in the mosques of, *ib.*—manufactures, *ib.*—climate, 377—warming, 384—introduction of the silk-worm at, XX. 286.

CONSTANTINOPOLITAN HISTORY, VII. 302.

Constantus, Roman emperor, VII. 303—reign of, XIX. 351—his war with the Persians, VII. 307.—(Chlorus), XIX. 350—his death at York, V. 380; XXI. 955.

CONSTELLATION, VII. 322; IV. 12, 79—Duguis on the constellations, VIII. 263.

Constatment Assembly, in France, X. 64, 65; XXI. 11.

CONSTITUTION, VII. 322—of a country,

CON—CON

VIII. 756—the British, 758 *et seq.*—French, of 1791, X. 62; of 1795, 93—German, of 1848, 581—Hungarian, XII. 15—of the United States, XXI. 437—of the different states forming the Union, 431—of universities, 450 *et seq.*

Constitution, propositions of, in logic, XIII. 587, 589, 606.

CONSTITUTIONS (Apostolical), VII. 322.

Constriction, action of the muscles in, III. 40.

CONSTRUCTOR muscles, VII. 322; III. 39.

CONSTRUCTION, VII. 322, I. 874—in architecture, III. 490—in navigation, XVI. 14—of harbours, XI. 221—of ships, XVI. 96—use of iron in, XII. 570—of walls, XX. 721.

Constructiveness, XVII. 562.

CONSUALIA, Roman festival, VII. 333.

CONSUBSTANTIAL, VII. 333.

CONSUBSTANTIATION, VII. 333; XIII. 740.

CONSUEGRA, Spanish town, VII. 333.

CONSUL, mercantile, VII. 335—stations of British consuls, with their salaries, 336—vice-consuls, 335.—Roman, VII. 333; XIX. 298, 316—mode of investing with the power of dictator, 317—consular armies, III. 630, *n.* 3—consular government in France, X. 116.

Consumption, a disease. See Phthisis.—of wealth, XVIII. 256—of the precious metals, 465—of wines, XXI. 891.

CONTAGION, VII. 337—dependence of the plague on, XVII. 750—has been supposed to originate from animalcules, XXI. 975.

CONTARINI (Andrea), VII. 337.—(Nic), his works on insects, IX. 21.

Contempt of Court, IV. 185.

Conti (Abbe), IX. 673.

Continent, X. 483; XVII. 571—mean elevation of continents, 590.

Continental missions to foreign countries, XV. 270; sum of money expended on, 272.—system of Napoleon, X. 128, 144.—universities, XXI. 492.

CONTINGENT, VII. 337.

CONTINUED BASS, in music, VII. 337.

Continuity, law of, first mentioned by Galileo in reasoning on motion, I. 592.

CONTORTIONS of beds, in geology, XV. 169.

CONTORTIONATED, VII. 337.

CONTRABAND, VII. 337—articles contraband of war, XVI. 156.

Contractility of muscles, II. 822; XVII. 652, 670, 671—of leaves, V. 103.

Contracts, in law, XIII. 287—in life assurance, XII. 393, 407—duty of keeping, faithfully, XV. 567.

Contradiction, law of, in logic, XIII. 573, *n.* 2.

Contraposition, inference by, XIII. 602.

CONTRÆ, in heraldry, VII. 337.

CONTRITION, VII. 337.

CONTROL, VII. 337.

CONTROLLER, VII. 337.

Conularia, fossil mollusks, XVII. 103, 111.

CONURUS, genus of birds, XVI. 781.

CONUS, genus of mollusks, XV. 363, 385.

CONVENTICLE, VII. 337—act of parliament against, in 1670, V. 428.

CONVENTION, VII. 338—French national, X. 71—American, of 1787, XXI. 438.—of Estates, VII. 338.

Convents, in France, X. 267—in Jerusalem, XII. 745, 747.

CONVENTUAL, VII. 338.

CONVENTUS JURIDICI, VII. 338.

CONVERGENCE, or convergent lines and series, VII. 338.

CONVERSANO, city of Naples, VII. 338.

Conversations, published collections of, II. 737.

CONVERSE, in mathematics, VII. 338.

CONVERSI, Jews converted to Christianity, VII. 338.

Conversion, in theology, XXI. 218—puitanical notions of, VIII. 415.—in logic, XIII. 605, 606.—in calico printing, VIII. 317.

CONVERT, VII. 338.

CON—COO

CONVEX and Convexity, VII 338, 227.
 CONVEYANCING, VII 338
 CONVICTS, in New South Wales, IV 271; XVIII 576, 577, 579—the assignment system, 577, 578—female, 585—discharged, 1b—agitation concerning, at the Cape of Good Hope in 1849, X 713—in Norfolk Island, XVI 291, Tasmania, XXI 30, 33. See Prison.
 CONVOCATION, VII 338, VIII 743, 766—in universities, XXI 457, 467, 471
 CONVOLUTION, VII 338
 CONVOLUTIONS of the brain, in man, III 52—in brutes, 104—their relation to the intellect of animals, 176.
 CONVULVACEÆ, nat. order of plants, V 201
 CONVVOY, VII 339—order of, at sea, XXI 721
 CONWAY, in Wales, VII 339; VI 55—tubular bridge, XII 609—castle of, II 28. See Abaconway
 — river, VI 54; VII 735—vale of, 1b.
 — (General), his motion for discontinuing the American war, V 499
 COOCH BAHAR, in Hindustan, VII 339
 COOK (Capt. James), VII 339—his voyages, X 475, IV 419—his survey of the Aleutian Islands, II 465—on the island of Unalaska, 465—his success in preserving the health of his crews, XIX 602—on New Holland, IV 253, New Guinea, 262; New Caledonia, 266; New Zealand, 1b, Kerguelan's Land, 268—his visit to the Friendly Islands, XVIII 276; to the Harvey and Society Islands, 278, 279—his arctic and antarctic voyages, 170, 181.
 — (Lieut.), his life-buoy, XIII 448
 — (Colonel), on hounds and hunting, XI 765 *et seq*; XII 85 *et seq*
 — (Mr), his life-raft, XIII 499
 — county in Australia, IV 278, 282.
 COOKES (Sir Anthony), VII 341
 — (Fothergill), his share in the introduction of the electrical telegraph, I 986, n 2
 — (G Frederick), actor, XXI 176
 — and Wheatstone's telegraphic system, XXI 100, 111
 COOKERY, different kinds of, IX 765—its importance, VII 25—Krunitz on, 26—its influence on health, XIV 440, XIX 611—David Hume's humorous account of its proficiency in, XII 8, n
 COOKS, diseases of, XIV 443.
 COOKSTOWN, in Ireland, VII 341; XXI 408, 409.
 COOLERS, Egyptian, VII 101.
 COOLIES, in Gujerat, XI 91, 92, 486—in Jamaica, XII 877
 COOLING, law of, I 945, 952—Dulong and Petit's correction of the Newtonian law of, 1b—velocity of, not simply as the excess of heat, 952—effect of contact of air on the rate of, 1b.
 COOMASSIE, in Africa, VII 341; III 725.
 COOMHOLA grit series of rocks, XV 201.
 COOMTA, in Hindustan, VII 341.
 COONIA, XI 778.
 COONOOB, in Hindustan, VII 341.
 COOPANG, town in Timor, XXI 281
 COOPER, VII 341—cooperage at Deptford, VIII 80.
 — (ANTHONY ASHLEY), first earl of Shaftesbury, VII 342—member of the Cabal administration, V 425—prosecuted by Charles II 431—his flight to Amsterdam, and death, 433.
 — (ANTHONY ASHLEY), third earl of Shaftesbury, VII 342—on Locke's theory of innate ideas, I 118; XIV 601, n 4—his Characteristics, I 348—his merits and defects as a writer, 1b, 349—his Moralists and Inquiry concerning Virtue, 349—his ethical views, 350—on the relation of religion to morality, 150—on beauty, IV 638—on our approval of what is right, and disapproval of what is wrong, XV 559—on Bishop Burnet, V 792, 798—on Shakespeare's style, XX 72.

COO—COP

COOPER (Sir Astley), VII 343—his experiments on digestion, VIII 21
 — (JAMES FENIMORE), American novelist, VII 344—character of his novels, XIX 281
 — (JOHN GILBERT), VII 344
 — (SAMUEL), miniature painter, VII 344; XVII 77.
 — (SAMUEL), F.R.S., VII 344
 — or Couper (THOMAS), bishop, VII 344
 Cooper's catalogue of stars, IV 95.
 Co-ordinates, in algebra, II 545
 — in geometry, X 543—transformation of, 547, 559—solid co-ordinate geometry, 555
 COORG, in Hindustan, VII 344
 COOTE (Sir Eyre), VII 345; XI 485, 493 *et seq*
 — (Sir Charles), XX 381—his sangunary proceedings in Ireland, XII 482
 COOTHELL, town in Ireland, VII 345
 COOTS, birds, XVI 808
 COPAE, town of Boeotia, VII 345
 COPAIBA, or Balsam of Copaiba, VII 345; V 190, V 518
 COPAIS, lake in Boeotia, VII 345, XI 12
 COPAL, VII 345; XIX 88—fossil, XV 124—copal varnish, XXI 526. See Varnish.
 Copaline, XV 124
 Copan, ruins of, II 697
 COPARCENARY, VII 346.
 COPARCENTERS, VII 346
 COPE, VII 346. See Coping.
 — (Sir John), defeated by Prince Charles at Prestonpans, V 460; XVIII 510
 COPENHAGEN, VII 346—Royal Academy of Sciences at, II 66—port of, IV 404—attacked by the British in 1801, V 580; VII 742, X 120, XVI 137; and in 1807, V 602; VII 742; X 148—besieged by the Swedes in 1659, VII 740, XX 862; and by Charles XII, VII 741; XX 853—treaty of, VII 740—mean annual temperature of, 746—railways connected with, 748—University of, 750; XXI 492—literature of, VII 750—naval arsenal, VIII 79—libraries at, XIII 426—Royal Society of Northern Antiquarians at, XX 118
 COPENNICAN SYSTEM, VII 348, 349, IV 54—its effects on all branches of philosophy, I 20—fully established by Kepler and Galileo, 608—represented as contrary to Scripture, X 377.
 COPENNICUS (Nicolas), VII 348; I 600, XVIII 158—his discovery of the true theory of the planetary motions, I 20—publication and reception of his Astronomia Instaurata, 601; III 797—reference to gravitation in his writings, I 673, IV 220—his astronomical discoveries, III 797—his planetary system, IV 54—his works, VII 350—epitaph on, IX 233
 COPPER, Cophits, or Copts, VII 350; II 218; VIII 449
 COPHTIC, or Coptic language, VII 350, VIII 441; XI 273; XIII 210, 218—alphabet, II 607, 618, XI 412—bibles, IV 700; XIX 839—identity of, with the language of ancient Egypt, XI 374, 410—characteristics of, 374—Coptic letters unknown to Greek and Latin, 413.
 — LITURGIES, VII 350.
 Copiapite, mineral, XV 97.
 COPLAPO, in Chile, VII 350—mines of, VI 548; XV 235; XVII 622—climate of, VI 544.
 COPPIATA, VII 350.
 Coping, in architecture, III 508—of walls, V 736, 739; XI 700.
 Copland (Prof.), his alleged introduction into Britain of the use of chlorine in bleaching, IV 785.
 COPPER, VII 350; VI 496; XV 66—native, 114, 238—annealing of, III 219—its use in assaying, 770—its compounds with zinc and tin, V 277—sheathing of ships with, 519; VII 673;

COP—COR

XVI 96; XX 174; XXI 635—for the fastenings of ships, XII 174—sulphate of, rings from, XXI 633—how to ascertain its purity in coins, II 155—protects wood in sea-water from the attacks of *Limnoria terebrans*, VII 542—quantity of, manufactured at Portsmouth, VIII 83—black oxide of, used as a mordant, 280—engraving on, 799—value of imports of, 734—used to give a green colour to preserves, IX 770—specific gravity of, XII 88—magnetism of, XIV 27—its poisonous quality, 438—culinary utensils of, 440—blue copper, XV 102—variegated or purple, 117—gray, 120—in sea-water, XVII 572, 574—distribution of, 621—as a covering for roofs, XIX 374—cohesion and strength of, XX 756—decays when in contact with iron, 179. See Copper-mines, Copperplates
 Copper, black, XV 112
 — mines, XV 238 *et seq*.—in Anglesia, III 146—Australia, IV 295, XV 238—Scotland, XIX 790—in Caernarvonshire, VI 54—Chile, 548—Cork, VII 371—Cornwall, 407, XV 239—Cuba, VII 566—Cumberland, 577—England, VII 726—Europe, IX 386—Nepaul, XVI 143—Hindustan, XI 457—Hungary, XII 17—of Monnquira, IV 809—Ireland, XII 506—Japan, 689—Michigan, XIV 739—Russia, XIX 617—Sweden, XX 862—Switzerland, 589—Waterford, XXI 769. See the different countries, paragraph on minerals.
 — money, XV 418.
 Copper-blende, XV 120.
 Copper-glance, XV 118.
 Copper-green, XV 102
 Copper-mica, XV 108.
 Copper-nickel, XV 116.
 Copper-ores, red, XV 112—gray, 120.
 Copper-powder, for bronzing, V 677.
 Copper-pyrites, VI 496; XV 116.
 Copper-salts, XV 102
 COPPER-SMELTING, VII 351—at Swansea, XX 844.
 COPPERAS, VII 354; XV 97—a preventive of dry rot, VIII 212. See Iron (sulphate of).
 Copperdisapore, mineral, XV 103.
 Coppermine River, X 473; XI 791; XVIII 169.
 Copperplates, printing from, VI 325, XVIII 520—ink for printing with, XII 384—multiplication of by voltaic electricity, XXI 636
 COPRICE, or copse, VII 354, XVII 760
 COPRIS, genus of insects, IX 120
 COPROLITE, VII 354—composition of, II 416—use of, in forming manures, 300, 415.
 Copriophagi, section of insects, IX 118.
 Coprophilus, genus of insects, IX 104.
 Coptic language. See Cophitic.
 COPROS, ancient town of the Thebais, VII 354.
 Copts. See Cophiti.
 COPR, VII 354
 COPYHOLD, VII 354.
 Copying machines, XIV 415.
 Copyists of books, IV 706
 COPYRIGHT, VII 355; XVIII 505—attempts to obtain an international law of, with America, V 32—sums paid for the copyright of dramatic pieces, XXI 172, 173.
 — in the Arts and Designs, VII 362.
 — in designs for manufactures, VII 362.
 Coquebert (A. J.), his works on insects, IX 8.
 COQUES (Gonzalez), VII 362.
 Coquet, river, XVI 87.
 Coquimbite, mineral, XV 97.
 COQUIMBO, in Chile, VII 362; VI 548, 547—terraces round the bay of, 542—earthquake at, in 1849, 543—climate, 544—mines near, 548
 COR CAROLI—Hydra—Leonis, VII 362.
 CORA, city of Lathum, VII 362—temple at, III 444, 476.

COR—COR

CORACESTRUM, fortress in Cilicia, VII 362
 CORACHEE, VII 362. See Kurtschee.
 CORACIUS, genus of birds, XVI 765
 CORACITE, mineral, XV 111.
 CORACLE, small kind of boat, VII 363; XV 499; XX 117.
 CORAH, or Korah, in Hindustan, VII 363.
 CORAL, VII 363; XX 247—manufactures of, at Marseilles, XIV 816—specific gravity of, XII 88—fossil corals, XVII 96—principal recent works on corals, XXI 1004, n 1
 — islands and reefs, XV 143, 217; XVII 568; XVIII 282—in the Red Sea, 818—reef-building corals, XVII 96—in the Australasian Sea, IV 269; XV 143—coral animals, XVII 588, XXI 1003.
 — rag, or coralline colts, XV 208
 — Sea, XVII 576.
 Corallaria, polypes, XXI 1004.
 Corallineae, lithophytes, XXI 1009
 Coralline, polypes, XXI 1004.
 Coralline Crag, XV 214, 215—of Suffolk, bryozoa contained in, XVII 98.
 CORAM (Captain Thomas), VII 363—Foundling Hospital founded by, XIII 673
 CORAN (al), VII 363. See Alcoran.
 CORAX, genus of fossil fishes, XII 341; XVII 118.
 CORAY (Diamond), XIII 120.
 CORBAN, VII 363
 CORBEIT, town of France, VII 363.
 CORBELLS, in fortification, VII 363.
 CORBEL, in architecture, VII 363; III 508
 — sous, VII 363.
 CORBET (Richard), VII 363.
 Corbett's mode of heating hot-houses, XI 724.
 Corbicula, fossil mollusks, XVII 107.
 CORBIS, genus of mollusks, XV 350—fossil XVII 107.
 Corbula, genus of mollusks, XV 350—fossil, XVII 108
 CORCULUM of seeds, VII 363.
 CORCYRA, now Corfu, VII 363—sedition of, IV 204—coins of, XVI 370
 Corcyræan war, IV 202, XII 454.
 CORD, VII 364. See Chord.
 — wood, VII 364
 CORDAGE, VII 364. See Rope-making
 CORDATE, or heart-shaped, VII 364; V 90
 CORDAY D'ARMANS (Marie-Anne-Charlotte), VII 364, X 79; XIV 295
 CORDELLER, VII 365; VI 226—Alcoran of, II 456
 — a political club, VII 365, 649; X 85.
 CORDEMOI (Gerald de), VII 365
 CORDIACEÆ, nat. order of plants, V 201.
 Cordiente, mineral, XV 88.
 CORDELLERAS, VII 365; III 128; II 669; XVII 592—in Bolivia, IV 822; in Colombia, VII 133—in Chile, VI 542—their geology, 1b—mines, XV 235—snow-line on, XIV 660, XVII 602—in Mexico, XIV 714—in Venezuela, XXI 835. See Andes.
 Cordiner (Mr), his description of the obelisk at Forres, IX 787.
 Cordiners, VII 366.
 CORDON, in fortification, VII 365; IX 819.
 CORDOVA, or Cordoba, in Spain, VII 365; III 124—Moorish rulers of, XX 461.
 — in La Plata, XVII 778.
 — (General), XX 479.
 Cords, XIV 397—friction of, 407.
 CORDUAN (Tour de) lighthouse, XIII 464, 468; I 907.
 CORDUS (Valerius), VII 366.
 CORDWAINERS, VII 366—origin of the name, III 324
 Cordyla, genus of insects, IX 229.
 Cordylura, genus of insects, IX 251.
 Cordylus, genus of reptiles, XIX 31.
 CORE, disease in domestic animals, XXI 562.
 COREA, peninsula of Asia, VII 366—language of, XXI 217.
 Coregonus, genus of fishes, XII 245, 243.

COR—COR

CORELLI (Arcangelo), VII 366.
 CORENZIO (Belisario), VII 366.
 Corethra, genus of insects, IX. 225.
 Coreus, genus of insects, IX. 162.
 Corfe castle, VIII 112.
 CORFINTUM, VII 368.
 CORFU, VII 367; XII 450, 456—climate of, 444—expenditure of Great Britain upon, 458.
 Coriaceæ, family of insects, IX. 258.
 CORIANDER, genus of plants, VII 367; V 195, XI 745—seed, II 337—cultivated in Essex, IX. 337.
 Coriæus, genus of fishes, XII 267.
 CORIGLIANO, town of Naples, VII 367.
 CORINGA, in Hindustan, VII 367.
 CORINNA, Greek poetess, VII 367.
 CORINTH, VII 367—ruins of a temple at, III 440—war with the Carthaginians in Sicily, VI 283—war with the Corinthians, IV. 202—monarchy of, XV 413—coinage of, XVI 357—sack of, by the Romans, XIX. 314—Theban forces repulsed in an attack upon, XXXI 178—grapes or currants of, XI 16.
 —ISTHMIUS of, VII 369; XI 12.
 CORINTHIAN, VII 369—brass, V. 278; VII 368.
 —order of architecture, VII 369—its origin, III 442—Roman, 444, 460, 473—Romans fond of, 444—modern Italian, 451, 477—Greek, 481, 466—remarks on, 486.
 CORINTHIANS, Epistles to the, VII 369.
 CORIO (Bernardino), historian, VII 369.
 CORIOLOANO, three engravings on wood, VII 369.
 CORIOLANUS (Caius Marcius), VII 369; XIX. 299.
 CORIOLI, ancient Latin city, VII 369.
 Coriols on the relation between the pressure and temperature of steam, XX. 565.
 Corion of the skin, II 834—of the mucous membrane, 836.
 Corixa, genus of insects, IX. 168.
 CORX, VII 369—specific gravity of, XII 89.
 —oak, V. 82—bark used in tanning, XIII. 306—value of imports of, VIII 734.
 —in Ireland, VII 369—harbour, XII. 505—taken by William the Third, 490—savings-bank, XIX. 669.
 —Cove of, VIII 468. See Queen's town.
 —(Earls of). See Boyle.
 CORX-JACKET, VII 369, XIII 440—coik-belt, ib.
 Coiked wines, XXI 889.
 Corking, in carpentry, V. 746.
 CORLEONE, town in Sicily, VII 373.
 Corliss Steam-engine Company, XX. 608.
 Cormac, Irish king, XII 464.
 Cormogens, plants, V. 142.
 CORMONTAIGNE, French engineer, VII 373—on fortification, IX. 815—his system, 820.
 Cormorants, XVI 813—fishing with, in China, VI 589.
 Corms, a kind of tuber in plants, V. 79.
 CORN, VII 373—not eaten by ants, III 263—estimate of the consumption of the various kinds of, in the United Kingdom, in 1852-53, VII 396. See Corn-laws, Corn-trade, Agriculture, Barley, Wheat, &c.
 Corn-crake, bird, XVI 807—shooting of, XX. 216.
 CORN-LAWS, VII 374; II 254, 258—principles of, VII 385—their effects on agriculture, VIII 728—effect of their repeal on the cotton-trade, XIV. 254—Act of Parliament in 1814, V. 618—Lord Londonderry's act in 1828, 686—modifying acts in 1826, 645—Mr Canning's bill in 1827, 650—act of 1828, 651—Mr C. Grant's bill, ib.—Sir Robert Peel's modification of the sliding-scale, 669—repeal of the, 670; II 264, XVII 365—Anti-Corn-law League XIV. 256—James Wilson on, XXI 876.
 CORN-TRADE, VII 374—British, 395—fo-

COR—COR

reign, 402—Polish, ib.; XVIII 158—of the Elbe, VII 408—French, ib.—Spanish, ib.—of Odessa, ib.—American, 404—of Liverpool, XIII 518—value of exports and imports of, VIII 734, 736.
 Cornabui, Caledonian tribe, VI 74.
 Cornaceæ, nat order of plants, V 195.
 CORNAGE, VII 405.
 CORNARISTS, VII 405.
 CORNARIUS (Joannes), VII 405.
 CORNARO (Luigi), VII 405.
 CORNBASH, portion of the oolitic formation, VII 405, XV 207.
 Corncockle Muir, rephian footmarks found at, XVII 153.
 CORNEA of the eye, VII 405; III 43; XIII 461; XVII 678—in brutes, III 96.
 CORNEILLE (Pierre), VII 405—Boileau's kindness to, IV. 814—his dramas, VIII. 149, 155—Helvetius and Suard on his character and writings, I. 135 and n. 3—contrasted with Shakespeare, VIII 158—his intercourse with Racine, XVIII 744.
 —(THOMAS) VII 405.
 —(MICHAEL), painter, VII 405.
 Cornel order of plants, V. 195.
 CORNELIA, VII 406, XIX. 318.
 Cornelian, VI 67. See Carnehan.
 CORNET, VII 406.
 —cavalry officer, VII. 406—commission, pay, and half-pay of, 202, 203.
 Cornice, III 487, 508, V 739—advantages of cornices to brick-walls, 736—remarks on, 743—plaster cornices in rooms, ib.—Doric, III 464, 476—Ionic, 465, 475—Corinthian, 467, 474—Caryatic, 467.
 CORNICULARIUS, VII 406.
 Cornoli (Ant.), his work on insects, IX. 21.
 Corns, in horses' feet, XXI 560.
 Cornstone, XV 200.
 CORNU, VII 406—ammonia, ib. See Ammonites.
 CORNUCOPIA, VII 406.
 Cornufelle (Lago di), XVIII 881.
 Cornulammæ, polypes, XXI. 1004.
 Cornulite, fossil, XVII 101.
 CORNUS, genus of plants, VII 406; V 195.
 CORNWALL, VII 406—Dr Borlase's works on, V 45—tin trade with the Phenicians, 376—Carew's survey of, VI 236—purchard fisheries of, IX. 643—Cornish engines, I. 869; boilers, XX. 602—porcelain clay of, V. 243—population and value of property, VIII. 754—copper ores, VII 362, 350; XVII 621—Devonian rocks of, XV 199; carboniferous, 201, 204—lodes in, 219, 220—depth of mines, 223—system of mining labour, 229—silver mines in, 234—tin mines of, 240, 241; VIII 726; XVII 621—arsenic from, XV. 246—rocking-stones in, VIII 187.
 CORNWALLIS (Charles, Lord), VII 408—his surrender to the Americans, V. 496, 499; XXI 753—his war against Tippeco Sahib, V 541; XI 497—his permanent zemindary settlement in Bengal, IV. 650; XI 517—his government in India, 497, 506, 520, 621—his government in Ireland, XII 499—his Indian land-tax, XXI 44.
 Cornwalthe, mineral, XV. 103.
 CORO, in Venezuela, VII 410; XXI 537.
 COROLIA of plants, VII 410; V 117, 123.
 COROLLARY, VII 410, X. 508—as to common terms, XIII 670.
 COROLLIER, or Corolline, VII 410.
 Corollifloræ, sub-class of plants, V 179, 198.
 COROMANDEL, VII 410; IV. 652.
 CORON, or Koron, seaport of Messenia, VII 410.
 CORONA, in optics, VII 410; VI 645, 651; XIV. 681. See Halo.
 —in architecture, III 508.
 —in botany, VII 412.
 —australis and borealis, two constellations, VII 412.
 —in Roman antiquity, VII 412, 523; VI 787.
 CORONACH, VII 412.
 CORONATION, VII 412—oath, ib.—stone of Scotland, XIX. 750.
 Coronea, battle of, XXI 177.
 Coronella, genus of serpents, XIX. 55.
 CORONELLI (Vincenzo), geographer, VII 412.
 CORONER, VII 412.
 CORONET, VII 413, XI 335.
 Coronis, genus of insects, IX. 209.
 Coronula, fossil barnacles, XVII 101.
 CORPORAL, VII 413—lance-corporal, ib.—of a ship of war, VII 413.
 CORPORALE, VII 413.
 CORPORATION, VII 413—civil, VI 736.
 —Act, attempts in 1787 and 1790 to get it repealed, V 532, 536—repeal of, 652.
 —charitable, in the reign of George II, V. 457.
 —medical corporations, XIV 465.
 —municipal, XV. 680—of London, XIII 677.
 CORPORAITY, VII 414.
 CORPULENCE, VII 414.
 CORPUS CHRISTI, festival in the Romish Church, VII 415.
 —Colleges—at Oxford, XXI. 459; Cambridge, 465.
 Corpus callosum, XVII 588.
 CORPUSCULE, in physics, VII 415.
 CORPUSCULAR PHILOSOPHY, VII 415; IX. 272.
 —mechanism, XX. 750—laws of corpuscular action, 763.
 Corra Linn, XIII 174; XIX. 791.
 CORRADI (Domenico), VII 415; XVII 62.
 CORRADINI DI SEZZA (P. Marcellino), VII 415.
 Corradino, sculptor, XIX. 864.
 CORRADO (Sebastian), VII 415.
 CORRECTION, in printing, VII 415; XVIII 542.
 —(HOUSE OF), VII 416.
 CORREGGIO, VII 416.
 CORREGGIO, town of Italy, VII 416.
 —VII 416. See Allegri.
 CORRELATIVE, VII 416.
 CORRÈZE, in France, VII 416; X. 277.
 CORRIB (Lough), VII 416, X. 389, XII 505.
 CORRIDOR, VII 416.
 Corrientes, town and province of La Plata, XVII 779.
 —Cape, XVII 777.
 CORRINA, bird, XVI 800.
 CORROSION, VII 416.
 Corrosive subimate, VI. 498—as a preventive of dry rot, VIII. 212—poisoning with, XIV. 433—as a preservative of timber, XX. 167.
 CORRUPT, or Corriak, lake in Skye, VII 416; XX. 317.
 CORRUPTIBLE, sect, VII. 416.
 CORRUPTION of blood, in law, VII 416; IV. 186.
 Corruptions of Christianity, I. 505.
 CORSAIR, pirate, VII 416; IV. 431; V. 709—Algerine, II 570 *et seq.*
 CORSELET, or Corslet, VII 417.
 CORSEUL, town of France, VII 417.
 CORSELLUS (Frederico), early printer, XVIII 584, 585.
 CORSEHAM, town in Wilts, VII 417.
 CORSICA, VII 417—Boswell's visit to, V. 63—reduced by the Romans, VI 288, and by the French, X. 87—height of mountains in, XVII 642—population of, X. 277—language, XIII 218—Seneca's banishment to, XX. 46—Neuhoff, Baron von, his proceedings in, XVI. 154—weights and measures of, XXI 810—map of, X. Plate. See Paoli.
 Corsini library, at Rome, XIII 412.
 CORSMED, or Morsel of Excretion, VII 418; XVI 702.
 CORSTORPHINE, near Edinburgh, VII 418.
 CORR (Cornelius), VII 418.
 —(Mr), his inventions in iron manufacture, XII 589, 574.
 Cortaillo, wines of, XXI 886.

COR—COS

CORTE, in Corsica, VII 418, 417.
 Cortereal (Gaspar), voyages of, VI 153; X. 471. See Cortoreale.
 CORTES OF SPAIN, VII 418; XX. 467, 492—new constitution of the, 473, 475, 480—of Portugal, XVIII 395.
 —(HERNAN), conqueror of Mexico, VII 418, II. 699—his proceedings in Mexico, XIV. 703, 704, 705—city of Mexico taken by, 706.
 —(Martin), his treatise on navigation, XVI 3.
 CORTESE (Jacopo), VII 420; V. 39.
 Corticus, genus of insects, IX 130.
 CORTLAND, in New York, VII 420.
 CORTOMARCK, in Belgium, VII 420.
 CORTONA, VII 420.
 —painter, XVII 69.
 Cortoreale (Gaspar), navigator, XVIII 164; VI 158. See Cortereal.
 CORTUCANTUS (Tiberius), VII 420.
 CORUNDUM, mineral, VII 420; XV. 87; XVII 623.
 CORUNNA, VII 421—Sir John Moore's retreat to, V. 604, XV 529, XXI 706—battle of, V. 604, XV 529—tower of, XIII 464, X. 372.
 CORUS, Omer, or Homer, Jewish measure, VII 421.
 CORUSCATION, VII 421.
 Corvée system, in France, X. 46, 245, 273, XXI 43—its abolition, 366.
 CORVETTE, sloop of war, VII 421.
 Corvina, genus of fishes, XII 284, 285.
 CORVO, island, VII 421; IV. 336.
 CORVORANT, VII 421. See Cormorant.
 CORVUS, a constellation, VII 421.
 —ancient military engines, VII 421.
 —genus of birds, VII 421; XVI 763. See Crow.
 —(M. VALENIUS), VII 421.
 CORWEN, town in Wales, VII 422.
 Coryat on the introduction of table-forks, IX. 765.
 CORYBANTES, VII 422, 591.
 CORYBANTICA, ancient festival, VII 422.
 CORYCOMACHIA, VII 422.
 Corydalis, genus of insects, IX. 179.
 CORYGAUM, in Hindustan, VII 422.
 Corylaceæ, nat order of plants, V. 208.
 Corymb, in botany, V. 114.
 Corymbifera, sub-order of plants, V 197.
 CORYMBIUM, VII 422.
 Corymide, polypes, XXI 1006.
 Coryphæna, genus of fishes, XII 295, 298.
 CORYPHEUS, VII 422; VIII. 184*.
 Coryphodon, genus of fossil mammals, XVII 162.
 Corystes, genus of crustacea, VII 541.
 Corythaux, genus of birds, XVI 788.
 Corythochthys, genus of fishes, XII 815.
 Corythus, genus of birds, XVI 762.
 CORYTHOCELAN, whirlpool of, VII 422.
 CORYZA, VII 422; VI. 382.
 Cos, island, VII 422—coins of, XVI 377—silkworm of, XX. 286.
 COSCINOMANOT, VII 422.
 COSECANT, in geometry, VII 422, XXI 838.
 COSENZA, a city of Naples, VII 422.
 COSEFELD, VII 423. See Kusfeld.
 COSERING, VII 423.
 COSINE, VII 423, XXI 338—law of cosines, I. 902.
 COSLIN, town in Prussia, VII 423, XIII 182.
 Cosmacanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII 117.
 COSMAS, bishop, VII 423.
 —navigator, VII 423.
 —saint and martyr, VII 423.
 Cosme (Frère Jean de St), XX. 819 and n. 1.
 COSMÉTICO, VII 423.
 COSMOGAL, VII 423—notions of the Buddhists, X. 724.
 COSMOGONY, VII 423—fabulous, XV. 760.
 Cosmographical Academies, II. 62.
 COSMOGRAPHY, VII 423.
 COSMOLOGIE, mathematical instrument, VII 423.
 Cosmological argument for the existence of God, XXI 186.

COS—COT

COSMOLOGY, VII 423; XIV. 605—of the ancients, IV 448; II 167—the real in, XIV 615.
 COSMOPOLITE, VII 423.
 COSME, French town, VII 423.
 COSMOSES. See CHOSIOSES.
 COSSACKS, VII 423; VIII 100; XIX. 474 *et seq.*, 549—Cossack horses, XI 635—country of, XIX. 521—Zaporogian Cossacks, XXI. 370—Ural, 495—their value as light troops, 709.
 COSSÉ DE GENÈSTE, order of knighthood, VII 424.
 COSSER, trade of, XVIII 819.
 COSSUM (Meer), XI 486, 487.
 COSSUMBAZAR, in Hindustan, VII 424; X. 400.
 COSSIPORE, in Hindustan, VII 424.
 COSSONUS, genus of insects, IX. 141.
 COSSUS, genus of insects, IX. 211.
 COSSYAH HILLS, in Hindustan, VII 424, IV 651, X. 407.
 COSSYPHENES, tribe of insects, IX 131.
 COSSYPHUS, genus of insects, IX. 131.
 COSTA (Achille), his works on insects, IX. 23.
 — (O. G.), his entomological works, IX. 16.
 — RICA, republic of, VII 424; XI 77.
 COSTAL, VII 425.
 COSTAMBONE, in Anatolia, XIII 54.
 COSTANZO (Angelo di), VII 425.
 COSTARD (George), VII 425.
 COSTE (Mons.), on the nests of the stickle-back, XII 281.
 COSTER (Lawrence), his claim to the invention of printing, IV. 706, 707. See Koster.
 COSTIVENESS in cattle, XXI 565.
 COSWAY (Richard), VII 425.
 COTA (Rodríguez), Spanish poet, VII 425.
 COTANGENT, VII 425; XXI 338.
 COTE D'OR, in France, VII 425—wines of the adjoining districts, XXI 954.
 COTE-ST-ANDRÉ (La), town of France, VII. 426.
 COTELERIUS (John Baptist), VII 426.
 COTERELLUS, VII 426.
 COTERIE, VII 426.
 COTIS (Roger), VII 426, IX. 675; XVI. 6—his *Harmonia Mensuraria*, I. 647—Newton's remark at his death, 903—his mathematical discoveries, 692, 714—his life and character, 714, n. 2—his discovery of a certain property of a circle, called the Cotesian theorem, II. 561—his correspondence with Newton regarding a new edition of the *Principia*, XVI. 208.
 COTES-DU-NORD, in France, VII 426.
 COTESWOLD, VII 426.
 — hills, X. 679—sheep, ib.; II. 346—soil of, XV. 217.
 COTERN, German town, VII 426; XIII 133.
 COTHI, river, VI 52.
 COTHU, taken by the Romans, VI 302.
 COTHUAL (Ydsu), II. 605.
 COTHURNUS, VII 426, VI. 24; VIII. 135.
 COTIGNAC, town of France, VII 426.
 COTILLOX, VII 426.
 COTINGAS, birds, XVI 750.
 COTIOTE, in Hindustan, VII 427.
 COTONEASTER, genus of trees, XVII 763.
 COTOPAXI, volcanic mountain, VII 427—come of, XXI. 604—height of, VIII. 386; II 669; XVII 645—fishes ejected by, XII 260.
 COTRONA, city of Italy, VII 427. See COTRONA.
 COTSWOLD, II. 346. See Coteswold.
 COTZ or Cot, VII 427.
 COTTA (C. Aurelius), Roman general, VII 427—defeated by Mithridates, XV. 284.
 — (Bernhard), on rocks, XV. 129, 128—German journalist, XVI. 200.
 COTTABUS, a game, VII 427; IX. 495.
 COTTAGE SYSTEM, VII 427.
 Cottages for farm labourers, II 268.
 COTTAPEATA, town in Hindustan, VII 425.
 Cotlar system, in Inverness-shire, XII 439.

COT—COT

COTTBUS, Prussian town, VII 435. See Kotibus.
 COTTEREL'S blast-furnace, XVIII. 80, 81.
 COTTERILL'S lock, XIII 535.
 Cottian Alps, II. 623; XVII 596—the home of the Valdenses, XXI 505.
 COTIN (Madame), character of her novels, XIX. 289.
 COTTIVAR, town in India, VII 435. See Kattywar.
 COTTOIDEI, family of fossil fishes, XII 344.
 COTTON (Charles), VII 460—on angling, III 149, n. 163; XXI 696.
 — (General), V. 784.
 — (Sir ROBERT BRUCE), VII 460, XIII 389.
 — VII 435—bleaching of, IV 762—loss of weight by bleaching, 787—dyes worse than silk and wool, XVII 274, 278—structure of, 277—dyeing of, ib—method of dyeing it red, 292, yellow, 299, blue, 303, black, 306; green, 310; violet, 312; orange, 313; mixtures of black, &c., 314—imports of, into the United Kingdom, XIV 255, 287; and consumption of, ib.—exports, 287—dependence of Britain on the United States for supplies of, 291—its culture in New South Wales, IV. 280—Asia, III 738—Bengal, IV. 649—Brazil, V. 294—Ceylon, VI. 399—Egypt, VIII 428, 431, 516—Greece, XI. 16—Guana, 82—Georgia, X. 566—India, XI 453—Louisiana, XIII 700—Mexico, XIV 717—Mississippi state, XV. 278—Asiatic Russia, XIX. 551—the Two Sicilies, XX. 249—United States, XXI 425—silk-cotton tree, V. 184—silk-cotton order of plants, 184—paper made from, XVII 249.
 — factories. See Factory.
 — goods, value of, exported annually, VII 456, VIII 736—quantity imported into Canada, VI. 151—cause of fall in price of, XVIII 241—increased demand for, with the fall of price, XXI 69.
 — MANUFACTURE, VII 437, XIV. 285—its establishment and progress in Scotland, X. 650—Hargreave's and Arkwright's improvements in, III 609; V. 508—of Antrim, III. 286—of Bengal, IV 649—Dacca, VII 614—Derbyshire, 755—Belgium, IV. 625—Holland, XI. 583—Paisley, XVII 89—Preston, XVIII. 510—England, VIII 729—France, X. 252—Germany, 590—Glasgow, 650—Georgia, 565—Ghent, 601—Lancashire, XIII 178—Japan, XII. 693—Java, 706—Ireland, 520—Lombardy, XIII 657—Mexico, XIV 717—imports into Liverpool, XIII 518—progressive inventions of machinery for, XIV. 251—impulse given to, by the repeal of the corn-laws, 255—Manchester, 252 *et seq.*—effect of, on the health of operatives, 253, n.—in Pennsylvania, XVII 396—Philadelphia, 510—printing of cotton, XVIII 520—in Prussia, 668—Rhode Island, XIX. 146—Russia, 642—Scotland, 805—Switzerland, X. 890—United States, XXI 426, 427. See Calendar, Spinning, Weaving.
 — plants, VII 435; V. 184.
 Cotton-seed cake, as manure, II. 405—analysis of, ib.
 Cotton-spinners, diseases of, XIV. 443.
 Cotton-velvet, X. 252.
 Cotton-yarn, comparative cost of English and Indian, VII 439—prices of, from 1786 to 1807, 446—quantity spun, exported, and worked up at home from 1818 to 1863, 453—markets to which exported, ib.—quantity spun in this country in 1832, 454—value of exports of, 736—in 1835, XIV. 253.
 Cottonian MSS., XIII 391.
 Cottus, genus of fishes, XII. 280, 282—fossil, 344.
 Cotugno on the ear, III. 47.
 COTULA, or Cotyla, VII 460.
 Cotunnite, or Cotunnia, XV. 105.
 COTURNIX, genus of birds, VII 791.
 COTYLEDON, VII 460; V. 76, 141.

COT—COU

Cotyledoneae, order of plants, V. 180.
 Cotyla, genus of fishes, XII 307.
 Cotylod cavity, III. 12.
 COYRS, VII 460.
 COYTZO, VII 460.
 COCOE, in painting, VII 460—in surgery, ib.; VI 332.
 — (Richard Q.), on the metamorphosis of crustacea, VII 544.
 COUCHANT, in heraldry, VII 460, XI 332.
 COUCHE, VII 460.
 Coucy (Enguerand de), XX. 884.
 Couerbe on the fatty principles of the brain, II 819.
 Cough, chronic, in the domestic animals, XXI 573.
 COULAN, VII 460. See Quilon.
 COULOMB (Charles Augustin), VII 460; I. 742, n. 2, 873—discovered the true law of magnetic attraction and repulsion, 742, 989—further discoveries in magnetism, 743, XIV 6, 23, 28, 37, 43 *et seq.*—on electricity, VIII 531; I. 988—on the distribution of electricity, 551—53, I. 989, dissipation of, VIII 550—his "proof plane," I. 988—on hydrodynamics, 796; XII. 73, 159—his balance of torsion, I. 726, 873, 988, IV. 386, VIII 549—on friction and passive strength, I. 878—on the friction of fluids, 887—his artificial magnets, XIV. 70—experiments on the modes of making artificial magnets, 77—compared with Robison, I. 873, 874—on compass-needles, XIV. 78.
 COULOMMIERS, town of France, VII 465.
 COUNCIL, VII 465—of war, ib.—in Church history, ib.; I. 526, XIX. 750—of boroughs, VIII 721.
 — cabinet, VI 46.
 COUNSEL, VII 465. See Advocate.
 COUNSELLOR, VII 465—Privy, ib.; XVIII. 587.
 COUNT, VII 465.
 COUNTER, VII 466—of a horse—in heraldry—Counter-changed—Flory—Ermine—Paled—Passant—Pointed—Quartered—Sahent—Guard—March—Mine—Ploof—Sign—ib., 467.
 Counter-company, in heraldry, XI 326.
 COUNTERSCARP, VII 467, IX. 818.
 COUNTERPOINT, in music, VII 466—double, XV. 734.
 Counters, reckoning by, III 582.
 Counting-machines, XIV. 414.
 COUNTROIS, VII 467.
 Country, statistical account of a, what it should include, IX. 550.
 COUNTRY, VII 467—representation of, ib—divisions of, VIII 719—cities which are counties of themselves, 721—police of English counties, XVIII. 198, 201; of Scotch counties, 203, 204.
 — court, VIII 786.
 — rate, VII 467.
 Coup de soleil, XIV 431.
 Couple, in mechanics, XIV. 405—coupling of parallel axes, 397, 399—double, Hooke's coupling, 400.
 Couplet (Mons.), on centres, VI. 874—his hydraulic experiments, XII. 133; XIX. 186, 198, 199.
 Courage not identical with prudence, I. 396—observations on, 396.
 COURANT, VII 467. See Current.
 — piece of music, VII 467.
 COURATIER (Pierre François) VII 467.
 COURIER, VII 467—ancient, ib.; III 140.
 COURLAND, VII 467. See Kourland.
 — Duchess of, empress of Russia, XIX. 481.
 COURT, VII 467—of Arches, 468—Baron, ib.; VIII 786—plaster, VII 468—hundred court, VIII 786—county court, 786—of equity, IX. 317—of justice in England, VIII 785—Court of the Household, XI. 774; of Marshalsea, or Green Cloth, ib. See France, Scotland, Ireland, &c.
 COURT-MARTIAL, VII 468; XV. 5; XVI. 107.
 Courtezans, the London theatres infested by, VIII 169.

COU—COW

COURTHERON, town of France, VII 468.
 COURTRAI, in Belgium, VII 468.
 COUSIN, VII 468—cousins-german, X. 570.
 — (David), his abattoir in Edinburgh, II 11.
 — (M. V.), his edition of Abelard's works, II. 27.
 — (M.), on the moral sense, XIV. 581.
 — on the knowledge of being, 611—on the scepticism of Pascal, XVII 329, 330.
 COUTANCES, town of France, VII 468.
 COUTE-UTLAUGH, VII 468.
 Coutinho (Vasco Fernandes), V. 280.
 — (Francisco Pereira), V. 280.
 COUVIN, town of Belgium, VII 468.
 Couzeranite, mineral, XV. 71.
 COVADONGA, IV. 156.
 COVE, in Ireland, VII 468. See Queens-town.
 — or Coving, in architecture, III. 508.
 COVELLINE, mineral, XV. 118.
 COVERLONG, in Hindustan, VII 468.
 COVENANT, in theology, VII 469; I. 480 and n. 2.
 — in ecclesiastical history, VII 469; V. 395.
 — (Solemn League and), VII 469, V. 404.
 COVENANTERS, VII. 469, V. 395, 428 *et seq.*—persecution of, at Glasgow, X. 647.
 Covent Garden market, XIII 664—theatre, 676; XXI 173, 176.
 COVENTRY, VII 469—canal, XXI. 17—ribbon factories at, 738.
 — (Sir John), VI. 626.
 — (Mr.), his stage micrometer, XIV 760.
 COVERDALE (Miles), VII 469—his Bible, IV 702.
 Covered-way, in fortification, IX. 819.
 COVERPAUX, in India, VII 470.
 COVER, in law, VII 470—way, in fortification, ib.; IX. 819.
 COVERTURE, in law, VII 470.
 Covey of partridges, XX. 221.
 Covilham (Pedro da), X. 398.
 COVIN, VII 470.
 Coving, in building, VII 470.
 Covington, in Kentucky, XIII. 70.
 COVINUS, VII 470.
 Cow, VII 470, II. 342; XIV. 214—yield of milk by, VII 622—its milk, XV. 11—food of, as affecting the milk, VII. 621—dairy breeds of, ib.—Alderney, XII. 730—Devonshire, VII. 764—Dorsetshire, 755. See Dairy.
 Cow-parsnip, forage plant, II. 329.
 Cow-pen bird, VII 762.
 Cow-pox, VII 470; XII. 720 *et seq.*; XXI 500, 501.
 Cow-TREE of South America, VII 470; V. 206.
 Cow-wheat, V. 202.
 — of Demerara, V. 199.
 Cowan's Hospital, Stirling, XX. 702.
 COWARD, in heraldry, VII 470.
 COWBRIDGE, town in Wales, VII 470.
 — (Mr.), his report on the poor-laws, XVIII 307, n. 2, 308, n. 2.
 Cowburn's cellular steam-boiler, XX. 616.
 Cowdee. See Kawn pine.
 COWELL (Dr John), VII 470.
 Cowen (Messrs), their gas-retorts, X. 413.
 COWES (West), in Isle of Wight, VII 470; XXI 862.
 COWRAGE, or Cowitch, VII 470; V. 190.
 Cowie (James), on farm-buildings, II. 371.
 COWL or Coul, VII 470.
 COWLEY (Abraham), VII 470—remarks on his ode entitled *Destiny*, I. 270—poetry of, XVIII. 122.
 — (Walter and Richard), XXI. 816.
 Cowper (B. Harris), his translation of documents regarding the Council of Nice, XVI 248, n.
 — (WILLIAM), VII 471—his opinion of Barclay's *Argenis*, IV. 441—his hymns, XII. 189—Hayley's *Life of*, XI 253—Pitt's neglect of, XVII 735—poetry of, XVIII. 125.
 — (William), anatomist, II. 764—on the erectile tissue, 799.

COW—CRA

- Cowper's glands, III. 70.
 — printing-machine, XVIII. 559.
 COWRIES, VII. 473, XV. 384—tiger and money cowry, ib.—used as money, XIII. 142, XV. 417—fossil, XVII. 110. See Cypraea.
 Cowry, bird, XVI. 748.
 Cowslip, V. 203.
 Cox (Richard), VII. 473.
 — on brehon law, XIX. 750.
 Coxal bones, III. 12.
 COXE (William), VII. 473—on Isola Bella, V. 55—his notice of a remarkable bridge in Switzerland, VI. 384.
 COYPEL (Noel), painter, VII. 473.
 COYPOON, iocent quadruped, XIV. 180—its fur, X. 348.
 COZENING, VII. 473.
 COZENS, painter, XXI. 386, 387.
 CRAB, VII. 473, 541—as food, IX. 765.
 — Island, IV. 660.
 — soldier, VII. 542.
 Crab's eyes, VII. 539.
 CRABBE (George), VII. 473—his definition of genius, X. 450—his poetry, XVIII. 136.
 Crabro, genus of insects, IX. 196.
 Crabromites, tribe of insects, IX. 196.
 Crabtree's combing machine, XXI. 925.
 CRACOW, VII. 474, X. 212—library of, XIII. 425—foundation of, XVIII. 137—republic of, 157—incorporated with the empire of Austria, X. 222, 225; IV. 806; XIX. 498—taken by Charles XII., XX. 853—university of, XXI. 492.
 Cradles, in mezzotinto engraving, XIV. 733, 734.
 — in Lapland, XIII. 240.
 CRADLING, in carpentry, VII. 475.
 Cradock (Mr.), on the defects of fir timber, XXI. 275.
 CRAGE, a geological formation, VII. 475—red crag, XV. 214, coralline, ib.
 Craggie (Loch), trout of, III. 158.
 CRAGUS, mountain in Lycia, VII. 475.
 CRAIG (John), VII. 477.
 — (John), his system of savings-bank management, XIX. 669.
 — (Sir JAMES GIBSON, Bart.), VII. 476.
 — (Mr.), architect of New Town of Edinburgh, VIII. 394.
 — (Sir THOMAS), VII. 477; V. 718—his illustrations of feudal law, IX. 524—Tytler's Memoir of, XXI. 414.
 Craig-Phadrick, vitrified fort of, IX. 791.
 Craigellachie bridge, XII. 582.
 Craigenunmy meadows, irrigation of, II. 326; XII. 620.
 Craigne (David), his work on anatomy, III. 73.
 Craigleith quarry, VIII. 408; XX. 711—transverse strength of its stone, 717; its resistance to crushing, 718.
 Craik (Dr.), physician to Washington, XXI. 782, 746.
 — (Dr G. L.), on Spenser's Fairy Queen, XX. 507.
 — (Mr.), of Abingdon, his agricultural improvements, XIII. 98.
 CRAIL, in Fife-shire, VII. 479.
 Crambus, genus of insects, IX. 218.
 Cramer (Dr.), on the geometric proportions of bees' combs, IV. 578—on mortality at Geneva, IV. 622.
 — (J. B.), his opinion of Beethoven as a pianoforte player, IV. 590.
 — (Peter), his work on butterflies, IX. 6.
 — on Greek education, XV. 807.
 CRAMOND, village on the south side of the Firth of Forth, VII. 479, VIII. 408.
 Cramp of the stomach, in domestic animals, XII. 565.
 CRAMPONER, in heraldry, VII. 480.
 Crampton (J. James), articles of international copyright drawn up by, VII. 860.
 Cran, a measure, IX. 635, n. 1.
 CRANBERRY, VII. 480, V. 198—culture of, VII. 719—exported from Russia, XIX. 619.
 — order of plants, V. 198.

CRA—CRA

- CRANBORNE, town in Dorsetshire, VII. 480.
 CRANBROOK, in Kent, VII. 480; XIII. 66.
 Cranchia, genus of mollusks, XV. 400.
 CRANE, bird, VII. 480; XVI. 797.
 — a machine for raising great weights, VII. 480; XIV. 415.
 Crane's iron-works, XII. 544.
 Cranesbill order of plants, V. 187.
 CRANGANORE, in India, VII. 480.
 Crania, genus of mollusks, XV. 339—fossil, XVII. 105.
 Craniadae, family of mollusks, XV. 339.
 Cranium, general description of, III. 27, 28, 29. See Skull.
 CRANK, VII. 480; XIV. 398—Watt's application of, to the steam-engine, XX. 581—description of, and analysis of its action, 589, 590—combination of two at right angles, 591; analysis of their action, ib.—effect of the connecting-rod on the crank's action, ib.
 — in sea language, VII. 480.
 — for hard labour in prisons, XVIII. 573; XIII. 278.
 CRANMER (Thomas), archbishop of Canterbury, VII. 480, VIII. 700, 706, 710—his Bible, IV. 702—his degradation, VII. 700.
 CRANTRY, in glass-making, VII. 485.
 CRANTARA, VII. 485.
 CRANTOR, Greek philosopher, VII. 485.
 Cranworth (Lord), on the evils of copyhold tenure, VII. 355, n.
 CRAON, town of France, VII. 485.
 CRAONNE, French town, VII. 485—battle of, ib.; X. 187.
 CRAPE, VII. 485—Norwich crape, XVI. 333.
 CRASHAW (Richard), VII. 485.
 CRASIS, VII. 485—in grammar, ib.
 Craspedosoma, genus of myriapods, XV. 743.
 Crassitella, genus of mollusks, XV. 350—fossil, XVII. 108.
 Crassulaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 194.
 CRASSUS (M. Lucius), the triumvir, VII. 485; XIX. 324—his expedition against the Parthians, XVII. 310, 435.
 — (L. LICINIUS), Roman orator, VII. 485.
 Crataegus, genus of trees, XVII. 763.
 CRATE, VII. 485.
 CRATER, VII. 485, XXI. 604—of Aetna, II. 190—of Tanager Mountain, in Java, XII. 702—elevation theory of craters, XV. 190—cone within, 191—craters of elevation, XVII. 590—encircling craters, XXI. 605.
 — constellation, VII. 485; IV. 80.
 Craterus, XIII. 773.
 CRATES, Greek philosopher, VII. 485, XXI. 970.
 Crath, river, XX. 238.
 CRATINUS, comic poet, VII. 486.
 CRATIPPUS, philosopher, VII. 486.
 Cratistius, geometer, X. 499.
 Cratylus, III. 538.
 Crau, alluvial plain in France, V. 241.
 Crawford (John), on the original population of the Indian Archipelago, III. 748—his account of Ava, IV. 321—his estimate of the population of Burmah, V. 780—his embassy to Cochinchina, VII. 50; to Siam, XX. 234.
 Cravant, centring for the bridge of, VI. 376.
 Craven, in Yorkshire, XXI. 956, 957, 958.
 Cray-fish, VII. 542.
 CRAWFORD (Adam), physician, VII. 486—on heat, XI. 273, 274; I. 761, 927; IV. 739.
 — (Dr Stewart), VII. 486.
 — (John), VII. 486.
 Crawford's Report on the Penitentiaries, United States, XVIII. 571, 572.
 Crawford of Drumsoy, his perversion of history exposed, XIII. 168.
 Crawhall's rope-machine, XIX. 412.
 Crawley (Sir Francis), XXI. 689.
 Crawley-springs, near Edinburgh, III. 387; VIII. 405.
 Crax, genus of birds, XVI. 735.
 Cray, river in Kent, XIII. 65.

CRA—CRE

- CRAYER (Caspar de), painter, VII. 486.
 Cray-fish, VII. 542; IX. 765.
 CRAYFORD, in Kent, VII. 487.
 CRAYTON, VII. 487, XIII. 510.
 Creaton, genus of birds, XVI. 753.
 CREAM, VII. 487; VI. 523, X. 10—clouted-cream, VII. 623. See Dairry.
 — of tartar, VII. 487, its use in dyeing, VIII. 278. See Argol.
 CREASOTE, VII. 487; XIX. 621—a preservative of meat, IX. 767—used for preserving timber, V. 173; XX. 167; XXI. 279.
 CREAT, VII. 487.
 CREATION, VII. 487—era of the, VI. 663, XI. 540—objections to the Mosiac account of, I. 455; principle on which they are to be answered, ib.—account of, probably committed to writing long before the time of Moses, 454—as described in Genesis, XXI. 195.
 CREBILLON (Prosper Jolyot de), VII. 487—Voltaire's quarrel with, XXI. 658.
 — (Claude), VII. 487—character of his novels, XIX. 288.
 CRECY, Cressy, or Cressy, town of France, VII. 487—battle of, VIII. 683; VI. 616, X. 17—archers at the battle of, III. 424.
 CREDENTIALS, VII. 487.
 CREDIBILITY, VII. 487—of the Scriptures, XIX. 832.
 CREDIT, VII. 487, XVIII. 235—bad effects of long credit, VII. 198—Holland a country of short credit, ib.—definition of, XV. 480.
 — Foncier, X. 263.
 — Mobilier, XV. 289; X. 263.
 CREDITON, in Devonshire, VII. 490—serge woven at, 764.
 CREDITOR, VII. 490.
 Credente, mineral, XV. 111.
 CREDULITY, VII. 490.
 CRECH (Thomas), VII. 490.
 CREED, VII. 490; I. 502—Nicene, XI. 34; XVI. 248—the apostles, I. 491, 493, III. 305—Athanasian, IV. 158—creeds rejected by the Independents, XII. 370. See Confession of Faith.
 — (Thomas), printer, XVIII. 538.
 Creek, in geography, X. 488.
 — Falls, in New York, XVI. 214.
 Creeks, Indians, II. 680.
 Creep, in coal-workings, VII. 122.
 Creepers, birds, XVI. 763.
 CREETOWN, in Kirkcudbright, VII. 490.
 CREFFELD, or Krefeld, in Prussia, VII. 490.
 Creighton (William), on the law of the relation between the pressure and temperature of steam, XX. 555.
 CRELIUS (John), VII. 490.
 CREMA, town in Lombardy, VII. 490.
 Cremastochelus, genus of insects, IX. 127.
 CREMATON, VII. 491. See Burning of the Dead.
 CREMERA, river in Etruria, VII. 491.
 CREMNITZ, town of Hungary, VII. 491. See Kiemnitz.
 Cremocarp, in botany, V. 187.
 CREMONA, in Lombardy, VII. 491—school of painting, XVII. 72, 73—Virgil studies there, XXI. 593—its violins, 592.
 CRENATE, VII. 491; V. 89.
 Crenatula, genus of mollusks, XV. 348.
 Crenella, genus of mollusks, XV. 348.
 CRENELLATED, VII. 491.
 CRENELLE, or unbattled, in heraldry, VII. 491.
 Crenidens, genus of fishes, XII. 287.
 Crenilabrus, genus of fishes, XII. 287.
 Crenells, VII. 327.
 CRENOPEYLA, VII. 491.
 CREODIBA, VII. 491.
 CREOLE, VII. 491—of Bolivia, IV. 831—Cuba, VII. 568—Mexico, XIV. 718.
 CREON, VII. 491.
 Ciezotte. See Creasote.
 CREPANCE, VII. 491.
 CREPIDA, VII. 491.
 Crepidula, genus of mollusks, XV. 381.
 CREPUNDIA, VII. 492.
 Crepuscularia, family of insects, IX. 209.
 CREPUSCULUM, VII. 492.
 Cres, VII. 493.

CRE—CRI

- CRESCENT, VII. 492—in heraldry, ib., XI. 326—three orders of knighthood, VII. 492.
 Cressentia, nat. order of plants, V. 200.
 CRESCENTINO, town of Piedmont, VII. 492.
 CRESCIMBENI (Giovanni Mario de), VII. 492.
 CRESPI (Giuseppe Maria), VII. 492.
 Cress, V. 182—culture of, XI. 744.
 — Indian, V. 188, XI. 745.
 CRESSET, VII. 492.
 CRESSY, French town, VII. 492. See Crecy.
 CREST, in armoury, VII. 492.
 — in heraldry, VII. 492; XI. 337.
 CRETACEOUS, VII. 493.
 — period, in geology, XV. 209—rocks, origin of, XVII. 619—shells of, XV. 403—fishes, XVII. 640.
 Cretans, their war with the Egyptians, VIII. 459.
 CRETE, VII. 493—castes in, VI. 315—coins of, XVI. 372, 373—Dactyli Idai, VII. 615—insurrection of 1823, XI. 27. See Candia.
 CRETINS, VII. 496—occasionally found in Britain, 687—cretinism dependent on climate, XIV. 443—where it prevails, 589—in the department of Gironne, X. 405—in the Basses Pyrenees, XVIII. 701.
 CRUSA, VII. 497.
 CRUSUS, in France, VII. 497.
 Creutz (Count), Swedish poet, XIX. 698.
 Creutzer (Christian), his works on insects, IX. 8.
 CREUX, in sculpture, VII. 497.
 Creuzer, on ancient mysticism, XV. 754.
 Crevasses, in the ice of glaciers, X. 635.
 CREVIER (Jean Baptiste Louis), VII. 497.
 Crew of a ship of war, XVI. 105—health of, ib.
 CREWE, town of Cheshire, VII. 497.
 CREWKERN, in Somerset, VII. 497.
 Crex, genus of birds, XVI. 807.
 Crib-biting, a disease of horses, XXI. 565.
 Crib-spongia, fossil sponges, XVII. 93.
 Cricetus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 182.
 Crichton (George), VII. 499, n.
 — (JAMES), VII. 497—Tytler's Life of, XXI. 413.
 — Royal Institution for lunatics, VIII. 240.
 CRICKET, insect, VII. 501, IX. 157.
 — game of, VII. 501; XI. 170—laws of, VII. 501.
 CRICKHOWEL, in South Wales, VII. 503.
 CRICKLADE, in Wiltshire, VII. 503.
 Cricodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 337.
 CRICOID, VII. 503—cartilage, III. 50.
 CRIEFF, in Perthshire, VII. 503—mineral water of, XVII. 457.
 Crime, causes of, XIII. 275—natural obstacles to, 276—principle of proportioning penalties to, ib.—statistics of, 278; XX. 552—benefit of clergy, VI. 764—penal colonies, VII. 139—in Belgium, IV. 616—state of, in England and Wales, VII. 750—France, X. 282—Glasgow, 654—Manchester, XIV. 258—Ireland, XII. 530—India, XI. 521—Lanarkshire, XIII. 176—London, 686—Spain, XX. 492—Suffolk, 791—New York, XVI. 231—Scotland, XIX. 803—register of crimes, XVIII. 208—in Sweden, 866. See Criminal Law, Police, Prisons, Penitentiaries, &c.
 CRIMEA, VII. 503—declared independent in 1789, VII. 336—ceded to Russia, ib.; XIX. 471—coasts of the, IV. 743—Crimean army stove, XIII. 172—landing of French and British troops in, XIX. 503; XXI. 276—military operations in 1854, 1855, XIX. 503; XXI. 375—evacuation of, XIX. 513—productions of, 520—effect of the war in, on the tea-duties, XXI. 90—wines of, 886—map of VII. Plate.
 CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS, VII. 506—Beccaria on, IV. 556—conditions under which punishments must be employed, XIII. 276—primary and secondary qualities of punishments, 277. See Crime.

CRI—CRO

Criminal law of England, VIII 784—attempts to improve the, by Sir James Mackintosh and others, V 633, 638—acts passed in 1823, 638—Sir R Peel's reformation of, XVII 363.

Crimson, mode of dyeing wool, VIII 290—cotton, 295

Cunan Canal, III 527; XVI 55; XIX 12, 807

Crinoidea, fossil echinoderms, XVII 98.

Crinoidæ, XXI 984, 994, 995

Crococides, tribe of insects, IX 147.

Crocoeris, genus of insects, IX 147

Crippling, in carpentry, XX 752, 759

Crispe (St Nicholas), XXI 689

CRISPIN and CRISPIANUS, VII 506.

CRISPA, or CRISA, VII 506; II 728

Crispeus, genus of fishes, XII 309.

Critchley's heat-regulator, XI 723.

CRITHMANCEY, VII 506.

CRITIAS, VII 506; IV 309; XX 383

CRITICISM, VII 506; XVII 526—Biblical, VII 506—first taught by Socrates, XX 402

CRITO, Athenian philosopher, VII 506—friendship between him and Socrates, XX 372, 379, 393, 394.

CRITOLAUS, VII 506.

Crus, genus of fishes, XII 302

CROATIA, VII 506—wines of, XXI 886

Croatian language, IX 392.

Croats, in Hungary, XII 11.

Crocina, genus of insects, IX 200.

CROCKET, VII 506; III 508

CROCODILE, VII 506; XVII 634; XIX 22, 23—bones of, III 86, 87—teeth of, XVI 437, their chemical composition, 418—its power of resisting starvation, III 180—lethargy or summer sleep of, 181—in Madagascar, XII 792—white crocodiles of the Nile, XVI 268, 270—in Egypt, VII 432, 433—in hieroglyphics, XI 392—crocodile-headed god, ib., n. 6—Syllogismus crocodilinus, XIII 634, n

Crocodylia, fossil reptiles, XVII 152—geological distribution of, 154

Crocodylopolis, VIII 508.

Croconite, mineral, XV 106.

Crocus, genus of plants, VII 506; V 212

CRÆSUS, last king of Lydia, VII 507; XIII 747.

CROFT (William), VII 508

Crofter system, in Inverness-shire, XII 439.

CROISERS, religious order, VII 508.

Croises, or Croizes, pilgrims to the Holy Land, VII 508.

Croix (St), river, XXI 693.

—(Ste), on ancient mysteries, XV 754.

Croker (J. D.), on the salmon fishing of the river Blackwater, in Ireland, IX 622.

—(Mr), on Pope's quarrel with Lord Harvey, XI 361

Croll's gas-retorts, X 413—his method of purifying gas, 418—gas-meter, 423.

CROMARTY (county), VII 508. See Ross and Cromarty.

—town, VII 508—fisheries, XIX 427; IX 640, 642

—Firth, XIX 425, 794—currents of, XVI 61—amount of river and tidal water in, 82.

CROMER, town in Norfolk, VII 508.

—(Archbishop), XII 475.

CROMFORD, town in Derbyshire, VII 508—canal, 754.

CROMLECH, or Cromlech, VII 508; III 433; XX 710—in Antrim, III 284—in Kent, XIII 68—in Pembrokeshire, XVII 374.

Crompton (Samuel), his invention of the mule jenny, VII 444; XX 510

Cromwell (Henry), the friend of Pope, XVIII 327, and n.

—(Henry), his government of Ireland, XII 436.

—(OLIVER), VII 509; V 384, 404 et seq.—his military operations in Ireland, 413; VIII 213; XII 484—his policy towards Scotland, V 415—

CRO—CRO

military operations in Scotland, 414—resolves to seize the sovereign power, 416—turns out the Parliament, 1b—is declared Protector, 417—the crown offered to him, and refused, 1b—his death, 418—and character, 1b—indignities to his remains, 421—alleged weight of his brain, III 52—at Glasgow, X 647—his patronage of Dr Owen, XVII 31—his policy towards Jamaica, XII 673; Holland, XI 576—his navy, XVI 92, 93—newspapers under, 182—post-office under, XVIII 405

CROMWELL (Richard), VII 516—succeeds his father as Protector, V 419

—(THOMAS), earl of Essex, VII 516, VIII 702, 704

CRONIA, ancient festival, VII 516

CRONSTADT, VII 517; XVII 487; XIX 535—chart of, VII 156

—town in Transylvania, VII 517

Cronstedite, mineral, XV 79

Crop of birds, III 109; XVI 734—of insects, IX 51.

Crops, II 306—preparation of land for, 287—rotation or succession of, 292, 416; V 98—grain, II 306—root, 315—herbage and forage, 322—quantity of mineral matters and nitrogen taken from the land by different grain crops, 417—principal, cultivated in England and Wales, VIII 723; in France, X 246—extent of land in England and Wales under crop in 1852–53, VII 396, in Ireland, in 1854, 1855, XII 615, 616—acreage and produce of the principal crops in Scotland, XIX 796, 797.

CROSER, or Crozier, VII 518

CROSLER, VII 518, XI 329

CROSS, VII 518—history of the supposed true cross, 519—trampling on, in Japan, XII 697—St Andrew's, III 134

—exaltation of the, VII 520—cross-bearer—pectoral—order of the—St George's, ib.

—in heraldry, VII 520; XI 328.

—invention of the, VII 520—fery cross of the Scottish Highlanders, 485.

—(St), hospital, XXI 880.

Cross-bills, birds, XVI 761.

Cross-bow, VII 520; V 251; III 424.

Cross-molme, in heraldry, XII 326.

Cross-stone, mineral, XV 77.

CROSS-TREES of a ship, VII 520.

Crosse (Andrew), on the electricity of the atmosphere, VIII 578—his experiments in electro-chemistry, XXI 682—his water battery, 619.

Crosses of Queen Eleanor, III 481.

Crossing, of species, III 174—effect of, in horses, XI 635; in hounds, 766—cross breeds of cattle, II 241; of sheep, 347; of plants, XI 702

Crossings, on railways, XVIII 776.

Crosskill's clod-crusher, II 273

Crossocellus, genus of fishes, XII 257.

Crossorhinus, genus of fishes, XII 323

Crossostoma, fossil mollusks, XVII 109, 110

Crotacrinus, fossil echinoderms, XVII 98.

CROTALUM, VII 520

CROTALUS, rattlesnakes, VII 520; XIX 68—skull, teeth, and poison-fang of, XVI 432 See Rattlesnake.

CROUCH (William), doctor of music, VII 520—on the music and musical instruments of Java, XII 706, 707.

CROUCHER, in music, VII 521—in printing, ib.

Croton aqueduct, III 337; XVI 231

—or Crotona, city of Magna Græcia, VII 521—academy of antiquities at, II 69—coins of, XVI 363—Pythagoras' residence at, XVIII 710—war of the Sybarites with, XX 891.

—oil, VII 521; V 206; XVI 495.

Crotophaga, genus of birds, XVI 779.

CROUT, VII 521.

CROUSAZ (Jean Pierre de), VII 522—influence of Locke's doctrines on, I 106—his principles mistaken by Pope and

CRO—CRY

Warburton, ib., n. 4—Gibbon's opinion of, ib—on beauty, IV 538—on Pope's Essay on Man, XXI 728.

Crow, VII 522—bald, XVI 749—carrion, 744—hooded, 1b—red-legged, 771.

—in mechanics, VII 522—crow's bill—crow's feet, 1b, IX 809 See Caltrop.

Crowberry order of plants, V 205.

Crowgarth, iron mine at, VII 577.

CROWLAND, VII 522—Abbey, XIII 492

CROWN, VII 522—in heraldry, XI 335—different kinds of Roman coronæ, VII 522, 523

—clerical tonsure, VII 523

—glass, manufacture of, X 661.

—in astronomy, VII 523.

—in geometry, VII 523.

—office, VII 523 See Coroner

CROYDON, in Surrey, VII 523, XX 837—canal, 1b—roof of the railway, XIX 395.

CROZER (Captain), X 298, 474; XVIII 171

CROZOPHORA, genus of plants, VII 523

CRUCIBLE, VII 523—in brass-making, V 277.

—furnaces, X 357.

CRUCIFERA, nat order of plants, VII 523, V 182—region of, 227; XVII 627.

CRUCIFIX, VII 523.

CRUCIFIXION, VII 523, 518—in Japan, XII 693

CRUDEFIN (Alexander), VII 523—his Concordance, 228.

Cruelty, as a ground of divorce, VIII 71—to animals, III 177, 178, XII 33

Cruze (Mr), on ship-building, XX 182—article on, in the previous edition of this work written by, 1b; 135.

Cruckshanks, on the voltaic pile, I 366—his galvanic trough, XXI 611—on the chemical effects of voltaic electricity, 628.

Cruckshank, on the lymphatic vessels, II 766, 803 et seq—on lymphatic glands, 805, 806—on the skin, 834

Cruvea, for catching salmon, IX 617.

Crum (Walter), his mode of using bleaching powder, IV 763—on indigo, VIII 301

Crumlin viaduct, XII 597.

Crusaders, Gothic architecture probably introduced by them from the East, III 446—their armies, 635—their operations in Egypt, VIII 479 et seq—their wars with Saladin, 481 et seq; XVII 196—their capture of Jerusalem, XII 784; XVII 196—their cruelties to the Jews, XII 778—Sidon captured by, XX 270—in Syria, 911—were the first Europeans who saw negroes, 320—probably introduced sugar into northern Europe, 791

CRUSADES, VII 524, 817, III 635; VII 605; VIII 430 et seq, 675; XII 734; XVII 196, 197—licentious morals introduced by, VI 610—preached by St Bernard, IV 669—their influence on geography, X 469—promoted heraldry, XI 321—their effects in Italy, XII 645—orders of knighthood originated with, XIII 111—Peter the Hermit's advocacy of, XVII 483

CRUSCA, Academia della, VII 536; II 70; XII 661; IX 666

Crushing, power of bodies to resist, XX 713, 769

CRUSTACEA, VII 537—distinguished from allied classes, III 367—their use for food, IX 765—in the Greenland seas, XI 43—fossil, XVII 100, 101, 640.

CRUSTACEUM, VII 544.

CRUTH, a Welsh musical instrument, VII 544.

Crutellher (T.), his descriptive anatomy, II 769—on the Pacinian corpuscula, 817.

CRUZADO, Portuguese gold coin, VII 544; XV 442, 444.

Crwth. See Cruth.

CRYOLITE, mineral, VII 544; XV 93.

CRYOPHORUS, VII 544, XI 271.

CRY—CUB

CRYPT, VII 545—Crypta, ib.

Cryptanga, fossil corals, XVII 97.

Crypticus, genus of insects, IX 130

Cryptoccephalus, genus of insects, IX 149

Cryptocerus, genus of insects, IX 194

Cryptodon, fossil mollusks, XVII 107

Cryptodontia, fossil reptiles, XVII 141

CRYPTOGAMIA, VII 545—arrangement and characters of, V 216

Cryptogamic plants, V 76—embryogeny in, 155

CRYPTOGRAPHY, VII 545

Cryptolite, mineral, XV 101.

Cryptomycteres, section of fishes, XII 232.

Cryptonyx, genus of birds, XVI 791

Cryptopoda, crustacea, VII 541

Cryptops, genus of myriapoda, XV 750

Cryptusa, genus of insects, IX 189

CRYSTAL, VII 545—crystals, in mineralogy, XV 40—dichroism of, I 915—cavities in, VII 549; XIV 806—Sir H. Davy on the fluids in the cavities of, 672—Beccaria on double refraction in, IV 560—their property of dividing rays of light, XIII 452—of snow, XIV 659—imperfections of, XV 49—measurement of, 50—twin-crystals, 51—irregular aggregation of, 53—baxal crystals, I 913, XVI 541—double refraction in crystals with one axis, 626, 629, in crystals with two axes, 630, 631, I 905, with three, XVI 633, with planes of double refraction, 1b—singly polarizing crystals, 647—rings produced by uniaxial, 651; by baxal, 652—comical refraction in baxal crystals, 656—with planes of double refraction, 661—composite, 1b—as microscopic objects, XIV 806 See Crystallization, Optics.

—or flint-glass, X 672.

—Palace, IX 454—Phillip's Guide to, and Picture Gallery of, XVII 515—of New York, XVI 225—at Sydenham, XX 891.

CRYSTALLINE, VII 545—heavens, 1b—derivation of crystalline forms, XV 42; relation of optical characters to, I 914—rocks, XV 186, XVIII 619, in Scotland, XIX 791.

—lens of the eye, VII 545; III 44; XIII 461; XVI 541—in various animals, III 95—in fishes, XIV 771, 805

CRYSTALLIZATION, VII 545; VI 445; XV 120—of snow, XIV 659—methods employed to produce, VI 447—systems of, XV 41—structure of, producing polarization, XVI 681. See Crystals, Optics.

Cshatryas, caste, VII 818; XI 471.

Ctenacanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 839, XVII 117.

Ctenicer, genus of insects, IX 106.

Ctenistes, genus of insects, IX 153.

Ctenodes, genus of insects, IX 144.

Ctenodonta, fossil mollusks, XVII 106, 105.

Ctenodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 341.

Ctenoid order of fishes, XII 216—fossil, 333, 343; XVII 127.

Ctenoidel, order of fossil fishes, XII 343; XVII 127.

Ctenolabridæ, family of fishes, XII 265.

Ctenolabrus, genus of fishes, XII 267

Ctenolepis, genus of fossil fishes, XII 337.

Ctenomyia, fossil species of, XVII 127.

Ctenophora, genus of insects, IX 237.

Ctenopoma, genus of fishes, XII 290.

Ctenoptychius, genus of fossil fishes, XII 340

Ctenostomata, polypes, XXI 1002.

Ctenus, genus of arachnids, XII 382

Cteristes, XI 335.

CTESIAS, Greek physician, VII 564—his notice of Nineveh, XVI 278—his skill in surgery, XX 811.

CTESIBIUS, VII 564—hydrodynamical inventions of, XII 69.

CTESIPHON, Assyrian city, VII 564; XVII 435.

—a Cretan artist, VII 564.

CUB, VII 564.

CUBA, VII 564; XXI 837—population of, II 708—metallic produce of, XV 248—Poey's work on the lepidoptera of, IX

CUB-CUL

- 18—sugars of, XX. 795, 796—its tobacco, XXI. 294, 295—weights and measures of, 810.
 Cuban, mineral, XV. 117.
 Cubature of solids, IX. 734.
 CUBE, VII. 569; X. 535—its frequency in crystalline forms, VI. 445—in mineralogy, X. 41.
 —ore, XV. 102.
 Cube-root, VII. 569—extraction of the, III. 606—discovered by the Arabians, I. 689.
 CUBEBS, VII. 569; V. 207; XVII. 404.
 Cubic equations, II. 516—resolution of, IX. 302.
 Cubical coal, VII. 118.
 CUBICULARIT, VII. 569; VI. 408.
 Cubières (Despans), accused of corruption, X. 228.
 CUBIT, VII. 569; VIII. 517, XXI. 804.
 —bone, III. 82.
 Cubitt (Sir William), on canals, XVI. 56—river navigation, 63.
 Cubit, mineral, XV. 75.
 Cucklin hells, in Skye, XX. 317.
 Cuckmere, river in Sussex, XX. 889.
 CUCKOO, VII. 569; XVI. 777—honey-cuckoo, II. 218—Dr Jenner's paper on, XII. 721.
 Cuckoo-pint, plant, V. 214, 115.
 CUCUNUS, genus of insects, IX. 143.
 Cucullea, genus of mollusks, XV. 349—fossil, XVII. 106.
 Cucullanus, genus of entozoa, XXI. 981.
 Cuculus, genus of birds, XVI. 777.
 Cucumber, V. 193—culture of, XI. 735—squinting, V. 193.
 Cucumiformes, echinoderms, XXI. 986.
 CUCUMIS, genus of plants, VII. 569, V. 193.
 Cucurbitaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 192.
 CUDBEAR, dyestuff, VII. 569, V. 217; VIII. 285, 286; XIII. 515.
 CUDDALORE, in Hindustan, VII. 569.
 CUDDAPAH, in Hindustan, VII. 569, 570.
 Cuddy, fish, XII. 269.
 CUDWORTH (Ralph), VII. 570; I. 341—on moral distinctions, 20, n. 3—one of the first successful antagonists of Hobbes, 43—on perception, ib., n. 3—influence of his principles on theories of morals, 44—his Intellectual System, ib., 341—his Treatise concerning Eternal and Immutability Morality, 342, 192, n. 3—his unpublished MSS., 192, n. 3, 342; VII. 570—on the materiality of angels, III. 309, n.—on the philosophers who maintained that moral distinctions were created by human law, XV. 549—on the obligation of subjects to obey their rulers, XV. 550.
 CUENCA, in Spain, VII. 570.
 —town in Ecuador, VII. 570—valley of, VII. 386.
 CUFF (Henry), VII. 570.
 Chuaba, XIV. 358.
 CUTRASS, VII. 570; III. 665 and n.
 CUTRASSIERS, VII. 571.
 CUTREAS, VII. 571.
 CUIJAS, or Cuijans (Jacques), civilian, VII. 571—his editions of the Theodosian Code, VI. 744—Fabrot's edition of his works, IX. 466.
 CULDEBS, VII. 573; XII. 441; XIX. 750.
 Culicello sandstone, XX. 711—its resistance to crushing, 718.
 CULEBUS, Roman measure, VII. 573.
 Culex, genus of insects, IX. 224.
 Culinary utensils, XV. 440.
 CULLEN, in Banffshire, VII. 573; IV. 412—(Dr WILLIAM), VII. 573, XIV. 462—his connection with Dr Black, IV. 787—Brown's opposition to his medical doctrines, V. 682—his definition of insanity, XIV. 526—his connection with Dr W. Hunter, XII. 29, 30—on Stahl's system of medicine, XX. 532.
 CULLERA, Spanish town, VII. 575.
 Culley (Messrs), their improvements in agriculture, II. 263.
 Culling and Bradford's photo-lithographic process, XVII. 554.
 CULLODEN, in Inverness-shire, VII. 575; XII. 440—battle of, V. 461.

CUL-CUP

- CULM, stem of grasses, VII. 575; V. 78—variety of coal, VII. 575, 44—measures, XV. 204—in Pembrokeshire, XVII. 374.
 CULMATION, VII. 575.
 CULNA, in Hindustan, VII. 575.
 CULPEE, town in Bengal, VII. 575.
 CULROSS, in Perthshire, VII. 575, XVII. 459.
 Cultellus, genus of mollusks, XV. 350.
 Calutrostes, tribe of birds, XVI. 797.
 CULVERIN, VII. 575.
 CULVERT, VII. 575.
 CULVERTAILED, VII. 575.
 CUMÆ, or Cuma, VII. 575; XV. 782; XIX. 304—sibyl of, XX. 284; II. 648.
 CUMANIA, in Venezuela, VII. 576, XXI. 537.
 Cumanus (Marcellus), the first author who describes the venereal disease, XX. 817, n. 3.
 CUMBERLAND, VII. 576—Cambrian rocks of, XV. 196—Cambro-silurian rocks, 197—Upper Silurian, 198—state of bastardy in, XVIII. 296, n. 3—its annexation to Scotland, XIX. 745—population and value of property, VIII. 754—(RICHARD), bishop of Peterborough, VII. 578; I. 339—his work De Legibus Naturæ, 46, 339—the only professed answerer of Hobbes, 339—his ethical doctrines, 340, XV. 553—(RICHARD), dramatist, VII. 581—his comedies, VIII. 166—his novels, XIX. 275—(William, Duke of)—his proceedings in Flanders and Scotland, V. 460, 462, 464—his death, 470—capital of Alleghany county, North America, VII. 578—on New South Wales, IV. 278, 282, 284—presbyterians, in America, XVIII. 492—river in North America, VII. 578, XII. 69, XXI. 155—mountains, ib.
 CUMBRAE, islands, VII. 584; VI. 97.
 Cumbrian rocks, XXI. 842.
 CUMING (Hugh), his collection of shells, XV. 328—on the anatomy of *Dissus lamellosa*, 339.
 CUMMIN seeds, VII. 584.
 Cumming (Mr), his escapements, VII. 13.—(Professor), on thermo-electricity, XXI. 650, 653.—(Rev. J. G.), his description of the Isle of Man, XIV. 242, 243.
 CUMROCK, village in Ayrshire, VII. 584.
 Cumulo-stratus, cloud, XIV. 656.
 Cumulus, cloud, XIV. 655.
 Cundinamarca, in New Granada, X. 797.
 CUNEGO (Domenico), VII. 584.
 CUNEIFORM, VII. 584—bones, III. 36—cartilages, 50.—inscriptions, VII. 584; XVII. 530—at Nineveh, XVI. 272, 275—discovery of the key to, XVII. 534.
 Cuneo, in the kingdom of Sardinia, XIX. 640.
 Cunette, in fortification, VII. 602.
 CUNIMA, goddess, VII. 584.
 Cunio, block-printing by, XVIII. 522.
 CUNTZ (Maria), VII. 584.
 CUNNINGHAM (Allan), poet, VII. 589; XVIII. 127.—(ALEXANDER), civilian, VII. 584.—(ALEXANDER), historian, VII. 588.—(Allan), botanist, his explorations in the interior of Australia, IV. 255—death, 256.—(John), on impressions on rocks, XVII. 181.—(Peter), his Handbook of London, XIII. 674.—(district of), IV. 332.
 Cunobeline, ancient British king, his improvement of the coinage, VII. 70; XVI. 362.
 CUNOCEPHALI, VII. 589; XI. 386, n. 4. See ANUBIS.
 CUNOMACEAE, nat. order of plants, V. 194.
 CUNOPANGUS, VII. 589.
 CUPAR-FIFE, VII. 589, IX. 545, 546.

CUP-CUR

- CUPEL, VII. 590; III. 770—Cupellation, ib., XIII. 299.
 Cuphic letters, II. 616.
 CUPID, VII. 590.
 CUPOLA, in architecture, VII. 590; III. 410, 508. See Dome.—furnace, XII. 545.
 CUPPING, VII. 590—cuppers, XIV. 464. See Bloodletting.
 CUPREOUS, VII. 590.—manganese, XV. 112.
 Cupressina, plants, V. 209.
 CUPRESSUS, genus of coniferous plants, VII. 590; V. 209.
 Cuprite, XV. 112.
 Cupriplumbite, XV. 117.
 Cupulifera, nat. order of plants, V. 208.
 Cupulisporgia, fossil sponges, XVII. 93.
 CURAÇOA, island, VII. 590.—a liqueur, IX. 760.
 Carassoes, buds, XVI. 758.
 CURATE, VII. 590; VIII. 743.
 CURATOR, VII. 590—of a university, 591.
 CURATORES, various kinds of, VII. 591.
 CURB, VII. 591—in building, V. 739—thence, in domestic animals, XXI. 559.
 Curby-hocked, XXI. 559.
 CURCUM, VII. 591.
 Curculio, genus of insects, IX. 130; XXI. 549.
 Curculionites, tribe of insects, IX. 138.
 CURCUMA, genus of plants, VII. 591; V. 211.
 CURD, VII. 591—management of, in cheese-making, 625.
 CURES, ancient town of Sabinum, VII. 591.
 CURETES, VII. 591, 422, 493, 615, VI. 46.
 Cureton (Rev. Mr), on the Epistles of Ignatius, XII. 360.—(Dr), palimpsests deciphered by, XVII. 210, 214.
 CUREUR, or Curfew, VII. 591.
 CURIA, VII. 591; XIX. 296, 316.
 CURIATI, VII. 592.
 Curlees, language of, XIII. 217.
 Curmatius, genus of fishes, XII. 246.
 CURIO, VII. 592.
 CURIOSI, VII. 592.
 CURISCHESS-HAFF, VII. 592; XVIII. 662, 676.
 CUREW, VII. 592; XVI. 802.
 CURLENG, VII. 592.
 CURLI, XVIII. 332, 333.
 CURM, ancient liquor, VII. 592.
 CURT (Mr John), his improvements in mining machinery, VII. 126—his ropes, XIX. 408, 410.
 Curragh of Kildare, XII. 81.
 CURRAH, in Hindustan, VII. 592.
 CURRAY (John Philpot), VII. 592.
 CURRANT, VII. 593; V. 194—culture of currants, XI. 717—in Greece, 16—in Ionian Islands, XII. 445, 453—value of the imports of, VIII. 734—raisins of, XVIII. 799.
 CURRENTY, VII. 593—suppression of small notes in 1826, V. 644—limit of depreciation in a gold or mixed, XV. 427—amount of gold and silver employed in the currency of Great Britain, XVIII. 465—of Chile, VI. 552; Canada, 155; South Australia, IV. 297; Victoria, 292; New South Wales, 285, Ireland, XII. 526; Cuba, VII. 567, France, X. 282; Norway, XVI. 328; Greece, XI. 15; the Two Sicilies, XX. 249; Spain, 491; Turkey, XXI. 384; Tuscany, 394. See Coin, Coinage, Commerce, Credit, Exchange, Numismatics, Money.
 CURRENT, VII. 593—marks made by currents on rocks, XV. 159—velocity of river currents, XVI. 78.—(electric), XXI. 100 and n. 1—intensity of, 622—direction of, 622—derived, 624—mutual action of, 639. See Electricity.
 CURRENTS of the ocean, VII. 593; XIV. 652, X. 433; XVII. 577—of the Mediterranean, XIV. 470—of the Firth of Forth, IX. 798—of the Straits of Gibraltar, X. 620—tide currents, XVI. 66—of the Pacific Ocean, XVII. 40—in the Polar Regions, XVIII. 176.

CUR-CUT

- CURRICULE, VII. 593.
 CURRICULUM, VII. 593—in universities, XXI. 475 et seq.
 CURRIE (James), M.D., VII. 593—on bathing, IV. 500 et seq—his acquaintance with Dr Brown, V. 688—his Lute of Burns, VI. 20.
 CURRIER, VII. 595. See Currying.
 Currica, genus of birds, XVI. 758.
 CURRY-COMB, VII. 595.
 Curry-powder, IX. 765—adulterations of, 770.
 CURRYING of leather, VII. 595, XIII. 309.
 CURSITOR, VII. 595—baron, ib.
 Cursoria, family of insects, IX. 155.
 Cursorius, genus of birds, XVI. 797.
 CURT (M.), his report on Cherbourg breakwater, V. 302.
 CURTAIN, in fortification, VII. 595.
 CURTEST, in Scotch law, VII. 595.
 Curtis (Dr), his letter to Duke of Wellington on Catholic emancipation, V. 654—(G. T.), on the American constitution, XXI. 735—(J.), his works on insects, IX. 14—on insects, 82, 86 et seq.—(Port), IV. 301.—(W.), his works on insects, IX. 6.
 CURTUS (Metius, or Metus), VII. 595.—(RUFUS QUINTUS), VII. 595—his account of the Amazons, II. 651.
 CURULE-CHAIR, VII. 596—curule magistrates, XIX. 316.
 CURVATURE, of a line, VII. 596—of the conic sections, 235—radius of, IX. 708—curvature of beams, XX. 762.
 Curved motion, VIII. 357 et seq.
 CURVES, in geometry, VII. 596—of equable approach, ib.—algebraical or geometrical, ib.; II. 545—transcendental or mechanical, VII. 596; II. 545—anachronical and synchrocal, in geology, XV. 170—caustic, VI. 344—involvement and evolution of, VIII. 359—determination of tangents to, IX. 701—generation of, by evolution, 706—contact of, 709—quadrature of, 731—rectification of, 733—determination of the equations to curves from the knowledge of their properties, X. 543; of their forms and properties from their equations, 545—deduction of properties of curves from their equations and known properties, 551—elastic, IV. 672—curves on the surface of a fluid in capillary tubes, VI. 214, 215—magnetic, XIV. 46.
 CURVEN (Mr), on the effects of the cottage-system in Ireland, VII. 431.
 CURZOLA, island, VII. 596.
 CURZON (Hon. Robert), his work on the Monasteries of the Levant, XIII. 384—on MSS. in Italian libraries, 416, 417.
 CUSA (Nicolo de), VII. 596—on geometry, X. 504—on the squaring of the circle, XX. 520.
 Cuscutaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 201.
 CUSU, VII. 596, VIII. 45.
 Cusbat, bird, VII. 798.
 CUSHION, in engraving, VII. 596; VIII. 802—in gilding, X. 625.
 CUSP, in astronomy, VII. 596—in astrology, ib.—in architecture, ib.; III. 508.
 CUSPIDIAN (John), VII. 596.
 Custard-apple, order of plants, V. 180.
 CUSTOM, in a legal sense, VII. 597—a source of law, XIII. 258—its influence on morals, 259; XV. 543—its influence in China, VI. 533.
 CUSTOM-HOUSE, VII. 597—fallacy of custom-house returns, 190, 192—London, XIII. 662.
 CUSTOMS, VII. 597—duties, XXI. 59, 62, 63—articles on which the customs are repealed, 62—not inconsistent with free-trade, ib.—amount of, in the port of London, XIII. 662—Consolidation Act, VIII. 737—of Scotland, XIX. 808.
 CUSCUS BRACHYOTUS—Rotulorum, VII. 597.
 Cutaneous affections, in domestic animals, XXI. 578.
 Cutbush's electrical lamp, VIII. 625.
 CUTCH, or Terra Japonica, VII. 597; VI. 382.

CUT—CUY

- CUTCH, in Hindustan, VII 597, XI 446, 449, 463.
 — GUNDATA, in Beloochistan, VII 599; IV 640, 641.
 CUTHAH, VII 599.
 Cuthbert (Mr), optician, XIV. 786—his microscope, ib.
 Cuthbert's (St), beads, XVII 98.
 Cuthbertson (Mr), his electrical apparatus for oxidating metals, VIII 593—his experiments with it, ib—his electrical kites, 608—his condenser of electricity, 614—his balance-electrometer, 620—his an-pump, XVIII 43.
 Cuthill (James), his work on the cultivation of the potato, II 316, n. 1.
 CUTICLE, VII 600, II 834, 836; XIII 303—of the mucous membrane, II 836—the seat of colour in the human species, VII 228—of plants, V 74—appendages of, ib—in the crustacea, VII 537.
 Cutler (Mr), his patent fire-place, XX 353.
 Cutlers, diseases of, XIV 442—Company and Feast, XX 97.
 CUTLEY, VII 600—of Sheffield, XX 96—Switzerland, 890—Namur, XV 772.
 Cutlu-Moses, VII 314, 316.
 CUTTACK, in Hindustan, VII 602; IV 651.
 CUTTER, VII 602, IV 800.
 CUTTERAH, in Bengal, VII 602.
 Cutting of diamonds, VIII 4, 813.
 — in horses, XXI 562.
 Cuttings, propagation by, XI 693, 694, 703; V 167; XVII 767.
 — in railways, &c., VII 324, 325, XVIII 759.
 Cutting's rope-machine, XIX 410.
 CUTTLE-FISH, VII 602, XV 398—fossil, XVII 113.
 CUTTS (John, Lord), VII 602.
 CUVETTES, in fortification, VII 602.
 CUVIER (G. Leopold-Christian-Frederic-Dagobert), VII 602—on Bonnet's definition of moral liberty, I 268—his method of estimating the relative proportions of the skull and face, II 80—his works on comparative anatomy, and on fossil bones, III 113—on the classification of animals, 173, 178, 183, 192—on the study of science by persons of rank in Britain, VI 350—on the character of Cavendish, 354, 355; and of Ray, XIV 125—his *Regne Animal*, 127—on Spix's craniological views, XVI 501—on birds, 729, 730—his merits as a zoologist, ib—on the differences between animals and plants, III 170—on the harmony of organs in animals, 172—the benefits he has conferred on natural history, 183—on living beings proceeding from others of the same kind, 175—his classification of arachnides, 367—on the infusoria, 194—on the progress of ichthyology, XII 204 and n. 2—on fishes, 204, 205 *et seq.*—his criticism on Gmelin's *Systema Naturæ*, X 685, XVI 729—on the scientific value of glass, III 198—on the mollusca, XV 319, 320 *et seq.*—on the annelides, XI 293, 294—on the teeth, XVI 408 *et seq.*—his system of odontology, 478; objections to it, 479, 480—on the plesiosaurus, XVII 146—on the restoration of extinct mammals from their osseous remains, 156, 157, 159, 160, 171—on Piny's *Natural History*, XVIII 11—on reptiles, XIX 15, 16, 23, 24 *et seq.*—on zoophytes, XXI 973 *et seq.*—his arrangement of intestinal worms, 981.
 — (Frederick), his amendment of the Linnæan system of zoology, III 182—on the teeth, XVI 409.
 — and Valenciennes, their joint work on fishes, XII 204, n. 2, 323.
 Cuvieria, genus of mollusks, XV 380.
 CUXHAVEN, in Germany, VII 606; XI 199.
 Cuyahoga, river, XVI 489.
 Cuyp (Albert), XIII 137. See Kuyp.

CUY—CYL

- Cuzco, in Peru, VII 606; XVII 470, 474, 592—temple of the sun at, 461.
 Cyam, crustacea, VII 542.
 Cyanic acid, VI 474.
 Cyanichthys, genus of fishes, XII 314.
 Cyanite, mineral, XV 86.
 Cyanogen, VI 473—specific gravity of, XII 89.
 Cyanogene, gas, XIV 438.
 CYANOMETER, VII 606, XVI 692, XIX 658.
 Cyanose, mineral, XV 97.
 Cyanuric acid, VI 474.
 Cyathaxomida, polypes, XXI 1005.
 Cyathophyllida, polypes, XXI 1005—fossil, XVII 98.
 Cyathophyllum, fossil corals, XVII 96.
 CYATHUS, ancient measure, VII 606.
 CYAXARES J., king of Media, VII 606, XIV 421, XVII 433.
 — II, Persian king, VII 606.
 CYBELE, VII 606.
 CYBELE, VII 606; I 457—her priests, VII 422.
 Cybium, genus of fishes, XII 296—fossil, 345.
 Cycaedaceæ, nat order of plants, V 210—in Africa, II 216—fossil, V 286, XVII 641.
 Cycas, genus of plants, V 210.
 CYCEN, VII 607.
 Cycilia, genus of fishes, XII 265.
 Cychnus, genus of insects, IX 96.
 CYCLOADES, islands, VII 607, XI 10, 13, 19.
 Cycladida, family of mollusks, XV 350, XVII 107.
 Cyclarthrus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 342.
 CYCLAS, VII 607.
 — genus of mollusks, XV 347, 350.
 CYCLE, VII 607; VI 664—of induction, VII 607, VI 81, 673—of the moon, VII 607; VI 81—solar, VII 607, VI 80—Druidical, VIII 186—Egyptian, 450, 451.
 Cyclica, genus of insects, IX 143.
 Cyclichthys, genus of fishes, XII 314.
 Cycidium, genus of animalcules, III 201.
 Cyclobranchiata, mollusks, XV 379—fossil, XVII 127.
 Cycloganoida, fossil fishes, XVII 126.
 CYCLOP, VII 607; I 555; X 545—first indicated by Galileo, VII 267; X 505—Pascal's solution of the problems relating to, XVII 324.
 — order of fishes, XII 216—fossil, 333, 345.
 Cycloidea, order of fossil fishes, XII 345, 346—acanthopterygei, 345—malacopterygei, 346.
 Cyclo-labridæ, or cyclo-labroids, fishes, XII 265, 266.
 Cyclomus, genus of insects, IX 139.
 Cyclones, or whirlwinds, XIV 649.
 CYCLOPEDIA, VII 607, VIII 634.
 CYCLOPEAN, VII 607, 420; III 432, 440; XI 21; XIX 642, XX 710.
 Cyclopoma, genus of fossil fishes, XII 343.
 CYCLOPS, VII 607—quadricornis, 543.
 Cyclopterus, genus of fishes, XII 306, 307.
 Cyclostoma, genus of mollusks, XV 375—fossil, XVII 11.
 Cyclostomata, polypes, XXI 1002.
 Cyclostomida, family of mollusks, XV 375.
 Cyclostyle, in architecture, III 508.
 Cyclusus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 347.
 CYDER, VII 607. See Cider.
 CYDAS, painter, VII 607.
 CYDUS, river, VII 607; VI 722.
 CYDONIA, VII 607, 41.
 — the quince, VII 607. See Quince.
 CYENUS, VII 607, XVI 815.
 — constellation, VII 607; IV 79.
 Cylas, genus of insects, IX 138.
 CYLINDER, in geometry, VII 607; X 540, 558—development of the curve surface of, 495—cylindric saws, XIX 678—cylinder valves of steam-engines, XX 581—sections and development of, in masonry, 727, 728—to find the lines

CYL—CYR

- when it is intersected by a portion of a cone, 731.
 Cynders, boring of, V 43—mensuration of, XIV 514—of steam-engines, XX 597 *et seq.*
 Cylindrical egg-end steam-boiler, XX 615—double-flue boiler, 616.
 CYLINDROID, VII 607.
 CYLLENE, VII 607, XI 11.
 Cylonia, genus of insects, IX 234.
 Cylon's conspiracy at Athens, IV 194.
 CYMA and Cymatium, in architecture, VII 607, III 468, 476, 508.
 Cymba, genus of mollusks, XV 364.
 CYMBAL, VII 607, XV 713.
 Cymburhynchus, genus of birds, XVI 757.
 Cymbulia, genus of mollusks, XV 360.
 Cyme, in botany, V 116.
 Cymindis, genus of birds, XVI 743.
 Cymophane, mineral, XV 87.
 Cymothoda, crustacea, VII 542.
 Cymri, XXI 635.
 CYMOGRUS, VII 607.
 CYNANCHE, disease, VII 607.
 CYNANCHUM, genus of plants, VII 608; V 189.
 CYNARA, genus of plants, VII 608, V 197. See Artichoke.
 Cynarocephala, sub-order of plants, V 197.
 CYNICS, VII 608.
 Cynips, genus of insects, IX 192.
 Cynoccephali, VII 589.
 Cynocephalus, genus of mammalia, XIV 141—dentition of, XVI 456.
 Cynodon, genus of fishes, XII 247.
 Cynogale, dentition of, XVI 460.
 CYNOPHONTIS, Grecian festival, VII 608.
 Cynopolis, ancient Egyptian city, III 238.
 Cynoptamus, genus of fishes, XII 247.
 CYNOSARGES, in ancient Athens, VII 608, IV 170.
 CYNOSCEPHALUS, mountains in Thessaly, VII 608.
 — battle of, XIX 312.
 CYNOSURA, VII 608.
 CYNOSURE, constellation, VII 608.
 CYNTHIA and Cynthius, VII 608.
 — genus of insects, IX 208.
 — genus of mollusks, XV 334, 333.
 CYNURIA, VII 608.
 Cyperaceæ, nat order of plants, V 215.
 CYPHONISUS, ancient mode of punishment, VII 608.
 Cypræa, genus of mollusks, XV 334.
 Cypræida, family of mollusks, XV 334—fossil, XVII 110.
 CYPRESS, VII 608, XVII 765; XI 748—specific gravity of the wood, XII 89—tribe of plants, V 209.
 CYPRIAN (Thasus Cocleius), VII 608.
 — belonging to Cyprus, VII 609.
 Cypriocardia, genus of mollusks, XV 350—fossil, XVII 107.
 Cyprina, genus of mollusks, XV 350—fossil, XVII 107.
 Cyprine, XV 85.
 Cyprinidae, or Cyprinoids, family of fishes, XII 256, 255—teeth of, XVI 425—kinds used for food, IX 764—Himalayan, XI 444.
 Cyprinodon, genus of fishes, XII 252.
 Cyprinodontæ, family of fossil fishes, XII 346.
 Cyprinodontida, family of fishes, XII 252.
 Cyprinoidæ, family of fossil fishes, XII 346.
 Cyprinus, genus of fishes, XII 257—angling for different kinds of, III 160, 161.
 Cypris, fossils, XVII 101—*C. ornata*, VII 543.
 CYPRUS, VII 609—taken by Selim II, XXI 369—coins of, XVI 377—wines, XXI 886.
 — Knights of, VII 610.
 CYPRILUS, father of Periander, VII 610, 368.
 — genus of birds, XVI 758.
 CYR (St), in France, VII 610.
 — (St), Gourvion, X 154, 178.
 Cyran (M. de St), on annuities, XII 400

CYR—DAC

- Cyrena, genus of mollusks, XV 350—fossils, VII 107.
 CYRENAICA, in Africa, VII 610.
 CYRENAICS, VII 610.
 CYRENE, VII 611, 610—dispute with Carthage, VI 261.
 CYRIL (St), bishop of Jerusalem, VII 611—Patriarch of Alexandria, VII 611—alphabet of, II 614.
 Cynillaceæ, nat order of plants, V 185.
 Cynillo (Dominique), his work on insects, IX 7.
 Cynillus Lucaris, Alexandrian MS presented to Charles I by, II 474.
 Cyrtandraceæ, nat order of plants, V 200.
 Cyrtia, fossil mollusks, XVII 103, 104.
 Cyrtoceras, fossil mollusks, XVII 112.
 Cytolites, mollusks, XV 375—fossil, XVII 109.
 Cyrtoma, genus of insects, IX 242.
 Cyrtoprostyle, in architecture, III 508.
 Cyrtostyle, in architecture, III 508.
 Cyrtus, genus of insects, IX 236.
 CYRUS, VII 611, XVII 434—his military achievements, III 622, 623—capture of Babylon by, IV 346—his treatment of Croesus, VII 507—his restoration of the Jews, XII 732, 767—his war with the Lydians, XIII 748—Xenophon's connection with, XXI 950.
 — the Second, VII 612—assistance from the Spartans in the expedition against Artaxerxes, XX 501.
 CYST, VII 613.
 CYSTIC, VII 613.
 Cystica, zoophytes, XXI 978, 976.
 Cysticercus, genus of zoophytes, XXI 974, 976, n. 1, 978.
 Cystidea, in botany, V 147.
 Cystiphyllida, polypes, XXI 1005.
 Cystiphyllum, fossil corals, XVII 97.
 Cystoidea, fossil echinoderms, XVII 99.
 Cystophora, dentition of, XVI 463.
 CYTHERA, island, VII 613; XII 454.
 Cythæa, genus of mollusks, XV 350—fossil, XVII 108.
 Cythaceæ, nat order of plants, V 209.
 Cytoblast, V 67, 73.
 CYXII, insects, IX 163.
 CZICZENA, VII 613.
 CZICIOUS, town of Mysia, VII 613, XV 751—coins of, XVI 374.
 CZAR, VII 613, XIX 524.
 CZASLAU, town in Bohemia, VII 613.
 CZEGLED, town in Hungary, VII 613.
 Czech language, IX 392.
 Czerny (Caspar), his works on insects, IX 24.
 — (George), XX 62.

D

- D, letter of the alphabet, VII 614—in abbreviations, II 18.
 Daa (Mr), on the languages of America, XIII 224.
 Dab, fish, IX 764.
 Dabod, in Nubia, temple at, XVI 349.
 Dacca, in Bengal, VII 614—muslin manufactures of, IV 650; VII 438, and n. 1; partly superseded by British goods, XI 460.
 — JELALPORE, VII 614, X 352.
 DACE, VII 615—angling for, III 161.
 Dacelo, genus of birds, XVI 773.
 DACIA, VII 615.
 Dacians, their wars with the Romans, XIX 340, 341—language, XIII 214.
 DACIER (André), VII 615.
 — (ANNE LEVYER), VII 615.
 Dacne, genus of insects, IX 115.
 Dacus, genus of birds, XVI 763.
 Dacotas, their belief as to a future state, II 681.
 DACTYL, VII 615; IX 770.
 Dactylethra, genus of reptiles, XIX 78.
 DACTYLIDÆ, VII 615, 498.
 DACTYLOMANTY, VII 615.
 Dactylobranchiata, order of mollusks, XV 334.
 DACTYLOLOGY, VII 616, 679.

DAC—DAL

- Dactylopterus, genus of fishes, XII 290, 292
 Dactylothe, genus of echinoderms, XXI 986
 Dacus, genus of insects, IX 255.
 Dado, VII 616; III 508.
 DADUCHI, priests of Ceres, VII 616.
 DADUR, in Beloochistan, VII 616
 DADALA, in Lycia, VII 616
 DADALUS, VII 616, 494; XIX 852.
 DÆMON, VII 616; III 310, X 450; I 459—of Socrates, XX 390
 DÆMONIAC, VII 617—Farmer on demoniacs, IX 483.
 Daendels (General), IV 496
 Daflia, genus of birds, XVI 818
 DAGHESTAN, in Asia, VII 619, VI 340, 342
 DAGO, island in the Baltic, VII 619.
 Dagobert, X. 6.
 DAGON, VII 619, 716.
 Daguerre (M.), his discoveries in photography, I 922; XVII 545, 546
 DAGUERREOTYPE, VII 619; I 922, 923, XVII 545, 546.
 DAHL (Michael), portrait painter, VII 619
 — (George), his works on insects, IX 13
 Dahlbom (A. G.), his works on insects, IX 17, 24.
 DAHLIA, VII 619—culture of, XI 753
 Dahlmann on Herodotus, XI 356
 DAHOMEY, in Africa, VII 619; II 227—tribes of, IX 352
 Dahshoor, pyramids of, VIII 502
 DAILLÉ (Jean), VII 620.
 — (M.), his edition of Scaligerana, II 738.
 DAIKIEL, Spanish town, VII 621
 Daimonnisoi, or Prince's islands, XVIII 518.
 Daines (Mr), his patent for preserving stone, cement, &c., XX 735
 DAIR, Japanese pontiff, VII 621
 DAIRY, VII 621—breeds of cattle, II 342—daimes in Cheshire, VI 529; in Argyleshire, III 627—in Denmark, VII 747—husbandry of Lombardy, XIII 651, 652—in Ireland, XII 618—Lanarkshire, XIII 175. See Butter, Cheese, Milk.
 DAIS, VII 626; VI 327.
 Daisy, as an edging, XI 748.
 Dajaus, genus of fishes, XII 291.
 Dalby (Mr), employed on the Ordnance survey, XXI 331.
 DALECARLIA, in Sweden, VII 626
 DALECHAMPS (Jacques), VII 626.
 D'ALEMBERT, VII 626 See Alembert
 DALGARNO (George), VII 626—author of the first English work on a manual alphabet for the blind, 618—his profound conclusion regarding the senses, I 248—works of, 285.
 Dahlbard on the resemblance between lightning and electricity, VII 582.
 Dahn, Swedish author, XIX 698.
 DALKERIE, VII 626.
 Dalkey island, VIII 215.
 Dallas (W. S.), his works on insects, IX 19.
 Dalman (John William), his works on insects, IX 13.
 DALMATIA, VII 626; IV 311, 309.
 Dalmatian alphabet, II 614.
 Dalriada, V. 375
 DALRY, in Ayrshire, VII 627.
 Dalrymple (Alex.), on the supposed southern continent, IV 252
 — (JAMES, Viscount Stair), VII 627—on the Canon Law, VI 181—on the reception of the doctrines of Spinoza and Hobbes, I 105, n. 4—his Physiologia Nova Experimentalis, 285.
 — (Sir DAVID), Lord Hailes, VII 633—on profane swearing in Scotland, VIII 249, n. 1—list of his works, VII 635, 636—on John Barclay, IV 439, 440, 441—his character of Malcolm III of Scotland, XIX 748; of David I, 732.
 — (Sir Hugh), VII 632.
 — (Sir James), VII 632.

DAL—DAN

- Dalrymple (Sir John), VII 631, 632.
 — (Thomas), M.D., VII 632.
 DALTON (John), LL.D., VII 637; I 933; XIV 259—his writings, I 934—his theory of hygrometry, ib—on the atmospheric gases, IV 180, 181; I 934—dew-point experiment, ib—on aurora borealis, IV 246, 248; XIV 14—on oxymurate of lime, IV 763—his atomic theory, VI 444; I 935, 936—on evaporation, IX 408 *et seq*—on heat, XI 268 *et seq*—on the elasticity of aeriform bodies, 270—on the laws of mixed gases, I 935; his mechanical ideas on this subject, ib—on the expansion of the gases by heat, ib; XI 268—his laws of chemical combination, I 936—reception of his views in England and France, 938—on the coefficients of expansion of gases, 957, n. 4—contrasted with Cavendish and Black, in his early circumstances, 933—his death and character, 939—on magnetism, XIV 12, 14, 55, 66—on latent heat, XX 555—on the elastic force of steam, 557, 558.
 Dalzell (Sir John G.), on holothuræ, XXI 985
 DALZIEL (General), V 423.
 — (Prof.), XXI 963.
 DAM, VII 638.
 DAMAGRAM, in Central Africa, VII 638.
 Damalis, Egyptian deity, XI 385.
 Daman, in zoology, XIV 199.
 DAMAR, Arabian town, VII 638.
 — a kind of resinous exudation from trees, VII 638—used by varnish-makers, XXI 526.
 DAMASCENUS (Johannes), VII 638.
 — (NICOLAUS), VII 638
 DAMASCUS, philosopher, VII 638
 DAMASCUS, VII 638; XX 901, 904—sword-blades of, VII 600—fine steel of, 641—gun-barrels, XI 97—occupied by Saladin, VIII 480; XVII 196, 197—taken by Es-Salih, VIII 483, by El-Mansoor, 484; by Ibrahim Pasha, 495—plain of, XX 903—pashalic of, 905—Jews, 909—manufactures of, XXI 833
 DAMASK, VII 641—a fine steel, ib—manufacture of, at Dunfermline, IX 545.
 DAMASKENING, VII 641.
 DAMADIN, in Hindustan, VII 641
 DAME, VII 641.
 DAMELOPRE, VII 641.
 DAMELGERT, in Africa, VII 641.
 DAMIANUS, martyr, VII 641, 423
 DAMIENS (Robert Francois), VII 641; X 36.
 DAMIETTA, town in Lower Egypt, VII 641; VIII 479, 483—taken by the crusaders, VII 526
 — branch of the Nile, VIII 426, 430.
 DAMN (Christian Tobias), VII 641.
 Damman (Adnan), VII 585.
 DAMMOODAH, river, VII 641
 DAMNII, VII 642; VI 64; XIX 742.
 DAMNONT, VII 642.
 Damocedes, Greek surgeon, XX 810.
 DAMOCLES, VII 642.
 Damoiseau (M.), geometer, I 828, 827.
 DAMON, VII 642
 Damourite, mineral, XV 78
 Damp See Damps
 DAMPER, VII 642.
 DAMPIER (William), VII 642—his discoveries in New Holland, IV 253, 254—his visit to Papua, 262—New Britain, 264—Bashee islands, 484; Guahan, XVIII 269.
 Dampierre (General), X 78 *et seq*.
 Dampness, its effect on the weight and dimensions of bodies, XII 186.
 Damps, in mining, VII 643, 124, 125, 671 See Fire-damp, Choke-damp.
 DAMSEL, VII 644
 DAN, VII 644; XVII 135.
 DANACE, ancient Persian coin, VII 644; VI 426
 DANAE, VII 644.
 DANAEAE, sub-order of ferns, V 316.
 Danaide wheel, XII 171
 DANAIDES, VII 644.

DAN—DAP

- Danaids, genus of insects, IX 207
 Danaite, XV 115
 DANATS, VII 644.
 Danby (Lord Treasurer), V 427.
 DANCE, or Dancing, VII 644—French Academy of, II 69—not practised in China, VI 581—ardently cultivated by the Cretans and Lacedæmonians, VII 495—Pyrrhic dance in Crete, ib—in Egypt, VIII 443—action of the muscles in, III 42
 DANCER (rope), VII 646, II 115
 — (Mr), his microscopic photographs, XIV 802, 745, XVII 552
 DANCES, stage See Ballet
 — country, VII 646
 DANCETTE, VII 646
 DANCING-GIRLS, VII 646—in Egypt, II 600; VII 448
 DANDELION, plant, VII 646; V 90, 113, 197.
 DANDINT, painters, VII 646.
 Dandolo (Count), on Lombardy, XIII 654 *et seq*
 — (ENRICO), doge of Venice, VII 646, 768
 Dane river, VI 529.
 DANDELIN, a tax, VII 646.
 Danes, character of the, VII 749—Alfred's wars with, II 480—their maritime expeditions, VII 738—massacre of, VIII 661—England conquered by, ib; VII 739—their invasions of England, VIII 657 *et seq*; of France, X 4 *et seq*, Ireland, XII 466, Scotland, XIX 745; and Britain, XX 118—their settlement at Waterford, XXI 768, 771—their north-west voyages, XVIII 169. See Denmark
 DANET (Peter), abbot, VII 646.
 Danforth's throstle, VII 444.
 Dangler, genus of fishes, XII 257.
 DANIEL the prophet, VII 646—his vision, VII 612
 — (GABRIEL), French historian, VII 647
 — (JOHN FREDERICK), VII 647—biographical notice of, I 984, n—his constant battery, ib; XXI 614, 615—on evaporation, IX 408, 412, 414—his hygrometer, XII 187—his pyrometer, XVIII 703—on the thermometer, XXI 223—his dissected battery, 613—on electro-magnetism, 639
 — (Mr), his classification of dogs, XI 763.
 — (SAMUEL), poet and historian, VII 647.
 — on carp fishing, III 160—on barbel fishing, 161.
 Danish succession, treaty of 1352, relating to, VII 744
 — balance, IV 385—ballads, 397—colonies in Greenland, XI 39—West India islands, XXI 837
 — language, VII 750; XIII 211—Bibles, IV 702.
 — Royal Society, VII 347.
 DANKALI, Abyssinian tribes, VII 647, II 121.
 DANNECKER (Johann Heinrich), sculptor, VII 647.
 Dannerora, mine of, VI 778; XX 862.
 DANTE (Alighieri), VII 647, XVII 522—Boccaccio's commentary on, IV 801, 802—Boticelli's illustrations of his Inferno, V 240—poetry of, XVIII 109—tomb, 812.
 DANTON (George-Jacques), French revolutionist, VII 649; X 86, 87
 DANTZIC, VII 652—corn trade of, 402—average prices and quality of its wheat, 402, 403—commerce of Denmark with, 739—siege of, in 1807, IX 829—granaries at, X 798—port of, XVIII 670, 676—siege of, by Gustavus Adolphus, XX 848—gulf of, XVIII 766.
 DANUBE, river, VII 652; IV 312, 516; IX 384; X 532; XII 10, XVII 605, 646; XIX 515; XXI 377—navigation of, IX 385; XVI 63—mouths of the, IV 742—operations on, between the Turks and Russians, XIX 501.

DAP—DAS

- Dapedius, genus of fossil fishes, XII 384; XVII 126
 DAPENT, VII 654
 DAPHNEPHORIA, Eretian festival, VII 655.
 DAPHNIS, VII 655
 Daphnomelus, VII 814
 Daphnusa, siege of, VII 318
 DAPIFER, VII 655
 Dapsa, genus of insects, IX 151.
 Daptrius, genus of birds, XVI 741.
 DARABJIRD, Persian town, VII 655.
 Dar-al-Baida, in Morocco, XV 596.
 DARAPT, in logic, VII 655
 D'ARBLAY (Madam), VII 655 See Burney (Frances).
 Darby (Mr), his iron bridge, V 363.
 — (Mr), on the valley of the Mississippi, XV 379.
 D'ARCIAC (M.), on the flora of Britain, V 231—on igneous rocks, XV 138—on the cretaceous rocks of the basin of the Seine, 210
 DARDANELLES, Straits of, VII 655; IV 740.
 DARDANUS, VII 655—city, ib
 Darent, river, XIII 65
 DARES, a Phrygian, VII 655.
 DARFUR, in Central Africa, VII 655, II 229
 DARIO, gold coin, VII 656, II 131, XVI 359
 DARIEN, Gulf of, VII 656.
 — Isthmus of, VII 656; XVII 226—proposed canal across, II 711
 — Scottish colony of, VII 656; V 444; VII 392; XII 818; XVII 340.
 DARIU, in logic, VII 660
 DARIUS, Persian kings of that name, VII 660 See Persia.
 — Codomanus, XVII 434—his defeat at Arbela, XIII 768—pursued by Alexander, ib—murdered by Bessus, ib
 — Hystaspis, XVII 434—his visit to Egypt, VIII 465—limbs of Persia, in the time of, XVII 419.
 — Nothus, VIII 466
 DARJEELING, in Hindustan, VII 660
 DARLING, Australian river, VII 660; IV 256; XV 697.
 — (Dr), on electro-biology, XX 441.
 — Downs, IV 282, 255
 — (Grace), IX 617
 — (Sir Ralph), governor of New South Wales, IV 273.
 DARLINGTON, in Durham, VII 660—“Hell-Kettles” near, VIII 287—and Stockton railway, I 884.
 Darnes, his attempt on the life of Louis Philippe, X 216
 DARMSTADT, German city, VII 660—roof of the Salle d'Exercice at, XIX 393.
 Darnel-grass, V 216.
 DARNETAL, French town, VII 660.
 Darnis, genus of insects, IX 170.
 Darnley jewel, XXI 415.
 — (Lord), husband of Queen Mary, VII 391; XIX 768—murder of, 785.
 DAROCA, Spanish town, VII 660.
 Dart, river, VII 763
 DARTFORD, in Kent, VII 660—population, XIII 67.
 DARTMOUTH, in Devonshire, VII 661—slates of, XV 199.
 DARU (Comte de), historian, VII 661.
 Darvill (Mr), on the race-horse, XI 640.
 Darveeshees, VIII 447.
 Darwin (Charles), on the geology of the Andes, II 670—on cleavage in rocks, XV 179—on foliation, 180—on coral reefs, 217, 218; XVII 583; XVIII 282; XXI 1003—on the parrot-fish, XVI 427—on volcanoes, XXI 604, 605, 606; his theory of, 608—his account of the island St Thomas, 544.
 — (ERASMUS), VII 661—Dr T. Brown's observations on his Zoonomia, I 410, V 683—on the earth-worm, XI 801—on the destruction of the planetary system, I 812.
 Dascillus, genus of insects, IX 107.
 Dasyllus, genus of fishes, XII 265.
 Dasmdia, zoophytes, XXI 1005.
 Dasyceus, genus of insects, IX 142.

DAS-DAV

- Dasydora, genus of insects, IX. 198.
 Dasydora, genus of insects, IX. 234.
 Dasyprocta, genus of mammalia, XIV. 189.
 Dasyptus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 191—teeth of, XVI. 440, 441.
 Dasys, genus of insects, IX. 111.
 Dasysurus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 175—dental system of, XVI. 447.
 DATA, in mathematics, VII. 662.
 DATE, VII. 662. See Calendar, Chronology, Epoch, Era.
 — fruit of the palm, VII. 662; V. 213.
 — sugar, XX. 796.
 Date-plum tree, XVII. 764.
 Date-tree, V. 83, 213—in Africa, II. 216—in Fezzan, IX. 531.
 DATHAN, VII. 662.
 Datholite, mineral, XV. 94.
 Datisceae, nat. order of plants, V. 205.
 DATISI, in logic, VII. 662.
 DATIVE, in grammar, VII. 662; X. 749.
 Datina, genus of fishes, XII. 277.
 Datnioides, genus of fishes, XII. 277.
 Datura stramonium, V. 202; XVII. 702—its poisonous properties, XIV. 438.
 DAUBENTON (Louis Jean Marie), VII. 662.
 Daubeny (Dr.), his geological account of Aetna, II. 192, 193—on the origin of volcanic action, XV. 192; XXI. 606.
 Dauber, in engraving, VIII. 803.
 Daubisson on hydraulics, XII. 112, 113, 121 *et seq.*
 Daudin on birds, XVI. 729—on reptiles, XIX. 33 *et seq.*
 DAUGHTER, VII. 663.
 DAULIS, ancient town of Phocis, VII. 663.
 Damm (General), XVIII. 653, 654.
 Daunan (M.), on the origin of printing, IV. 706.
 Dauney (William), ancient Scottish music published by, XX. 814.
 DAUPHIN, VII. 663—Latin classics for the use of. See Delphin.
 DAUPHINÉ, in France, VII. 663, X. 277.
 DAUTRA (Jean), French poet, VII. 663.
 Daura, province of Houssa, XI. 776.
 DAVENANT (John), English prelate, VII. 664.
 — (Dr Charles), VII. 664—on human mortality, XV. 601—on political economy, XVIII. 218.
 — (Sir William), poet, VII. 664; XV. 29; XVIII. 122, XXI. 170, 171—opera by, VIII. 161.
 DAVENTRY, in Northamptonshire, VII. 664; XVI. 297.
 DAVID, the Psalmist, VII. 664; XII. 767—Dr Chandler's Life of, VI. 418—psalms of, XII. 188; XVIII. 97, 679.
 — (Jacques-Louis), founder of the modern French school of painting, VII. 665; XVII. 76.
 — I., king of Scotland, XIX. 751.
 — II., king of Scotland, XIX. 756.
 DAVIDISTS, heretics, VII. 666.
 Davidowich (General), XV. 788.
 DAVID'S (St.), city in Pembrokeshire, VII. 665; XVII. 374.
 Davidson (Dr.), on the Pentateuch and canon, IV. 695, 697 *et seq.*
 — on the brachiopoda, XV. 336, 337, 338.
 — printer, XVIII. 538.
 Davidsonia, fossil molluska, XVII. 104.
 Davies (Griffith), his tables of life-contingencies, XII. 228; XII. 401, 403.
 — (John), his fire-escape, XIII. 438.
 — (Sir John), VII. 668.
 DAVILA (Arrigo Casterino), historian, VII. 666.
 Davine, mineral, XV. 73.
 Davis, bucanier, Easter Island supposed to have been discovered by, XVIII. 281.
 — (Capt.), VII. 642.
 — (John), navigator, VII. 666; X. 473; XI. 39; XVIII. 167—his quadrant, IV. 351.
 — (Mr.), his translations from the Chinese, VI. 577, 580.
 — (Sir John), XII. 430—quotation from his poem on the immortality of the soul, I. 253.

DAV-DEA

- DAVIS'S STRAITS, VII. 666, XVIII. 167, 168.
 Davison, his mode of seasoning timber, XX. 109, 170.
 DAVITS, VII. 668.
 Davoust (Marshal), X. 137, 139, 143—his occupation of Hamburg, XI. 199.
 DAVY (Sir Humphry), VII. 667—his early history and remarkable genius, I. 966—his first papers and experiments on nitrous oxide, 967—his removal to the Royal Institution, ib.—experiments on voltaic electricity, ib.—his Bakerian Lectures, 968—testimonies to his scientific character, ib., 969—his researches on chlorine and iodine, ib.—his extensive popularity, ib.—researches on flame, ib.—his modification of Lavoisier's theory of combustion, 971—his protectors for ships, ib.—as president of the Royal Society, ib.—death and philosophical character, ib.—practical nature of his inventions, 972—his connection with Faraday, 977—his opinion of Cavendish, 929—his reception of the atomic theory, 938—on alchemy, II. 452—his lectures on agriculture, 373—on gypsum as a manure, 415—on the composition of the atmosphere, IV. 180—his connection with Dr Beddoes, 566—his oxyhydrogen blowpipe, 794—his suggestion of an anæsthetic agent, VI. 681—on electrical light, VII. 547—on electro-magnetism, 532—on falling stars, IX. 479—on salmon fisheries, 609—his Salmonia, III. 164—on Benjamin Franklin, X. 294, n. 2—his safety-lamp, I. 969; VII. 124, 671—his account of the papyrus at Herculaneum, XI. 345, 346—on the influence of a vacuum on the electric spark, VIII. 545—his theory of electrical light, 547—on the pyro-electricity of tourmaline, 559—on the torpedo, 574—his theory of irrigation, XII. 622—on the combustion of fuel, X. 353; of gas, 424—on voltaic currents, producing caloric and luminous effects, XXI. 626—on the conducting power of metals, 622—on the chemical effects of voltaic electricity, 628.
 — (Dr John), on the torpedo, VIII. 574—on the salmonida, XII. 225, 238, 239, 330—on the Ioman islands, 445 *et seq.*—on the temperature at which fishes can live, 330.
 Davy's Sound, XI. 41.
 DAWES (Richard), VII. 673.
 — (Mr.), his eye-piece for examining the sun's disk, IV. 87—on the faculae of the sun, 88—on the ring of Saturn, 92—his catalogue of double stars, 95—his method of observing the magnitude of telescopic stars, 96.
 DAWLISH, in Devonshire, VII. 673.
 Dawson (J. F.), his work on British beetles, IX. 24.
 — (William), drilled turnips on his farm in 1764, II. 263—on the effects of lime and dung, 303.
 DAX, in France, VII. 673.
 DAX, VII. 673, VI. 75—English names of the days, 75; I. 453, n. 2—sidereal, IV. 23—civil, ib.—astronomical or solar, ib.—causes of variations in length of, 23—days of grace, IX. 443, 446, X. 741—Egyptian, VIII. 450—pagan deities from which named, I. 453, n. 2—table for ascertaining the number of days from any one day to any other day, XII. 433.
 — (John), printer, XVIII. 538.
 Day's paratropic lock, XIII. 543.
 Dayman (Lieut. Joseph), on deep-sea soundings in the Atlantic, XX. 26.
 DAYTON, city in the state of Ohio, VII. 673; XVI. 490.
 DAZE, any glittering mineral, VII. 673.
 DEACON, VII. 673; VIII. 743; IX. 280.
 DEACONESSE, VII. 673, VI. 641.
 Dead, respect for in China, VI. 571. See Death.
 Dead-letter office, XVIII. 408—returned or "dead letters," 413.

DEA-DEC

- Dead-escapement, VII. 8, XVII. 385.
 DEAD-LIGHTS, VII. 673—reckoning, ib., XVI. 25.
 Dead-nettle, order of plants, V. 202.
 — white, plant, V. 117, 124.
 Dead-point, in mechanics, XIV. 398, 399.
 DEAD-SEA, VII. 673, III. 760, XII. 735; XV. 145, XVII. 187, 189—its depression below the sea-level, 591—specific gravity of its waters, ib.; XII. 89. See Asphaltes.
 Deadly nightshade, XIV. 438.
 DEAF AND DUMB, VII. 674—J. C. Amman's mode of teaching the, II. 717—mode in which the blind communicate with, IV. 778—Condillac on their ideas, VII. 284—Dalgarno on the education of, 626—rights of the, XIV. 426—hearing-trumpet, XXI. 361—list of works on, VII. 683.
 Deafness, cases of, cured by glycerine, X. 685.
 DEAL, fir-plank, VII. 689—Norwegian deals, XVI. 328—measurement of deals, XXI. 280.
 — town in Kent, VII. 689—population, XIII. 67.
 Deal-fish, XII. 803.
 DEAN, VII. 689, VIII. 743—rural dean, VII. 689—deans in peculiar, ib.—dean and chapter, ib., VI. 417—of the Chapel-royal, VII. 689, VI. 416—of a monastery, VII. 689—of Guild, ib.; XI. 87—of the Faculty of Advocates, VII. 689; II. 158—in universities, XXI. 446, *et seq.*
 — Bridge, Edinburgh, VIII. 304.
 — Forest of, VII. 689, X. 680, 681—coal-field in, XV. 203.
 Deane (Sir Anthony), his improvements on ships, XVI. 93, 96; XX. 130.
 Deaneries, VIII. 743.
 Dearg (Lough), XII. 505.
 Death, XVII. 702—signs of, from drowning, VIII. 181—from laughter, 192, n. 1—cases of apparent, XIV. 429—signs of, ib.—medico-legal examination of a dead body, ib.—death from starvation, ib.; from extremes of temperature, 431; wounds, ib., poisons, 432—by asphyxia, 430; XVII. 703—by syncope, 702—by coma, ib.—in the sense in which it was incurred by Adam, XXI. 201.
 — black, pestilence in Greenland, XI. 39.
 Death's head moth, IX. 210—an enemy to bees, IV. 585.
 DEATH-WATCH, or Death-tick, VII. 689; IX. 112.
 Deaths, in England, in 1852, VIII. 756—annual, per cent, XV. 649—in Ireland, from 1841 to 1851, XII. 510—ratio of, in different countries and ages, XV. 650—dependence of births and marriages on the, XVIII. 348—registration of, 831—Scotland, XIX. 800—Switzerland, XX. 890.
 DEATHABLE LAND, VII. 689, 578.
 DEBENTURE, VII. 689—book, in book-keeping, V. 23.
 DEBRÉCOZY, Hungarian city, VII. 689.
 DEBRUIZED, in heraldry, VII. 689.
 Debt, imprisonment for, XII. 365-66, XVIII. 574.
 — NATIONAL, VII. 689; VIII. 751—funded and unfunded debt of the United Kingdom in 1854, 752—amount in each year since 1820, X. 342—managed by the Bank of England, XV. 473—Sir R. Walpole's plan for lessening it, V. 456—Pitt's plan of a sinking fund, 518, VII. 753—of Ireland, XII. 526—Dr Hamilton on, XI. 201—debt of different European States, IX. 398—of Spain, XX. 492—of the United States, XXI. 428.
 — Commissioners, payment of savings-banks to, XIX. 657, accounts and returns of, to, 669.
 Debtors, Roman law against, VI. 740, XIX. 301—inhibition of, XII. 381.
 DECADE, VII. 689.
 DECAGON, in geometry, VII. 689.

DEC-DEC

- DECALITRE, VII. 689; X. 234.
 DECALOGUE, VII. 689—the ten commandments not binding on Christians as commandments, I. 469, but as they are in themselves moral duties, ib.
 DECANDOLLE, VII. 689. See Candolle, De.
 DECANTATION, VII. 689.
 DECANTS, VII. 689.
 Decapoda, crustacea, VII. 540.
 — tube of mollusks, XV. 398, 399, 397.
 DECAPOLIS, VII. 689.
 DECAPROTI, VII. 689.
 DECASTYLE, in architecture, VII. 689; III. 508.
 Decay, of building stones, XX. 712.
 Decazes, X. 179, 180 *et seq.*
 DECCAN, in Hindustan, VII. 689, XI. 446, 449.
 Decebalus, VII. 615, XIX. 341.
 DECEMBER, VII. 690, VI. 77—gardening calendar for, XI. 761.
 DECEMBER, ancient measure, VII. 690.
 DECEMBER, Roman magistrates, VII. 690; XIX. 300.
 Decency, as an incentive to virtue, XV. 564.
 DECENNALIA, Roman festival, VII. 691.
 Decentius, VII. 303.
 DECHALES (C. F. Millet), VII. 691.
 Dechenite, mineral, XV. 106.
 DECIDUOUS, VII. 691, 698; V. 110.
 DECI, in astronomy, VII. 691.
 DECIMAL ARITHMETIC, VII. 691—introduction of, I. 551—fractions, III. 599, terminate, 600, approximate, 601, intermediate, 602.
 — COINAGE, VII. 691, XV. 430.
 DECIMALS, circulating, VII. 691.
 DECOMATION, VII. 691.
 Decomposer, or letter-opener's, department in the post-office, XVIII. 410.
 DECOMPOSING, VII. 691; VI. 728.
 Decisions, in law, XIII. 257.
 DECORI, Roman emperor, VII. 691; XIX. 248.
 — Mrs., Roman consul, VII. 691; XIX. 304.
 DECK of a ship, VII. 691, X. 189—flush-deck, VII. 691—half deck, ib.—sheer of, XX. 180.
 Decker (John), his work on anonymous books, IV. 711.
 — (Sir Mathew), on high duties, XXI. 71.
 — (Von), on war, XXI. 697.
 DECLAMATION, VII. 691—dramatic, XXI. 179.
 DECLARATOR, in Scots law, VII. 692; XIX. 811.
 Declension, in grammar, VII. 692. See Inflection.
 DECLINATION, VII. 692—in astronomy, ib.; IV. 2—table of the sun's, for every day of the year, 797—sun's, in nautical astronomy, XVI. 36—moon's, 37—of the compass, VII. 692, I. 990—of a plane or wall, in dialling, VII. 692, 783, 787.
 DECLINATOR, instrument used in dialling, VII. 692.
 DECOCTION, VII. 692.
 Decots, Indian robbers, XI. 520, 521.
 DECOLLATION, VII. 692.
 Decomposable and indecomposable bodies, XXI. 629.
 DECOMPOSITION, in chemistry, VII. 692—influence of electricity in, VIII. 693—modes of preserving articles of food from, IX. 766—of pressures, in statics, XX. 542—of building stone, 712—electro-chemical, XXI. 632—of water, by voltaic electricity, 628.
 DECOMORATION, in architecture, VII. 692; V. 757—of the Athenian buildings, IV. 187.
 DÉCOUPLÉ, in heraldry, VII. 692.
 Decoy, XX. 210, n.
 DECREMENT, VII. 692—laws of, in crystallization, 553, 554, 555.
 DECREPITATION, VII. 692.
 Decrepitude, XIV. 425.

DEC-DEG

- DECETAL, VII 692, VI 189; XXI 449.
 DECUMATES AGRI, VII 692.
 DECUPLE, VII 692.
 DECURLA, VII 692.
 DECURIO, Roman officer, VII 692; III 681.
 DECUSATION, in geometry, &c., VII 692.
 DEDICATION, VII 692.
 DEDITCH, VII 692, XIX 307.
 DEE, river in Cheshire, VII 692, 735; VI 529—tidal bore on, XVI 65—land reclaimed from, 83.
 — river in Kirkcudbrightshire, XIII 98, XIX 790.
 — river in Scotland, VII 692; XIX 794—experiments at, XVI 81.
 — (JOHN), mathematician, VII 693—on optical instruments, XVI 525.
 DEEDS, falsification of, XIV 427—registration of, XVIII 842.
 DEEG, in Hindustan, VII 693—battle of, XI 505.
 DEEMSTERS, judges in the Isle of Man, and in Jersey, VII 693—courts of, XIV 245.
 DEER, VII 693, XIV 205—as food, IX 762—dentition of, XVI 466, 467—fossil, XVII 170, 171—of Hindustan, XI 455—deer-hunting, XII 39, 40—of Java, 704—number of species, XVII 632—deer-stalking, XX 212 See Rein-deer.
 DEFAMATION, VII 693.
 DEFAULT, in law, VII 693.
 DEFLECTION, VII 693.
 DEFEND, VII 693.
 DEFENDER OF the Faith, VII 694; VIII 700.
 DEFENDERS, VII 694.
 DEFERENS, in astronomy, VII 694.
 DEFFAND (Madame du), on the origin of our knowledge, I 72—her remark on Gibbon, X 611, n. 1.
 DEFLADE, in fortification, IX 800.
 DEFINITION, in logic, VII 694, XIII 595—as analysed by German logicians, 595, n. 2—as making concepts distinct, ib.—hypothetical growth of, 596—different steps of, 597—division compared with, 598—the uses of predicables in, 599—logical foundation of, 600—rules for, ib., n.—known before Socrates, XX 398; his fondness for, 399.
 DEFINITIVE, VII 694—definitives, in grammar, X 749, 791.
 DEFLAGRATION, in chemistry, VII 694.
 DEFLAGRATOR, XXI 626.
 Deflecting forces, in dynamics, VIII 356.
 DEFLECTION of the rays of light, VII 694—of beams, XX 763.
 Deflection, signs of, XIV 428.
 DEFOS (Daniel), VII 694—his Review, XVI 189—on the fate of an impartial writer, 186, n.—his novels, XIX 270—Robinson Crusoe said to be founded on the adventures of Alexander Selkirk, XX 40, XIII 13—woollen manufactures of Halifax mentioned by, XXI 916.
 DEFOLIATION, VII 698, V 109—period of, in different places, 221.
 Defontaine (Mons.), on the velocity of the Rhine, XII 144.
 DEFORMITY, VII 698.
 Deffrance, fossil animals, XVII 98.
 DEFRIE'S gas-meter, X 423.
 DEGENERATION, VII 698.
 DEGERANDO (Marie Joseph), VII 699—on the Kantian schools of philosophy, I 200-1—his account of Gassendi, X 434, 435 *et seq.*
 Deglutition, XVII 659—of fishes, XII 221—in serpents, XIX 47.
 Dego, X 100.
 DEGRADATION, VII 699—of a knight, VI 628.
 Degradating, in the university of Cambridge, XXI 465.
 DEGREE, VII 700—of latitude and longitude, XII 685; X 480— in civil and canon law—in music, VII 700—
 — academical, VII 700; XXI 447, 450, 458, 463, 472, 484, 490

DEG-DEL

- Degree, measurement of, on the earth's surface, VII 700, 702, IX 548 *et seq.*, I 772, 836, 837, 853, 854.
 DEHISCENT, in botany, VII 700; V 135.
 Dehwars, IV 642.
 DEIFICATION, VII 700; III 307.
 DEINOCRATES, Macedonian architect, VII 700.
 DEIOCES, founder of the Median empire, VII 700.
 Deinornis, bird, XVII 694. See Dinornis.
 Deinotherium. See Dimotherium.
 DEIOTARUS, VII 700.
 DEIPNOSOPHISTS, VII 700, IV 159, II 476.
 Delirodon, genus of serpents, teeth of, XVI 431.
 DEISCAL, ancient ceremony, VII 700.
 DEISM, VII 701.
 DEIST, VII 701.
 DEITY, VII 701. See God.
 DEJANIRA, wife of Hercules, VII 701.
 Dejean (Le Compté), his works on coleoptera, IX 18.
 Deioces, XIV 421; XVII 434.
 Dekrunch, river, III 764.
 Delacroix, French painter, III 719.
 DELAGOA BAY, in Africa, VII 701.
 Delahire's pump, XII 177.
 DELAMBRE (J. Baptiste Joseph), VII 701—sketch of his life and scientific character, I 774, n. 1, 833, 836, 838—his measurement of a degree of latitude, 774, 836; and of the arc of the meridian of Paris, IX 551—prize awarded to, I 837—on the astronomical merits of Ptolemy, III 793; of Dominic Cassini, 803; and of Lalande, 806—on Lagrange, XIII 187—his astronomical labours, III 807—on the solar spots, IV 28—on dials, VII 778 *et seq.*—on the orbit of comets, 188—his table of the stations and retrogradations of the planets, IV 57—his analysis of Ptolemy's work on optics, XVI 521.
 Delamere, lake and forest, VI 529.
 Delarve (Prof.), on electricity, VIII 542, 580, n. 1, 552, n.—on the electricity of the solar rays, 570—on caustic curves, XVI 577, 578—his experiments in voltaic electricity, XXI 623, 626, 631, 640—on the chemical effects of voltaic electricity, 628; therapeutic effects of, 635; law of the propagation of, 623, 624—voltaic gilding and silver plating due to, 637.
 De la Rue. (See Rue, Warren de la.)
 Delaporte (T. L. de Castellan), his entomological works, IX 18.
 Delaroche, French painter, III 719; XVII 85—
 — on heat, XI 266, 273; I 954—his formula of the relation between the pressure and temperature of steam, XX 565.
 Delarue (M.), his reflecting telescopes, XXI 128. See Rue (Warren de la).
 Delasone, his anatomical researches, II 784—on cartilage, 831.
 Delator's hive, III 295.
 Delaval on electricity, VIII 529.
 Delavigne, poetry of, XVIII 117.
 DELAWARE, state, VII 703; XXI 419—colonization of, 433—wine of, 888—
 — river and bay, VII 704; XVI 175; XVII 395, 509, 510, 646—bridge over the river, I 876.
 — Indians, II 680.
 Delesse (M.), on igneous rocks, XV 138.
 Delessite, mineral, XV 78.
 DELSTERIOUS, VII 704.
 Delenze (M.), his work on animal magnetism, XX 416, 425 *et seq.*
 DELFICO (Melchior), VII 704.
 DELFT, VII 705—ware, ib.; XVIII 443.
 Delgado, Cape, XV 669.
 DELHI, in Hindustan, VII 706; XVI 801; XI 463, 479, 481—siege of in 1804, by Holkar, 505—city sacked by Nadir Shah, XI 480—outbreak of the Sepoy mutiny at, XVI 303—siege and capture of, 304, 305—king of, 305.

DEL-DEM

- DELLA, ancient festival, VII 707—
 — surname of Diana, VII 707.
 DELIACAL PROBLEM, VII 707.
 DELLIE (Jacques), poet, VII 707—
 — (J.), blind author, IV 778.
 DELIQUESCENCE, VII 708.
 DELIQUITUM, in chemistry, VII 708.
 DELIRIUM, VII 708—tremens, XIV 530. See Mental Diseases.
 Delisle, his astronomical labours, III 806—his thermometer, IV 457.
 Delitzsch (F.), XVII 533.
 Delium, battle of, XX 375.
 Dellagana (Messrs), their method of stereotyping, XVIII 551.
 DELLAMCOTTA, fortress in Hindustan, VII 708.
 DELOS, island, VII 708—amphictyony of, II 729.
 Delphax, genus of insects, IX 169.
 DELPHI, VII 709—amphictyony of, II 727—oracle of, XVI 698.
 DELPHIC edition of the classics, VII 710; IV 711; XI 794.
 Delphinapterus, genus of mammalia, XIV 229.
 DELPHINIA, ancient feasts, VII 710.
 Delphinia, in zoology, XIV 220.
 Delphinium, genus of plants, V 180.
 Delphinorhynchus, genus of mammalia, XIV 221.
 DELPHINUS, a constellation, VII 710; IV 80—
 — genus of mammalia, XIV 222. See Dolphin.
 DELPHOS, Greek village, VII 710.
 DELTA of Egypt, VII 710; VIII 421—towns in, 497.
 — of the Danube, VII 654—of the Mississippi, XV 279; XVI 86—Indus, XX 304—formation of deltas, XVI 88, XVII 586; XV 140, 141—
 — steam-vessel, XX 164, 668.
 DELTOD, VII 710—muscle, III 38—leaf, V 91.
 Deltoides, section of insects, IX 216.
 Deluc. See Luc (De).
 DELUGE, VII 710—dates of deluges, VI 677—Hindu traditions respecting the, XV 761. See Antediluvians, Deucalion, Noah.
 Delundung, in zoology, XIV 166.
 Delvauxine, mineral, XV 101.
 Delves (Joseph), his microscopic photographs, XIV 801.
 DELVINO, Turkish village, VII 724.
 DEMADES, Athenian orator, VII 724.
 DEMBEA, lake of Abyssinia, VII 724; II 55, 215.
 Demembration, crime of, XIV 438.
 DEMENTIA, VII 724, XIV 529, 534, 428.
 DEMERRARA, VII 724; XI 81.
 — river, XI 81.
 DEMESNE, or demain, VII 724.
 DEMETER, name of Ceres, VII 724; VI 387; I 457—mysteries of, XV 753.
 DEMETRIA, ancient festival, VII 724.
 Demetrius, genus of insects, IX 82.
 DEMETRITUS POLIORHETES, VII 724; IV 172, XIII 775—
 — king of Antioch, III 273.
 — I Soter, VII 724.
 — II Nicator, VII 724.
 — Phalaricus, VII 724; IV 172; XVII 518; XIX 839.
 — a cynic philosopher, VII 725.
 — of Skepsis, on the site of Troy, XXI 356, 358.
 DEMI, VII 725—George, in fortification, 725—Quaver—Semiquaver, ib.
 DEMI ATTIC, VII 725, IV 193.
 Demidoff mines of platina, XV 236.
 DEMIGONS, VII 725—reign of the demigods in Egypt, XV 765.
 Demilune, in fortification, IX 818.
 DEMISE, VII 725.
 DEMIURGE, VII 725; X 687, 688, 689, XIV 299.
 DEMIURGUS, chief magistrate in ancient Greece, VII 725.
 DEMMIN, town of Prussia, VII 725.
 DEMOCRACY, VII 725; X 733, 735—Aristotle on, III 568—at Athens, IV 193,

DEM-DEN

- 207, 212—Plato's views of, XVII 810, 811—Tocqueville on that of America, XXI 299.
 DEMOCRITUS, VII 725; X 498—on the moon's spots, I 568—his atomic theory, III 308—said to have put out his eyes, IV 779—works on his doctrines, VII 726—his knowledge of medicine, XX 810.
 DEMOGORGON, VII 726.
 DEMORVRE (Abraham), VII 726—on the calculus of signs, II 556, 561—on life assurance, XII 397—on annuities, III 220; XV 600—on equations, IX 299, 306—on probability, XVIII 539.
 DEMON, VII 726. See Demon.
 Demonology, III 310 *et seq.*—Sir Walter Scott's work on, XIX 823.
 Demonomania, XIV 638.
 DEMONSTRATION, in logic, VII 726—Aristotle on, III 554—evidence of, IX 416.
 Demonstrative metaphysics, XIV 603.
 DEMONTE, Italian town, VII 726.
 De Morgan (Mr). See Morgan (Mr De).
 DEMOSTHENES, orator, VII 726—his exertions against Philip, XIII 765—oration of Hyperides against, XIII 192—
 — lantern of, III 442, 462; IV 164—
 — Athenian commander, IV 206.
 DEMOTIC characters, VII 729, XI 372—system of writing, 369, 371, 429; VIII 441—Dr Brugsch on, XI 371, n. 7, 377, n. 3, 430, 409, 431. See Enchorial.
 DEMOTICA, Turkish town, VII 729.
 DEMSTER (Thomas), VII 729—on Etruria, IX 356, 361, 371.
 — OF COURT, VII 734.
 DEMSTER, or deemster, VII 734, 693.
 DEMULCENTS, in medicine, VII 734.
 DEMURRAGE, in commerce, VII 734.
 DEMURRER, in law, VII 734; VIII 789.
 DEMY, VII 734; XXI 456.
 DENAIN, French village, VII 734.
 DENARIUS, Roman coin, VII 734, 67; XV 432; XVI 383.
 Denary numerals, history of, III 579; I 703.
 DENBIGH, in Wales, VII 734, 736.
 DENBIGHSHIRE, VII 735—grits of, XV 197—sandstones and flags, 198—population and value of property, VII 754.
 DENDERAE, in Egypt, VII 736; VIII 505—temple of, ib.; to whom dedicated, XI 884 and n. 11.
 DENDERMONDE, town in Belgium, VII 736.
 Dendoor, remains of the temple of, XVI 349.
 Dendraspis, genus of reptiles, XIX 64.
 Dendroperion, fossil reptiles, XVII 136.
 Dendrites, formation of, VII 550.
 DENDROCT, VII 736.
 Dendroclaptes, genus of birds, XVI 768.
 Dendrodonts, fossil fishes, odontology of, XVI 413, 428.
 Dendrodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 337; XVII 124—tooth of, XVI 413.
 Dendrodus, genus of insects, IX 133.
 DENDROMETER, VII 736.
 Dendrophagus, genus of insects, IX 143.
 Dendrophus, genus of serpents, XIX 57.
 DENDROPHOBIA, religious ceremony, VII 736.
 Dendropupa, fossil mollusks, XVII 111.
 DENBE, Arabian town, VII 736.
 DENHAM (Sir John), VII 736; XXI 935—character of his poetry, XVII 132.
 — (Major), VI 752—on Fezzan, IX 523—his visit to Mandara, XIV 261—his discoveries in Africa, II 210; X 477—his notices of Bornou, V 50, 51, 53.
 Denholm Hill quarry, fossils of, XIX 453.
 DENTER, coin, VII 737, XVI 386.
 DENINA (C. Giovanni Maria), VII 737.
 Denis (P. S.), his analysis of the serum of blood, II 781.
 — on the Zaluzki library, XIII 426, n. 2.
 — (St), French town, VII 738.
 — (Mons.), his classification of books, IV 715—his introduction to bibliography, 716.
 — (Madame), and Voltaire, XXI 661.

DEN—DEO

- Denison (E. B.), on clocks and watches, VII 2, 11 *et seq.*—his clock escapement, 11—his gravity escapement, 14—his lock, XIII 542—on locks, 535 *et seq.*—his spring remontoire, VII 21—his sundial, VIII 37.
- Denison (Sir William), governor of Tasmania, XXI 32.
- DENZEX, in law, VII 738.
- DENMAN (Thomas, Lord), VII 738.
- DENMARK, VII 738; IX 402—Royal Academy of Sciences, II 66, VII 347—colonies, II 708; VII 149; XI 39—army of, III 650—British operations against, in 1801, V 500, 501; XVI 136, 137—seizure of fleet by the British, in 1807, V 602, 603; X 148—united with Norway and Sweden under one sovereign, XVI 317—separation of Norway from, V 614, 615; XVI 318—corn imported into Britain from, VII 399, 400—Jews in, XII 783—libraries of, XIII 426—coins of, XV 441, 443; XVI 389—colonies in Greenland, XI 39—connection with Iceland, XII 197—monarchy of, XV 413—newspapers of, XVI 202—postal system, XVIII 424—Insurance Society of, XII 413—proportion of insane, XIV 536—the Reformation in, XVIII 827—modern literature of, XIX 691—navy, XX 138—wars with Sweden, 845 *et seq.*; V 530—weights and measures, XXI 810—map of, VII Plate See Danes, Danish.
- Dennet's rocket apparatus, XIII 445.
- DENVIS, or Dionysius, the Little. See Dionysius the Little.
- (George), his work on Etruria, IX 361.
- (John), critic, VII 751—on Addison's Cato, VIII 151.
- Denny (Henry), his works on insects, IX 21.
- Dennys (John), his work on angling, III 162.
- DENOMINATOR, VII 751; III 597; II 492.
- Denon, on Cleopatra's Needles, II 472—on the ruins of Thebes, III 495, and the Egyptian pyramids, 436.
- DENSITT, VII 751—of the earth, I 334—Cavendish's experiments on, ib.; VI 353—of the atmosphere, IV 178; XVIII 27, 52—instrument for measuring, III 890—of metals, VI 482—of saturated steam, XX 563, 571.
- Dent, in Yorkshire, XXI 956, 958.
- (Mr), on clocks and watches, VII 7 *et seq.*—his mercurial pendulum, ib.—his Royal Exchange clock, 19—his Great Exhibition clock, ib.—his spring remontoire, 21—electrical dial, 26—his self-acting electrical clock, 27—compensation balance, 31—prismatic balance, ib.—his improvements on the dipeidoscope, VIII 37.
- DENTAL, VII 751.
- tubes, XVII 653.
- Dentalia, fossil shells, XVII 94.
- Dentalium, genus of annelides, XI 296.
- genus of mollusks, XV 373.
- DENTATUS (Curius), VII 751; XIX 306.
- Denter, genus of fishes, XII 287—fossil, 343.
- Denticura, section of insects, IX 103.
- DENTIFRICE, VII 751.
- DENTIS, VII 751; III 503.
- Dentine, XVI 407, 410.
- Dentirostra, tribe of birds, XVI 747.
- Dentists, XIV 464—ivory used by, XII 664.
- DENTITION, VII 751—in man, III 26—in the lower animals, 105, 106. See Odontology, Teeth.
- D'ENTRECASTEAUX's Channel, VII 751; IV 261.
- discoveries in Australasia, IV 253, 258, 264.
- Denudation, in geology, XV 181.
- DENUNCIATION, VII 751.
- DROBSTRUENTS, in pharmacy, VII 751.
- DRODAND, VII 751.
- Deodar Cedar, V 209; XVII 760—as timber, XXI 278.

DEO—DER

- Deodhura, town in Hindustan, VII 752.
- Deodorizers, XIX 621.
- Deodunga, highest known peak of the Himalayas, XVII 593, 643.
- Deodhi, river in Oude, XVII 15.
- DEONELLA, in Hindustan, VII 752.
- Deontology, XV 536 and n. 2; I 300—medical, XIV 464—Bentham's work on, I 300, 303.
- Deparcieux (M.), on probabilities of life, III 221; XII 398—his arcometer, III 391—on overshot-wheels, XII 168—on mortality, XV 601, 632.
- Dependence, feeling of, XIV 620.
- DEPHLEGMATISM, VII 752.
- DEPHLOGISTICATED, VII 752.
- air, VII 752 See Oxygen gas.
- Depilation, XIII 306.
- DEPLATORY, VII 752.
- Depolarization of light, I 908, 909; XVI 648—of heat, I 957; XI 267.
- DEPONENT, in grammar and in law, VII 752.
- DEPOSITION, VII 752.
- Deposits, bank of, XV 450—interest on, 451; none allowed by the Bank of England, 473—dangers incident to the system, 451—in Scotch banks, 484.
- Depressa, section of insects, IX 104.
- DEPRESSION of the Pole, VII 752—of a star—of the visible horizon, ib.
- DEPRIVATION, in law, VII 752. See Degradation.
- DEPTFORD, in Kent, VII 752, XIII 67—dock and victualling yards of, VIII 80.
- DEPRATION, VII 752.
- DEPUTATION, VII 753.
- DEPUTY, VII 753—French Chamber of Deputies, X 273.
- DERA GHAZEE KHAN, in Afghanistan, VII 753.
- ISMAIL KHAN, in Afghanistan, VII 753.
- Derangement, Mental. See Mental Diseases.
- Derayah, III 343, 344—captured by the Turks, 366—destroyed by Ibrahim Pasha, VIII 494.
- Derbe, genus of insects, IX 169.
- DERBEND, or Derbent, Russian town, VII 753—province, XIX 551, 521.
- DERBY, VII 753—porcelain factory at, XVIII 437.
- (Earl of), king of Man, XIV 248.
- (Lord), prime minister, V 672.
- DERBYSHIRE, VII 753—population and value of property, VIII 754—lace manufacture in, XIII 145—caverns in, XI 71—its bricks, V 346—upper carboniferous rocks of, XV 203—lead mines of, 245; yield of, in 1854, 246.
- DERCETIS, Syrian goddess, VII 756; IV 157.
- genus of fossil fishes, XII 338.
- DEREHAM, East, in Norfolk, VII 756; XVI 289.
- DERELICTS, in civil law, VII 756.
- Derevaragh (Lough), XXI 838—a kind of fish found in, 840.
- DERG (Lough), VII 756; VIII 104; XII 605; VI 753; XX 92.
- DERHAM (William), D.D., VII 756—Lord Woodhouselee's edition of his Physico-theology, XXI 412.
- DERIVATIVE, in grammar, VII 756.
- Dermafin, mineral, XV 84.
- Dermestes, genus of insects, IX 115; XXI 549.
- Dermestini, tribe of insects, IX 115.
- Dermoptera, or dermopterous fishes, XII 227.
- Dermot, king of Leinster, XII 467.
- Deroot-esh-Sherief, VIII 305.
- Derr, temple of, XVI 349.
- Derraiyeh, III 343. See Derayah.
- Derrick's table of the dimensions for building ships, XX 132.
- Derry See Londonderry.
- Dervis, or Dervish, VII 757; XV 304. See Fakir.
- Derwent, river, Cumberland, VII 757, 876.
- Derbyshire, VII 754.

DER—DES

- Derwent, Yorkshire, XXI 957.
- DERWINTWATER, VII 757, 578.
- Earl of, his rebellion, V 454—his execution, 455.
- DESAIGUILLES (Jean Theophile), D.D., VII 757—his contributions to electricity, I 733—his theory of evaporation, IX 407—his account of Newcomen, Cawley, and Beighton's improvements on the steam-engine, XX 575—steam-boiler figured by, 586.
- Desains on the polarization of heat, XVI 633.
- DESAIX DE VORGOUX (L. C. Antoine), VII 757; X 102—in Egypt, VIII 488, V 574—his death at Marengo, X 119.
- DESAULT (Pierre Joseph), VII 757—his connection with Bichat, IV 717—his surgical improvements, XX 818.
- DESCART, in music, VII 758.
- DESCARTES, VII 758 See Cartes, Des.
- DESCENSION, in astronomy, VII 758.
- DESCENT, VII 758—of dignities—of genealogy, ib.
- Deschamps (Bernard), his work on the wings of Lepidoptera, IX 18.
- Desclouseaux (M.), on biaxial crystals, XVI 654, 655.
- Desclouze, mineral, XV 106.
- Description, historical, XI 547.
- DESERT, VII 758; XVII 614—of Egypt, VIII 423, 514, 515—of Gobi, III 732—botanical region, V 228; XVII 628 See Sahara.
- Desertas, islands near Madera, XIII 729.
- Desertion, as a ground of divorce, XII 54—of sailors, during war, XIII 288.
- Desèze, X 74, 75.
- DESHACHE, in heraldry, VII 758.
- Desiccation, seasoning timber by, XX 169, 170.
- DESIDERATUM, VII 758.
- Desideri, his geographical discoveries in Asia, III 754.
- Desiderius, king of the Longobards, XII 643.
- DESIGN, VII 758—in manufactures—in painting—in music, ib—in architecture, III 509, 492—argument for the existence of God from, XXI 187.
- schools of, VII 758, XXI 323—in Edinburgh, VIII 396—in Belgium, IV 622.
- DESIGNATION, VII 758.
- DESIGNATOR, VII 758.
- Desirade, island, XI 72.
- DESIRS, XIV 579, XIX 112, 116.
- Deslongchamps (Eudes), on asterias, XXI 994.
- Desmarest on the mammalia, XIV 130—on birds, XVI 730.
- Desmarts (Téléphe), his work on entomology, IX 24.
- Desmidiaceae, different views as to their nature, III 206, n. 2.
- Desmidiaceae, plants, V 218.
- Desmine, mineral, XV 76.
- Desmodus, skull and teeth of, XVI 452.
- Desmond, Irish family, XII 473; XIII 72, 75; XV 686—rebellion and defeat of, XII 477.
- Desmoulins (A.), his division of the indigenous Americans, II 676.
- (CAMILLE BENOÎT), VII 759, 651; X 71—his execution, 85—extract from his *Vieux Cordeliers*, 86, n.
- DESNA, Russian river, VII 759; XIX 515.
- Desolation (island of), IV 268, XIII 71.
- Desor (M.), his arrangement of echinulides, XXI 991.
- Desormes (M.), on evaporation, IX 408.
- Despard (Colonel), executed for high treason, V 592.
- Despenser (Hugh le), VIII 681.
- DESPOI, VII 759.
- DESPOTICAL, VII 759.
- Despotism, X 733—in Asia, III 750; Burmah, V 780, Dahomey, VII 620, Persia, XVII 426; Siam, XX 238—in Sweden, 557.
- Despoto-Dagh, mountain, XXI 376.
- DESPOUILLE, in heraldry, VII 759.
- DESPREAUX, VII 759. See Boileau.

DES—DEV

- Despretz on the power of conducting heat in different bodies, XI 261.
- Desaigues on the phosphorescent effects of electricity, VIII 598.
- DESSAIX. See Desaix.
- Dessalines, governor of Hayti, XI 257.
- DESSAU, German city, VII 758.
- DESSERT, VII 759.
- DESTINY, VII 759 See Fate.
- Destouches (M.), comedy by, I 250, and n.
- Destructiveness, XVII 562.
- DESUITOR, VII 759.
- Desvauxiaceae, nat. order of plants, V 215.
- Detail, in architecture, III 509.
- Deterioration of domesticated animals, III 182.
- DETERMINE problem, VII 760.
- SECTION, VII 760.
- DETERMINATION, in mechanics, VII 760—in logic, XIII 572.
- Determinatives, in Egyptian language, XI 419, 420, 423, 424.
- DETINUE, in law, VII 760.
- DETMOULD, German city, VII 760.
- DETONATION, in chemistry, VII 760.
- DETRANCHE, in heraldry, VII 760.
- DETROUT, VII 760.
- DETROUT, in United States, VII 760, XIV 740.
- Fort, taken by the British in 1814, V 616.
- river, VI 137.
- Detrusion, I 875.
- Dettingen, battle of, V 459.
- DEUCALIONIS OCEANUS, VII 760.
- DEUTALION, VII 760, 710, 712.
- DEUX, Roman weight, VII 761.
- DEUTEROCANONICAL, VII 761.
- DEUTERONOMY, VII 761; XVII 400, 402.
- DEUTEROPOTMI, VII 761.
- DEUTEROSIS, VII 761.
- Deutz, an adventurer, X 207.
- DEUX PONTS, VII 761.
- DEVA, VII 761.
- DEVAPRAYAGA, in Hindustan, VII 761.
- Devano, genus of fishes, XII 257.
- Development, construction of maps by, X 492, 498.
- Devenish island, IX 514.
- DEVENTER, town in Holland, VII 761.
- DEVREUX (Robert), earl of Essex, VII 761; VIII 713, 714.
- Deversours, XII 121.
- Deviations in the course of projectiles, XI 116, 127.
- DEVIC, in heraldry, VII 762—devices on coins, XVI 354, 381.
- DEVICOTTA, town in India, VII 762.
- DEVIL, VII 762—Bougeant's notion that beasts are animated by devils, V 700, 701—Luther's alterations with, III 812—notion of, by the Scandinavians, XV 767. See Demon, Dæmoniac, Demonology, Satan, Witch.
- Devil's Bridge, in Wales, VI 233.
- Devile (Mr), his collection of skulls, XVII 563.
- Devillers (M.), his works on insects, IX 21.
- DEVINGTIO, VII 762.
- DLVISE, in law, VII 762.
- DEVIZES, in Wiltshire, VII 762; XXI 879.
- Devon ironworks, VI 750.
- rivers, VI 749.
- Devonian period, in geology, XV 199—fishes of, XII 343, 349, 350, 351; XVII 117 *et seq.*, 640—mollusca of, XV 403, XVII 103—corals, 96—rocks in Germany, X 584, in New York, XVI 215—in Orkney, 719—ichthyodermatites of, XVII 117—fossils, 98 *et seq.*—in Russia, XIX 517—rocks in Scotland, 791, 793—in Spain, XX 485.
- DEVONPORT, VII 762; XVIII 20.
- DEVONSHIRE, VII 762—cattle of, II 341—small field enclosures in, 269, n.—population and value of property, VIII 754—rocks of, XV 199, 201, 204—irrigation in, XII 614—arsenic from, XV 246—fisheries, IX 643, 648, 649—pauperism in, XVIII 304, n. 2—woollen manufactures, XXI 914.

DEV—DIA

Devonshire, Duke of. See Cavendish (Wm.).
 Devotion, VII. 764—a principal feature in the character of chivalry, VI. 608.
 Dew, VII. 765; XIV. 653—dew-point, IX. 411; XIV. 653; VI. 464—in Foxfarshire, IX. 782—at Funchal, IV. 184—Dalton's experiment on the dew-point, I. 934—dew-point hygrometer, 935—Dr Wells on, 954, VII. 770, XI. 265; XIV. 653—dew-retting of hemp and flax; see these articles. See Evaporation.
 DEWAR, town in Hindustan, VII. 770.
 Deweyite, mineral, XV. 80.
 De Winter (Admiral), his engagement with the British fleet at Camperdown, V. 561; VIII. 263, X. 107.
 DE WITT (John), VII. 770, V. 423—on life-annuities, III. 220—his intimacy with Sir William Temple, XXI. 149.
 Dewrance (John), his improvement of steam-engine valves, XX. 586.
 DEWSBURY, in Yorkshire, VII. 771; XXI. 958.
 Dexia, genus of insects, IX. 249.
 Dextranes, architect, II. 469.
 DEXTANS, Roman weight, VII. 771.
 DEXTER, in heraldry, VII. 771.
 DEXTRENE, VII. 771; V. 320; IX. 756; II. 380; VIII. 48—optical properties of, XVI. 539, 681—mode of procuring, 681, n. 1.
 DEXTROCHERE, in heraldry, VII. 771.
 DEY of Algiers, VII. 771.
 DEYNSE, town of Belgium, VII. 771.
 DEYZRAI, town in Hindustan, VII. 771.
 Dezima, island, XV. 770.
 DEZPHOUR, Persian town, VII. 771.
 DEAR, in Hindustan, VII. 771.
 Dhawalagiri, one of the Himalayas, XI. 441.
 DHARWAR, in Hindustan, VII. 771.
 Dhenwars of Nepal, XVI. 144.
 Dheras, class of people in Gujerat, XI. 92.
 DHOOLPOOR, in Hindustan, VII. 771.
 DHOURTA. See Dura.
 Dhuns, among the Himalayas, XI. 438.
 Diabese rock, XV. 135.
 DIABETES, VII. 772; XVII. 686—in cattle, XXI. 570—Dr Rollo's treatment of, VIII. 24.
 DIACAUSTIC CURVE, VII. 772.
 DIACHYLON, in pharmacy, VII. 772.
 Diaclaste, mineral, XV. 82.
 Diaconus (Paulus), on the Lombards, XIII. 638, 639, 643.
 Diacone, genus of fishes, XII. 276.
 DIACOSTICS, VII. 772. See Acoustics.
 DIACRI, Athenian faction, VII. 772.
 DIADREM, VII. 772. See Crown.
 — spider, III. 381.
 Diademata, fossil echinoides, XVII. 100.
 Diadochite, mineral, XV. 101.
 DIARESIS, in grammar, VII. 772.
 DIETETÆ, Athenian arbitrators, VII. 772.
 DIAGNOSIS, in medicine, VII. 772.
 DIAGONAL, in geometry, VII. 772; X. 506—diagonals, in ship-building, XX. 185—diagonal trussing, 181, 191.
 DIAGORAS, VII. 772.
 DIAGRAM, in geometry, VII. 772.
 Diagramma, genus of fishes, XII. 285, 286.
 DIAL, VII. 772—equinoctial, 777, 779—horizontal, ib., 781—vertical, 782—polar, 783—inclining, 783—Lambert's, 792—ring, 794—universal mechanical, 796—principal writers on, 776—invention of, ascribed to Anaximander and Anaximenes, III. 787—dials of clocks, VII. 3, 23—electrical, 28. See Dialing.
 DIALECT, VII. 772.
 DIALECTICS, VII. 772—Aristotle on, III. 550—of Plato, XVII. 794—definition and induction known before Socrates, XX. 398, and much employed by him, 399. See Logic.
 Diallage, mineral, XV. 82—rock, 135.
 DIALLING, VII. 772—general principles of, 776. See Dial.
 Diallogite, mineral, XV. 100.

DIA—DIB

DIALOGISM, in rhetoric, VII. 799.
 DIALOGUE, VII. 799—dialogues of ancient philosophers, III. 550—of Plato, XVII. 792, 814.
 DIALYSIS, in grammar, VII. 800.
 DIALYTA, genus of insects, IX. 250.
 Dyalitic telescopes, XXI. 122, 123.
 Diamagnetism, its discovery, I. 980, XIV. 16, 30—diamagnetic bodies, I. 980—discussion on the nature of, ib.
 DIAMASTIGOSIS, VII. 800.
 DIAMETER, VII. 800; X. 513, 540—in architecture, III. 509.
 DIAMOND, VIII. 1; VI. 471; X. 447; XV. 123—conjectured by Newton to be inflammable, I. 668—specific gravity, XII. 88—its doubly refracting and polarizing structure, XIV. 754—glazier's, VIII. 5; X. 671—cutting of, VIII. 813—distribution of the, XVII. 623—diamond mines of Bundelcund, V. 762—lenses of, XIV. 766—structure, XVI. 541—diamond mines of Brazil, V. 284, 285, 293, 298—diamond-cutters at Amsterdam, XI. 583—in Para, XVII. 266—in Hindustan, XI. 458—diamond powder, XIII. 231—Bristol diamonds, V. 371—Cornish, VII. 408—exports of, from Rio de Janeiro, XIX. 175—of Sumbulpore, XX. 807.
 — Cape, VI. 133.
 — in heraldry, VIII. 5.
 — harbour and island, VIII. 5.
 — Point, in Sumatra, XX. 803.
 — type, XXI. 402, 403.
 DIAMPER, town in Hindustan, VIII. 5.
 DIANA, goddess, VIII. 5—her temple at Ephesus, IX. 267; the object worshipped there probably an aerolite, I. 468.
 DIANÆ ARBOR, the arborescent form of silver, VIII. 6.
 DIANDRIA, in botany, VIII. 6; V. 177.
 DIANO, town of Naples, VIII. 6.
 DIAPASON, in music, VIII. 6.
 DIAPENSACEÆ, nat. order of plants, V. 200.
 DIAPENTE, in ancient music, VIII. 6.
 DIAPER, VIII. 6—manufacture of, at Dunfermline, 259, IX. 545—origin of the name, XXI. 966.
 Diaperales, tribe of insects, IX. 181.
 Diapering, in heraldry, XI. 330.
 DIAPERIS, genus of insects, IX. 131.
 DIAPHANOUS, VIII. 6.
 DIAPHONICS, VIII. 6.
 DIAPHORESIS, in rhetoric, VIII. 6.
 DIAPHORETICS, VIII. 6—for the domestic animals, XXI. 556 and n. 4.
 Diaphorus, genus of insects, IX. 243.
 DIAPHRAGM, VIII. 6; III. 39—effects of electricity on, VIII. 602—its action in breathing, XVIII. 75.
 DIARBEKIR, in Asiatic Turkey, VIII. 6.
 DIARRHOEA, in animals, XXI. 568.
 DIARTHROSIS, in anatomy, VII. 7.
 DIARY, VIII. 7.
 Dias de Soles (Juan), XVII. 779.
 DIASCHISMA, in music, VIII. 7.
 DIASIA, Athenian festival, VIII. 7.
 Diaspore, mineral, XV. 86.
 Diastaltic actions, in pathology, XVII. 700.
 DIATASE, VIII. 77, 48; V. 320; IX. 757; II. 382.
 Diastata, genus of insects, IX. 265.
 DIATHEMA, VIII. 7.
 DIATOLE, VIII. 7.
 — in grammar, VIII. 7.
 DIATYLE, VIII. 7; III. 509.
 DIATYRMUS, in rhetoric, VIII. 7.
 DIATYSSARON, in music, VIII. 7.
 DIATYMOUS, VIII. 7.
 DIATYTHESIS, VIII. 7.
 Diatomaceæ, sub-order of algae, V. 218, 147—different views as to their nature, III. 206, n. 2—in volcanic mud, XXI. 607.
 Diatomæa, plants, V. 218.
 DIATONIC, in music, VIII. 7; XV. 706.
 DIAZ (Bartolomeo), VIII. 7; X. 89; 712.
 Diazona, genus of mollusks, XV. 332, 330.
 DIBBLE, VIII. 7.
 DIBDIN (Charles), musician, VIII. 7.
 — (Thomas Froggall, D.D.), VIII.

DIB—DID

7—his catalogue of books of the fifteenth century, IV. 708—on editions of the classics, VII—on works printed by Gutenberg, XVIII. 529—on the sale of the Roxburgh library, 532.
 Dibolia, genus of insects, IX. 150.
 Dibranchata, order of mollusks, XV. 394—fossil, XVII. 113.
 DICÆARCHUS, VIII. 7; X. 467.
 Dicaeum, genus of birds, XVI. 769.
 DICRASTES, Athenian judge or juror, VIII. 7.
 Dice, VIII. 7—dice-box, V. 252.
 Diceras, extinct genus of mollusks, XV. 349; XVII. 107.
 Dichæta, genus of insects, IX. 255.
 Dichalcum, coin, VII. 67.
 Dichobone, fossil mammals, XVII. 164.
 Dichodon, fossil mammals, XVII. 164—teeth of, XVI. 465, 466, 468.
 DICHOTOMY, VIII. 8—division by, in logic, XIII. 598.
 Dichroism, XV. 58, XVI. 666; I. 915.
 Dichroite, mineral, XV. 88.
 Dick (David), his centrolinead, XVII. 446.
 Dick's educational bequest, XV. 577.
 Dickens (Charles), XIX. 283—imitated by Freytag, 298.
 DICKEK, VIII. 8.
 DICKINSON (Edmund), VIII. 8.
 — (Mr), on the collieries of Lancashire, &c., XIII. 179.
 Dickoné (W.), his work on insects, IX. 23.
 Dichinous plants, V. 178, 179.
 DICOTYLEDONOUS plants, VIII. 8; V. 76, 141, 179—stem of, 80—germination of, 186—course of the sap in a dicotyledonous tree, III—number known, 224—arrangement and characters of, 180—number of fossil species, 238—number described, XVII. 626.
 Dicotyllichthys, genus of fishes, XII. 314.
 Diciania, genus of insects, IX. 126.
 DICRANOURA, genus of insects, IX. 214.
 DICTATOR, VIII. 8; XIX. 300 et seq.
 Dictæa, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 342.
 Diction, poetic, XVIII. 94. See Composition, Style.
 DICTIONARY, VIII. 9—of the English language, ib.—list of dictionaries, ancient and modern, 13—Dr Johnson's, XII. 796, 797—early dictionaries, XVII. 523—prospects of a Faroese, IV. 397—Suidas's, XX. 801—bibliographical dictionaries, IV. 713.
 Dictum, in syllogisms, XIII. 608.
 DICTYNNA, ancient festival, VIII. 14.
 Dictyogena, sub-class of plants, V. 178, 210.
 Dictyoptera, genus of insects, IX. 107.
 Dictyosoma, genus of fishes, XII. 310.
 DICTYS CRETENSIS, VIII. 14.
 DICTYON, fossil reptile, XVII. 143—teeth of, XVI. 436.
 DICTYODONTA, order of fossil reptiles, XVII. 143.
 DIDAOTIC, VIII. 14.
 Didelphidae, fossil, XVII. 638.
 Didelphus, genus of mammals, XIV. 174—dentition of, XVI. 448—D. Gypsorum, XVII. 165.
 Didemnum, genus of mollusks, XV. 332.
 DIDEROT (Denis), VIII. 14—on ideas, I. 109, 110—on liberty and necessity, 150—his atheism, 181, 274—his intimacy with Catherine II. of Russia, VI. 387—his theory of beauty, IV. 539—on the blind, 778, 780—on the deaf and blind, VII. 688—his romances, XIX. 288.
 Didier, Lombard king, X. 8.
 — (Paul), French insurgent, X. 176.
 — (St), French city, VIII. 16.
 Didion, on gunnery, XI. 105, 116 et seq.
 Didus Julianus, XIX. 346.
 Dido, VII. 116; VI. 280.
 DIDRACHMA, ancient coin, VIII. 16; VII. 67.
 Didrimite, mineral, XV. 78.
 Diduction, muscles by which it is effected, III. 40.
 Didymum, a metal, VI. 488.
 Didymograpus, graptolites, XVII. 96.

DID—DIG

DIDYRUS, ancient grammarian, VIII. 16.
 — of Alexandria, VIII. 16.
 DIDYMAIA, in botany, VIII. 16; V. 177.
 Die, for coming, VIII. 16—method of making, VII. 94—probable cause of its adhering to the coin, XX. 753.
 — town in France, VIII. 16.
 — (St), two French towns so named, VIII. 16.
 Diebtsch (Count), III. 648, XIX. 496; XXI. 374.
 DIEBURG, German town, VIII. 16.
 Diego Garcia, island, XIV. 364.
 DIEMERBROEK (Isbrand van), VIII. 16.
 DIEPPE, French town, VIII. 16.
 DIES MARCHIE, VIII. 17.
 DIETES, in music, VIII. 17.
 DIESETER, VIII. 17.
 DIEST, town of Belgium, VIII. 17.
 DIET, VIII. 17—in law, ib.—Polish, XVIII. 145, 146 et seq.—Swedish, XX. 865.
 DIETETICS, VIII. 17; XIV. 463—principles of, IX. 768—fish, III. 93, 94—nutritive qualities of different kinds of food, 179—abstinence least supportable by the young, 180—cases of abstinence, ib.—effects of too luxurious diet on Luther, 312, n. 1—diet of the Arabs, 353—of the Chinese, VI. 559, 594—its influence on the health, XIV. 440. See Cookery, Food, Nutrition.
 DIET ET MOS DROIT, VIII. 26, XI. 338.
 DIFF, musical instrument, VIII. 26.
 DIFFERENTIAL, VIII. 26; VII. 239.
 DIFFERENCE, in heraldry, VIII. 26; XI. 326.
 — in mathematics and logic, VIII. 26; XIII. 572.
 DIFFERENTIAL, VIII. 26—distinction between differentials and variations, I. 716. See Fluxions.
 — CALCULUS, VIII. 26; VI. 68, IX. 679. See Fluxions.
 — EQUATION, VIII. 26.
 — THERMOMETER, VIII. 26, VII. 102; XI. 263; XII. 187, XIII. 244, 345—invention of, I. 764, 844.
 Diffugia, genus of zoophytes, XXI. 1007.
 DIFFORM, VIII. 26.
 Diffraction of light, I. 898, 903; VI. 651; XVI. 544, 546, 605—negative, 609, diffraction-bands, I. 897.
 DIFFUSION, VIII. 26—of gases, ib.—of heat, XI. 261—of metals into vapour by electricity, VIII. 589.
 DIGAMMA, VIII. 26.
 DIGBY (Sir Edward), a confederate in the Gunpowder Plot, V. 385.
 — (Sir Kenelm), VIII. 27—his account of his son's blind preceptor, IV. 781.
 Digenite, mineral, XV. 118.
 DIGENTIA, now Licenza, river, VIII. 27.
 DIGEST of Roman laws, VIII. 27.
 DIGESTER, VIII. 27—Papius's, I. 770; XXI. 774.
 Digestion of food, VIII. 27; IX. 768; VI. 520; XVII. 659, 660; XXI. 505—in reptiles, III. 109; XIX. 14, 47—peculiar to animals, III. 170—Luther's visions the effect of derangement of, 302, n. 1—comparative digestibility of different aliments, VIII. 21—Dr Beaumont's experiments on, IX. 768; XVII. 659—Spallanzani's experiments on, XX. 497—diseases of the digestive organs in the domestic animals, XXI. 568—organs of, in man, III. 3, 59; brutes, 105—the crustacea, VII. 538; insects, IX. 50; fishes, XII. 292; mollusca, XV. 368; birds, XVI. 734, 784, zoophytes, XXI. 973.
 — in chemistry, VIII. 27.
 Digger, V. 731—gold-diggers, IV. 276, 277.
 Digges (Cape), XVIII. 168.
 — (St. Dudley), V. 390—his defence of the East India Company, XVIII. 215.
 — (LEONARD), VIII. 27—on Archimedes' burning glasses, VI. 5—the alleged inventor of the telescope, XVI. 524.

DIG—DIN

- DIGGES (THOMAS), VIII 27—on his father's invention of the telescope, XVI 534, 535
- DIGGING, in mining, VIII 27—"diggnas," in California, II 706; VI 97; Australia, IV 277, 295.
- DIGIT, VIII 27; III 583.
- DIGITAL numeration, II 8
- Digitalis, alkaloid, XIV 439
- DIGITALIS, genus of plants, VIII 27; V 202—poisonous properties, XIV 439, XVIII 131. See Fox-glove
- DIGITIGRADA, in zoology, XIV 156; XVII 681.
- DIGLTPH, in architecture, VIII 27.
- DIGNE, French town, VIII 27.
- DIGNITARY, VIII 27.
- DIGNITY, VIII 27—in character, 28
- Dihong, river in Assam, III 782
- Dihydrite, mineral, XV 103.
- DIL, VIII 28
- DILAMBUS, in poetry, VIII 28; IX 770
- DIPLOLEIA, ancient festival, VIII 29; V 768.
- DIJON, French town, VIII 28; VII 426.
- DIRE, goddess, VIII 29.
- or DYKE, VIII 29—in collieries, VII 117—in rocks, XV 165, 171, 187, XVII 621—dykes of trap, XV 189; of lava, 191—dykes in Holland, XI 381, in volcanic cones, XXI 604.
- DILAPIDATION, in law, VIII 29.
- Dilatability, a property of all bodies, XX 751.
- DILATATION, VIII 29—theory of the descent of glaciers, X 638—of the air by heat, XIV 647—increased by a small addition of force in a body much dilated, XX 752
- Dilator, or Speculum, XX 811 n
- DILEMMA, in logic, VIII 29, XIII 634
- DILETTANTE, VIII 29.
- DILIGENCE, VIII 29
- DILL, a plant, VIII 29; IX 745; V 114.
- DILLENBURG, in Nassau, VIII 29
- DILLENGEN, in Bavaria, VIII 30
- Dillenaceae, nat order of plants, V 180.
- DILLENUS (John James), VIII 29.
- DILLWY (William), his opposition to the slave-trade, XX 321
- Dilophus, genus of insects, IX 230.
- DILUTE, VIII 30
- DILUVIAL, VIII 30.
- Diluvium, VII 722.
- DIMACHIZ, ancient soldiers, VIII 30.
- DIMENSION, in geometry, VIII 30
- Dimercanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII 117.
- Dimidiation of arms, XI 339.
- DIMINUTION, VIII 30.
- DIMINUTIVE, in grammar, VIII 30.
- DIMISSORY LETTER, VIII 30
- Dimetri Ivanovitch, XIX 472
- DIMITY, a kind of cotton cloth, VIII 30—of Dacca, VII 614—India, XI 459—manufacture of, confined to the north of England, VII 449.
- Dimorphine, mineral, XV 122.
- Dimorphism in minerals, XV 62.
- Dimorphodon, fossil reptiles, XVII 151.
- DIMSDALE (Thomas), VIII 30.
- DINAGEPORE, town in Hindustan, VIII 80.
- DINAN, French town, VIII 31.
- DINANT, Belgian town, VIII 31
- DINAPORE, in Hindustan, VIII 31—sepoj insurrection at, XVI 310.
- DINARIO ALPS, VIII 31; II 624
- DINDIGUL, in Southern India, VIII 81.
- DINDING, island, VIII 81
- DINDYEMENS, VIII 31.
- Dinetus, genus of insects, IX 195.
- Dingaku, Natal chief, XV 803, 804.
- DINGHA, town in Ireland, VIII 31.
- Devonian beds, XV 200.
- DINGWALL, in Ross-shire, VIII 31; XIX 427—vitified fort near, IX 791.
- DINKELSBURG, in Bavaria, VIII 31
- DONKER, VIII 32.
- Dinocrates, architect of Alexandria, II 469.
- Dinornis, fossil birds, XVII 155
- Dinossauria, fossil reptiles, XVII 150—

DIN—DIO

- teeth of, XVI 433—geological distribution of, XVII 154
- Dinostratus, geometer, X 499—on the squaring of the circle, XX 521
- DINOTHERIUM, VIII 32; XVII 167, 639—dentition of, XVI 472
- Dinwiddie (Governor), XXI 743, 744, 746
- Dio of Syracuse, apparition seen by, III 311
- Diobolus, Grecian coin, VII 67.
- Diocese, VIII 32, 743—Irish dioceses, XII 530—exarch of a, IX 427. See Parish.
- DIOCLEIA, ancient festival, VIII 32
- Diocles of Carystus, II 750, XX 811.
- geometer, X 509—Cissoid of, 544
- DIOCLETIANUS (C V. Jovius), Roman emperor, VIII 32—his palace at Spalatro, II 126; III 470, XX 494—baths of, IV 505—era of, VI 673—Egypt under, VIII 473—reign of, XIX 349
- Dioctria, genus of insects, IX 234
- DIODATI (Giovanni), VIII 32—his French Bible, IV 701
- Diocatus, his blindness, IV 779
- Dioderma, genus of insects, IX 142.
- Diodon, genus of fishes, XII 312, 314—fossil, 339—poisonous species, XIV 439—teeth of, XVI 425, 426.
- genus of mammalia, XIV 230
- Diodontidae, family of fishes, XII 312, 314
- Diodontini, sub-family of fishes, XII 314.
- Diodorus SICULTUS, VIII 32—on the Amazons, II 651—on Egyptian agriculture, 248—on the Druids, VIII 185 et seq.—on Egyptian architecture, III 435—on Egyptian writing, XI 377—on the Egyptian judgment on the dead, X 343—portions of his works recovered, XVII 218—on Babylon, XIX 846
- Diocisus plants, V 126, 176, 177.
- DIOGENES, of Apollonia, VIII 32, II 749.
- the Cynic, VIII 33; VII 608.
- LAERTIUS, VIII 32—Cassaubon's edition of, XIX 827.
- Diomedea, genus of birds, XVI 812
- DIOMEDES, VIII 33—character of, XVIII 101
- DION CASSIUS COCCELANUS, historian, VIII 34—fragments of his History discovered, XVII 213.
- CHRYSOSTOM, VIII 34.
- of Syracuse, VIII 34; XVII 788, 789, 790—Dionysius dethroned by, XX 900
- DIONIS (Pierre), French surgeon, VIII 34; II 761; XX 818.
- Dionix, genus of insects, IX 153.
- Dionysus, VII 712, 716.
- DIONYSIA, ancient festivals, VIII 34; IV 347, 348
- Dionysiacs of Ionia, III 401.
- Dionysian period, VI 81.
- DIONYSIUS the Elder, VIII 34; XVII 788; XX 899—his war with the Carthaginians, VI 282.
- the Younger, VIII 35, XVII 789; XX 899.
- the Areopagite, VIII 35, XV 755
- of Halicarnassus, VIII 35—portions of his works recovered, XVII 213—on the Pelasgi, 371—notice of the works of, VI 739.
- Exiguns, or the Little, his collection of canons and decretals, VI 188, 189—the Christian era first employed by, 667.
- PERIEGETES, VIII 35; X 468
- DIONYSUS, or Bacchus, VIII 35—mysteries of, XV 753 See Bacchus.
- DIOPHANTINE PROBLEMS, in mathematics, VIII 35.
- DIOPHANTUS, VIII 35—work of, I 441—his system, 707—on algebra, II 483—translations of his work, II—his algebraical knowledge compared with that of the Hindus, 487.
- Diopside, mineral, XV 81.
- DIOPTRASE, mineral, VIII 35; XV 102.
- DIOPTRIC, or Dioptra, VIII 36.
- Dioptric lights, XIII 471, 474.
- micrometers, XIV 748.

DIO—DIR

- DIOPTRICS, VIII 36; XIII 451; XVI 556—Descartes on, VI 279; XVI 531
- DIORAMA, VIII 36.
- Dionte, XV 135; XXI 606—soils from, II 391 See Greenstone.
- Dioscoraceae, nat order of plants, V 210
- DIOSCORIDES, physician, VIII 36—on sal-ammoniac, II 730.
- DIOSCURII, Castor and Pollux, VIII 36
- DIOSCURIA, ancient festivals, VIII 36
- Dioscurians, in ethnology, IX 346—language of, XIII 215
- Diopolis Magna, or Thebes, in Egypt, VIII 506 See Thebes
- DIOTA, ancient wine-vessel, VIII 36; II 732
- Diotimè, XX 374
- Dip of the horizon, X 480—of the magnetic needle, I 990 n 3, 891; XIV 2, 57. See Needle
- of beds in geology, XV 168
- of lodes in mining, XV 220
- working, in collieries, VII 125
- Diphante, mineral, XV 79
- DIPHTHONG, in grammar, VIII 36—in shorthand writing, XX 676
- Diphucephala, genus of insects, IX 125.
- Diphyidae, zoophytes, XXI 1001
- Diphyodont mammals, XVI 478
- Diphyozoids, zoophytes, XXI 1006.
- Diploanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 334; XVII 123.
- DIPLODENDROIDE, VIII 37
- Diploctenium, fossil corals, XVII 97
- Diploclonta, fossil mollusks, XVII 107
- Diploe, II 825; III 19, 20
- Diplograpsus, graptolites, XVII 96
- Diploite, mineral, XV 71.
- DIPLOMA, VIII 38, 41—examination of, VII 144
- DIPLOMACY, VIII 38.
- Diplomatic establishment of the United States, XXI 430.
- DIPLOMATICS, VIII 41.
- Diploption, genus of fishes, XII 275.
- Diploptera, family of insects, IX 196.
- Diplopterus, genus of fishes, XII 253—fossil, 335; XVII 123, 125.
- Diplostoma, genus of mammalia, XIV 185
- Diplostomum, genus of entozoa, XXI 980
- Diplozoon, genus of entozoa, XXI 980.
- Dipnoeus, sculptor, XIX 853.
- DIPPEL'S OIL, VIII 42
- DIPPING, in mining, VIII 42.
- DIPPING-NEEDLE, VIII 42, XIV 82, 85, XVI 4—Coloumb on, VII 464.
- Dipranchanthus, fossil fishes, XVII 117
- Diprotodon, fossil mammal, XVII 174, 175, 638—teeth of, XVI 449
- Dipsacaceae, nat. order of plants, V 196.
- DIPSAS, serpent, VIII 48; XIX 53.
- Dipsomania, XIV 538.
- DIPTERA, order of insects, VIII 43; IX 26, 221.
- Dipteral. See Dipteros.
- Dipteraceae, nat. order of plants, V 185.
- Dipterodon, genus of fishes, XII 302.
- Dipteridae, fossil fishes, XVII 123.
- Dipterocarpaceae, nat. order of plants, V 185.
- DIPTEROS, in architecture, VIII 43; III 509.
- Dipterus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 334; XVII 123
- Dipterygonotus, genus of fishes, XII 288.
- DIPYOTIE, in grammar, VIII 43
- DIPYOTIA, VIII 43—sacred diptycha, Ib.
- Dipus, genus of mammalia, XIV 184.
- Dipyrr, mineral, XV 73
- DIZEL, in mythology, VIII 43 See Furies.
- Dizera, genus of insects, IX 132.
- DIRECT, in arithmetic, VIII 43
- Direct-action horizontal steam-engines, XX 608—vertical, 610.
- DIRECTION, VIII 43.
- DIZE, VIII 43.
- DIRIBITORES, VIII 43.
- DIREKTION, in geometry, VIII 42.
- Direlton, farming in the parish of, II 368
- Dirum, on the corn-laws, VII 375, 377.
- Dirt bands, in glaciers, X 636—dirt beds in the Furbeck oolite, XV 208

DIS—DIS

- DIS, VIII 43
- DISAFFORESTING, VIII 43
- Disc, or disk, VIII 43—in botany, Ib; V 129
- Discharges of colours in dyeing, VIII 316.
- Discina, genus of mollusks, XV 339—fossil, XVII 105
- Discinidae, family of mollusks, XV 339—fossil, XVII 105
- DISCIPLE, VIII 43, VI 640.
- DISCIPLINE, VIII 43—Scotch Books of Discipline, Ib.; XVIII 490, XIX 781—of the navy, XVI 107; effects of, 108; its importance, XX 28—in universities, XXI 476, 484
- Discoboli, fishes, table of the, XII 307
- Discobolus, statue of the, VIII 44, Plate.
- Discomyza, genus of insects, IX 256
- Discopora, genus of bryozoa, XVII 98
- Discoptye, genus of fishes, XII 327
- DISCORD, VIII 44; II 110
- Dicosornis, fossil mollusks, XVII 112.
- DISCOUNT, VIII 44.
- Discrante, mineral, XV 113
- DISCRETE PROPORTION, VIII 44.
- QUANTITY, VIII 44.
- DISCRETION, VIII 44
- DISCUS, a quot, VIII 44
- DISCUSSION, freedom of, and its limitations, XIII 371—Indecency of, Ib
- DISCUTIENTS, in medicine, VIII 44
- DISDIACLASTIC CRYSTAL, VIII 44.
- DISDIAPASON, in music, VIII 44.
- DISEASE, VIII 44, XVII 689—simulated diseases, XIV 427—treatment of live stock under, II 357—effects of electricity on, VIII 608—diseases exempting from public duties, XIV 426—diseases incident to different professions and trades, 442—effects of anger on, III 141—mineral water for the cure of, XV 38—diseases of nutrition, XVII 668, 689—proximate causes of, 689—classification of diseases, Ib, 700, 702—of innervation, 697—reproduction, 702—functional, 691—organic, Ib—contagious, XIX 612—diseases of Egypt, VIII 422, of Greece, XI 14—Sydenham on the history of, XX 894—in United States, XXI 421—treatment of the diseases of the domestic animals, 554 See Pathology, Medicine, Medical Jurisprudence, Sanitary Science, Surgery
- Diseases of plants, V 170—of horses, XI 666—of silkworms, XX 293—of timber trees, XXI 268.
- DISEMBOGUE, VIII 44
- DISFRANCHISEMENT, VIII 44.
- DISGUISE, VIII 44.
- DISH, VIII 44.
- Dishley breed of sheep, IV 377. See Leicester Sheep
- DISK, VIII 44. See Disc.
- Disinfectants, XIX 621
- Disintegration of building stones, XX 712.
- DISJUNCTIVE, VIII 44.
- DISLOCATION, VIII 44—in rocks, XV 171—surgical treatment of, XX 826.
- DISOMUM, IV 735.
- DISPART, in gunnery, VIII 44; XI 105, 106
- DISPATON, VIII 44
- DISPAUPERED, VIII 44
- DISPENSARY, VIII 44—London dispensaries, XIII 673.
- DISPENSATORY, VIII 44.
- DISPERSTION, VIII 44—of mankind, Ib—of light, VIII 44; I 920; XVI 547, 580—polarization of light by, 647.
- Displacement of a ship, XX 144—scale of, 162.
- DISPLAYED, in heraldry, VIII 46.
- DISPONDER, in poetry, VIII 46; IX 770.
- DISPONE, in Scots law, VIII 46.
- DISQUISITION, VIII 46.
- Disruption of the Established Church of Scotland, VI 405; V 669; VIII 393; XVIII 495—causes of, 494.
- D'Israeli (Benjamin), Chancellor of the Exchequer, V 672.
- DISS, town in Norfolk, VIII 46.

DIS—DIV

DISSECTION, VIII. 46—of the human body first practised, X. 811. See Anatomy
DISSERIN, in law, VIII. 46
DISSETER, VIII. 46—dissenters in England, 744—their schools, 746—their petition in 1772 for relief, V. 474—their attempts in 1787, 1790, and 1791, to obtain a repeal of the Corporation and Test Acts, 522, 536, 538—Earl Stanhope's bill in 1790 for their relief, 534—repeal of the above-mentioned acts, 652—South on their preachers, XX. 451—in Scotland, XIX. 801. See Presbyterianism.
Dissolements, in botany, V. 131
Dissidents, in Poland, XVIII. 145, 146
DISSIMULATION, VIII. 46
DISSIPATION, in physics, VIII. 46—circle of, in optics, ib
—of electricity, VIII. 550.
DISSOLUTION, in physics, VIII. 46
DISSOLVENT, VIII. 46
Dissolving views, apparatus for, XIV. 793, 794.
DISSONANCE, in music, VIII. 46, XV. 725. See Discord.
DISSYLLABLE, VIII. 46.
DISTAFF, VIII. 46, XX. 508
DISTANCE, VIII. 46—accessible and inaccessible, ib—of the heavenly bodies, ib—mensuration of distances by sound, II. 99—mode of finding the distances of stars, IV. 96
DISTEMPER, VIII. 46—in horses, XXI. 572; XL. 638; effect of, 642—in dogs, XII. 722; XI. 768; XXI. 572—vaccination for, XII. 722
—in painting, VIII. 47—among the Greeks, XVII. 51.
DISTENSION, VIII. 47.
Disterrite, mineral, XV. 79.
Disthena, or kyanite, XV. 86—electrical properties of, VIII. 538—rock, XV. 135.
DISTICH, VIII. 47.
DISTICHLASIS, in surgery, VIII. 47.
Distichocera, genus of insects, IX. 145.
Distichodus, genus of fishes, XII. 246
DISTILLATION, VIII. 47; XX. 556—from potatoes, XVI. 326—in Vacuo, XX. 556—in Clackmannanshire, VI. 750—in Ireland, XII. 521—Scotland, XIX. 805—Sweden, XX. 862—analysis of beer by, V. 337—perfumes made by, XVII. 403.
Distillers, dunes paid by, XIII. 435.
DISTINCTION, in logic, VIII. 52
Distoma, genus of Entozoa, XXI. 980.
DISTRAIN, VIII. 52
DISTRESS, VIII. 52—in English law, ib.
DISTRIBUTION, VIII. 52—in rhetoric and painting, 63.
—of plants, in Britain, V. 229; of classes, orders, genera and species of plants over the globe, 222—of plants in general, 219—of fishes, XII. 329; insects, IX. 63—animals, XVII. 631 *et seq*; II. 712; III. 174. See Physical Geography.
—of electricity, VIII. 551.
—of steam, in the steam-engine, XX. 595.
DISTRINGAS, in law, VIII. 53—jurators, ib
Distyle, in architecture, III. 509.
DITON, VIII. 53—in fortification, ib.; IX. 818.
DITHYRAMBUS, VIII. 53
Dithyrocaris, fossils, XVII. 101
Ditomus, genus of insects, IX. 86.
DITONE, in music, VIII. 53.
Ditrema, genus of fishes, XII. 288
Ditripleth, in architecture, III. 509.
DITRIHEDRA, in mineralogy, VIII. 63.
Ditrocheus, foot in prosody, IX. 770.
Ditrupe, fossils, XVII. 101.
Dittany, false, plant, V. 189.
DITREASE, in Hindustan, VIII. 53. V. 763
DITTO, VIII. 53.
DITTON (Humphrey), VIII. 53.
Dro, in Hindustan, VIII. 53.
Diurna, family of insects, IX. 206.
DRVAL, in heraldry, VIII. 54.
DRVALLA, ancient festival, VIII. 54.
DRVAN, VIII. 54.

DIV—DOC

DIVERGENT, VIII. 54
D'IVERNOS (Sir Francis), his recovery of a mortuary register at Geneva, XV. 621, n
DIVERSIFYING, in rhetoric, VIII. 54.
Divers, family of birds, XVI. 809.
DIVERSION, in war, VIII. 54.
DIVESTING, VIII. 54.
DIVIDIVL, the pod of a plant used in tanning, VIII. 54; V. 190; XIII. 306.
DIVINATION, VIII. 54; IV. 240, 341—by means of smoke, VI. 221—by mirrors, 339—among the Druids, VIII. 189—in ancient Athens, XX. 391—law of Constantius against, VII. 306.
DIVINE, VIII. 54.
Divine night of kings, V. 718, 719.
DIVING, VIII. 55—for pearls, XVII. 357, 444—diving dress, XX. 723—how to rise to the surface after, 881
DIVING-BELL, VIII. 59; XI. 221—used in excavating the beds of rivers, XVI. 70
DIVINITY, VIII. 66—divinities of the Egyptians, 435—of Christ, proofs of, XXI. 209. See God, Theology.
DIVISIBILITY, VIII. 66
DIVISION, VIII. 67—in algebra, II. 491, 495—in arithmetic, III. 587—of vulgar fractions, 599—of decimals, 601, 602, 605—by Napier's rods, XV. 778—mechanical, VIII. 67
—in logic, laws of, XIII. 595—compared with definition, 598—division by dichotomy, 598.
—in a military and nautical sense, VIII. 67.
—of labour. See Labour
Divisors, trinomial, in equations, IX. 294
Divitiacus the *Eduan*, VIII. 185.
Divodasa, V. 724
DIVORCE, VIII. 67, 782—in Arabia, III. 353—grounds of, in Scotland, XII. 54—defences against an action of, 55—Milton's works on, XV. 25—among Mohammedans, 304
DIVUS and DIVA, VIII. 72.
Dixa, genus of insects, IX. 228
DIXMUDS, town of Belgium, VIII. 72
Dixon (Jeremiah), astronomer, XIV. 336; IX. 550.
—(Prof.), on the thermometer, XXI. 223
DIZIER (St), French city, VIII. 72
DYEBAIL, Syrian town, VIII. 72
Djem, his claims to the Turkish crown, XXI. 369, and n. 1.
Djezzar, or Jezzara, Pasha, IV. 691, 692, II. 113; VIII. 489.
DJUDDA, in Arabia, VIII. 73; III. 355, 360; XII. 785.
Djyn. See Geni
Dlugosz, Polish statesman and historian, XVIII. 158
DMITRI, XIX. 474
DMITROV, Russian town, VIII. 73.
DMITROVSK, Russian town, VIII. 73
DNIEPER, river, VIII. 73; IV. 743, XVII. 646, XIX. 515
DNIESTER, river, VIII. 73, IV. 742, XVII. 646; XIX. 515.
DOAB, VIII. 73—doabs in the Punjab, XVIII. 687.
—canal, XX. 799
Dobchick, bird, XVI. 809.
DOBERRAN, VIII. 73.
DOBERN, town in Saxony, VIII. 73
Dobereiner's instantaneous light from platinum, XXI. 630; VI. 458
Dobrizhoffer (M.), his account of the Abiponians, II. 41
DOBRROUSCHA, in European Turkey, VIII. 73; VII. 654.
Dobrowsky (Joseph), on Slavonic philology, XVII. 523.
DOBROCHAT, town in Hungary, VIII. 73.
DORSON (William), painter, VIII. 73.
—(Dr), on evaporation, IX. 410
DOBUNT, or Bodunn, VIII. 73.
DOCTE, early heretics, VIII. 73; XXI. 211.
DOCMASIA, VIII. 73.
DOCMASIO ART, VIII. 73.
DOCUMENTUM MARIOR, VIII. 73.

DOC—DOH

DOCK, VIII. 74—docks of Sunderland, XX. 807—Bombay, V. 1—Leith, XIII. 326—Liverpool, 518—Hartlepool, XI. 235—London, XIII. 661, XIV. 808—Dublin, VIII. 226—Dundee, 237—Newcastle, XVI. 168—Portsmouth, XVIII. 379—Sheerness, XX. 95—Southampton, 453
DOCK-YARDS, VIII. 73—established by Henry VIII, XX. 126.
Dock plant, V. 204
DOCKET, or Docquet, in law, VIII. 87
Dockwa (William), London penny-post established by, XVIII. 405
DOCTOR, VIII. 87—degree of, XXI. 447, 451, 458, 464, 470, 484. See Degree, Academic.
DOCTORS' COMMONS, VIII. 87; VII. 113.
DOCUMENT, in law, VIII. 87—forgery and falsification of documents, XIV. 427.
DODD (Dr William), VIII. 87
—(Ralph), on dry rot, VIII. 207.
Dodder order of plants, V. 201, 77.
—plant, V. 173
DODDRIDGE (Philip), D. D., VIII. 88.
DODECAGON, VIII. 88.
DODECAEDRON, VIII. 88
Dodecapolis, Ionia, XII. 443
Dodecastyle, in architecture, III. 509
Dodington (Bubb), VII. 582; XII. 797
DODO, an extinct bird, VIII. 88; XIV. 363; XVI. 796; XVII. 156, 633, 637—Strickland's work on, XX. 782.
DONORA, town of Epirus, and seat of an oracle, VIII. 88; V. 766.
DONOIAN, VIII. 88.
DONRANS, VIII. 88; XVI. 363.
DONSLEY (Robert), VIII. 89; XIII. 525—his annual register, V. 775
DODSON (James), on bills of mortality, XII. 395; V. 602
DODWELL (Henry), VIII. 89—on baptism, IV. 425—Dr Samuel Clarke's refutation of his statements on the immortality of the soul, VI. 757.
Doebereiner. See Doebereiner
Doffing-board, in silk manufactures, XX. 282, 283, n
DOFRINES, VIII. 89; IX. 382.
DOG, VIII. 89; XI. 762; XIV. 158—teeth of, XVI. 461—wild Asiatic, III. 739—vocal organs of, 101—"worm" in the tongue of, 100—language addressed to, XII. 46; XX. 220—instance of presentment in a, V. 704—wild of the Himalayas, XI. 455—of Lapland, XIII. 240—vaccination of, XII. 722—23—origin and varieties of, XIV. 160—poison in the bite of a mad dog, 440—employed in smuggling, X. 276—mange in, XII. 663; XXI. 578—nutritive system of, XVII. 657—in Egypt, VIII. 432—sporting dogs, XX. 218—pointers and setters, ib—spaniel, 220—retrievers, 220—question as to the descent of all dogs from one common stock, 218—breaking of, 220—peritonitis in, XXI. 567—diseases of the ear of, 578—hydrophobia, 575. See Hound, Veterinary Science.
DOG-DAYS, VIII. 89, VI. 173
DOG-FISH, VIII. 89; XII. 321, 322, IX. 763.
DOG-STAR, Sirius, VIII. 89; VI. 173; IV. 79
DOG-WATCHES, VIII. 89.
Dogbane order of plants, V. 199
DOGE, VIII. 89—of Genoa, X. 454—of Venice, his palace, XXI. 538
DOGGER, Dutch vessel, VIII. 90.
DOGBERANK, VIII. 90; IX. 648 and n.
DOGGEBS, VIII. 90
Doggett, actor, XXI. 174
DOGMA, VIII. 90.
Dogmatic metaphysics, XIV. 603—subdivisions of, 604—dogmatic theology, XXI. 183.
DOGMATICAL, VIII. 90.
DOGMATICS, VIII. 90.
DOGMATISM, VIII. 90—relation of scepticism to, XIX. 706.
DOGMATISTS, VIII. 90.
Dogwood, XVII. 764.
Dohrn (C. A.), his work on insects, IX. 24.

DOI—DOM

DOIG (David), VIII. 90.
Dort, coin, VIII. 92.
DOREKUM, town of Holland, VIII. 92.
DOLABELLA (Publius Cornelius), VIII. 92.—genus of mollusks, XV. 372.
DOLCI (Carlo), painter, VIII. 92.
DOLE, VIII. 93.
Dolentes, XV. 133, XXI. 606—solds from, II. 391—their association with trachytes, XV. 191.
DOLGELLEY, in Wales, VIII. 93; XIV. 544—waterfalls near, 543.
Dolichitis, cranium and teeth of, XVI. 453
Dolichopodes, family of insects, IX. 242.
Dolichopus, genus of insects, IX. 243
Dolichosaurus, fossil reptiles, XVII. 152.
Dolichurus, genus of insects, IX. 195
Dololum, genus of mollusks, XV. 336, 333.
Dolum, genus of mollusks, XV. 386, 364 *et seq*
DOLLAR, village in Clackmannanshire, VIII. 93
—coin, VIII. 93; XV. 445
Dollart, inundated tract in Holland, XI. 581.
Dollinger (Dr), his essay on the religion of Mohammed, XV. 304.
DOLLOND (John), VIII. 93; II. 90, I. 749—his achromatic glasses, 750, II. 91; XVI. 535—his variation transit, and diurnal variation instrument, XIV. 81—his double-image micrometer, 747—his four-glass eye-piece, XXI. 125—(George), his spherical crystal micrometer, XIV. 753—his pancreatic eye-pieces, XXI. 125.
—(Peter), VIII. 94; XVI. 535—his achromatic glasses, II. 92—his improvement of micrometers, XIV. 748
Dolomedes, genus of arachnides, III. 382.
DOLOMEU (Diodatus, &c, &c), VIII. 94
Dolomite, mineral, XV. 92—rock, 154—Tennant on, XXI. 153
DOLPHIN, VIII. 97; XII. 295; XIV. 222—velocity of its swimming, XII. 329—dentition of, XVI. 444, 445—chemical composition of the teeth of, 418—gangetic dolphin, 445—fossil species, XVII. 165.
—in nautical language, VIII. 97.
Dol-y-fwrnog, gold deposits at, XV. 233.
DOM or DOX, VIII. 97
—and SOR, VIII. 97.
DOMAT (Jean), VIII. 97
Dombreck, river in the plain of Troy, XXI. 356.
Dombrowski (General), XVIII. 152, 153, 155.
DOME, VIII. 97; III. 410, 509—seems to have been invented by the Etruscans, 401—of St Sophia at Constantinople, 402—construction of, 410—equilibrium of, 411—of St Paul's, London, 410, 411, 488—of St Peter's, Rome, 413, 452, 483; XIX. 368—best form of, III. 413—of cathedral at Florence, 450—the boast of the Italian school, 452—curves proper for, 412—dome-vaulting, 413, 414—of the Farnese Palace, 452—principles of its stability, 411—in Baghdad, IV. 363—its beauty considered, III. 483—construction of wooden domes, XIX. 388—principles of, XX. 719—to find the joints of a, 730
—or DOOM, VIII. 97.
DOMENICHINO (Zampieri), painter, VIII. 97; XVII. 73
Domery (Charles), voracity of, VIII. 23.
DOMESDAY, or DOOMSDAY BOOK, VIII. 98, 669—King Alfred's, II. 481.
DOMESTIC, VIII. 99—manufactures, XIV. 281—in Russia, &c, 282—servants, 349—cleanliness, 440—life of the Egyptians, VIII. 440, 446—policy of the United States, XXI. 438.
Domeykite, mineral, XV. 117.
DOMFRONT, French town, VIII. 99
DOMIFYING, in astrology, VIII. 99.
DOMINANT, in music, VIII. 99.
DOMINATION, in theology, VIII. 99.
DOMINGO (St), VIII. 99. See Hayti.
DOMINIQUE GUZMAN, VIII. 99, 100; XII. 386; XV. 408.

DOM—DOR

- DOMINICA, island, VIII 99.
DOMINICAL, VIII 99
—— LETTER, VIII 99; VI 80, 81.
Dominican republic, II 708; XI 258
DOMINICANS, religious order, VIII 99;
XIV 497—origin of the, XII 387—their
dispute with the Franciscans regarding
the immaculate conception, 385—their
dispute with the Cordeliers, XVII 746
DOMINIS (Marc Antonio de), VIII 100—
on the rainbow, I 625, XVI 526
DOMINUM DIRECTUM, VIII 100
DOMINO, VIII 100
DOMINUS, VIII 100
Domite, XV 132
DOMITIAN, Roman emperor, VIII 100—
reign of, XIX 840
DOMREMY LA PUCELLE, French village,
VIII 100—birth-place of Joan of Arc,
III 399
DON, title of honour, VIII 100
—— COSSACKS, land of, VIII 100 See
Cossacks.
—— Cossacks of the, VIII 100; VII
423
—— (George), botanist, IX 781
—— river of England, VIII 100
—— river of Scotland, VIII 100, II
33, XIX 794.
—— river of Russia, VIII 100; XVII
646; XIX 515; XXI 671
DONABUE, VIII 100; V 646
DONACIA, genus of insects, IX 147.
DONAGHADEE, VIII 101, 122
Donald, king of Scotland, XIX 748.
DONALDSON (Walter), VIII 101
—— (Dr), on the Book of Jasher, XII
700
Donaldson's book on husbandry, II 261.
—— Hospital, VIII 401, VII 686
DONARUM, VIII 101
Donat (Jerome), V 55.
Donatello, sculptor, XIX 860, 861.
DONATION, VIII 101
DONATISTS, VIII 101; II 644—origin of,
I 525.
DONATIVE, VIII 102
DONATORY, in law, VIII 102.
DONATUS (Elius), grammarian, VIII 102.
—— leader of the Donatists, VIII 101,
102.
—— (Tiberius Claudius), his Life of
Virgil, XII 693
DONAUSCHINGEN, town of Baden, VIII
102—at the source of the Danube, VII
682.
DONAUWERTE, town in Bavaria, VIII 102
DONAX, genus of mollusks, XV 350, 347
DONCASTER, in Yorkshire, VIII 102;
XXI 959.
DONGAL, Irish county, VIII 102.
DONGERALE, in Cork, VIII 106; VII 370.
Dongo, in Africa, III 185.
DONGOLA, in Nubia, VIII 106—language
of, XIII 219—New and Old, VIII 106.
DONGUPPORE, in Hindustan, VIII 106.
Doni (G. B.), on melody, XV 715.
DONOVAN, VIII 106, VI 327; XVIII 568
Donkey engine, XX 649
Donkin (Mr), his invention of printing
rollers, XVIII 547.
DONKE (Dr John), VIII 106—Walton's
Life of, XXI 696.
Donneau di Vesé, his *Mercurie Galant*,
XVI 197.
DONNTBROOK, VIII 107—fair, 214
Donovan (Edward), his works on insects,
IX 12—on birds, XVI 781
DOOMSDAY BOOK, VIII 107. See Domes-
day Book.
DOON, river in Ayrshire, VIII 107; IV
382.
—— (Loch), XIX 790; IV 382.
Dooranee, pastoral tribe of Afghans, II
207.
DOORNIK, VIII 107. See Tournai.
Doors, in architecture, III 488—seldom
used by the Romans internally, 445—in
joinery, V 752—hinging of, XII 813.
DOOSHAR, VIII 107; XII 719.
Dooshee, XI 779.
Dox, VIII 107.
Doracerus, genus of insects, IX 144.

DOR—DOU

- DORADO, constellation, VIII 107.
DORAK, Persian town, VIII 107.
Doras, genus of fishes, XII 262—their
travels on land, 259
Dorat (Jean), VII 663.
Dordacion, genus of insects, IX 146
DORCHESTER, in Dorsetshire, VIII 107,
111, 268—remains of an amphitheatre
near, 112—tumuli near, ib
—— village in Oxfordshire, VIII 107.
—— heights, XXI 750.
DORDOGNE, in France, VIII 107
Dorfel on the orbits of comets, VII 167
DORIA (Andrea), Genoese admiral, VIII
108; X 458—his expedition against
Algiers, II 569.
—— palace, XIX 369
DORIAN, or Doric Mode, in music, VIII
108; XV 707
DORIAN, VIII 108, XX 499
Doric, VIII 109—order of architecture,
ib, III 514, 515—conjectures as to its
origin, 441—Roman, 444, 469, 475—
modern Italian, 451, 477—Greek, 460,
463—remarks on, 486.
—— DIALECT, VIII 109—of Yorkshire,
XXI 959
—— MODE, in music, VIII 110. See
Dorian Mode
DORING, or Daring, VIII 110—Doring-
glass, XIX 93.
DORIS, state of ancient Greece, VIII 110.
—— genus of mollusks, XV 371
—— steam-ship, trials of screw-propel-
lers in, XX 660
DORING, town in Surrey, VIII 110—
fowls, II 356; XVI 788, XX 836
DORMANT, in heraldry, VIII 110, XI 392
DORMER-WINDOW, in architecture, VIII
110
DORMITORY, VIII 110
DORMOUSE, VIII 110; XIV 180—its hy-
bernation, III 180.
DORNBERN, town in the Tyrol, VIII 110.
Dorner on ethics, XV 537—88
DORNOCH, VIII 110; XX 842.
—— FORT, VIII 110; XIX 794; XX
841—fatal phenomena of, XVI 58—bar
in, 80, 81.
DOROGOBUSZ, Russian town, VIII 110.
DORFAT, in Livonia, VIII 110—observa-
tory of, III 819—telescope, IV 150; I
752, a—university of, XIX 531, 532;
XXI 492.
DORSAL, VIII 113—vertebræ, 'in man,
III 6—in brutes, 75, 84—vessel, in
insects, IX 49—fins, XII 206.
DORSE, fish, XII 269
DORSETSHIRE, VIII 110—sheep, II 346—
population and value of property, VIII
754—great oak in, XXI 270.
Dorsibranchia, order of annelids, XI 296.
DORSIFEROUS plants, VIII 113.
DORT, in Holland, VIII 113—synod of,
III 617; XI 573, 588; XVIII 498
Dorthes (Mr), on a swarm of ants at
Montpellier, III 265.
DORMUND, in Westphalia, VIII 113.
Dory, family of fishes, XII 298
—— fish, XII 298; IX 634—as an
article of food, 765.
Dorycera, genus of insects, IX 255.
Dorychthys, genus of fishes, XII 315.
Dorylus, genus of insects, IX 194.
Doryphrys, genus of fishes, XII 313.
Doryphora, genus of insects, IX 149.
DORYPHORAI, VIII 113.
Doryphorus, genus of reptiles, XIX 81.
Dorypterus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII
125.
Doryrhamphus, sub-family of fishes, XII
315.
Doryrhamphus, genus of fishes, XII 315.
DOSTIYEHANS, Samaritan sect, VIII 113.
DOSSER, VIII 113.
DOSSIL, in surgery, VIII 113.
Dots, town of Hungary, VIII 113.
Dots, engraving in, VIII 799, 800.
DORTMUND, VIII 113.
Dotterel, bird, XVI 797—shooting of,
XI 216.
DOUAI, or DOUAY, French town, VIII 113
—— bible, IV 703.

DOU—DOW

- DOUBLE-BASS, VIII 113; XV 709
Double counterpoint, in music, XV 734.
—— entry, in book-keeping, IV 29
Doubleday (Edward), his entomological
works, IX 19.
—— (Henry), his work on Lepidoptera,
IX 20
Doublers, electrical, VIII 614.
DOUBLET, a counterfeit gem, VIII 113—
lenses, XIV 771, 773, 774, 775
DOUBLETS, a game, VIII 114
DOUBLING, VIII 114—in silk manufacture,
XX 281, 284.
DOUBLOON, coin, VIII 114; XV 442.
DOUBS, in France, VIII 114.
Douce (Mr), on the Morris dance, XV
598
DOUCHE, VIII 114.
Duff, VIII 26
DOUGLAS, capital of the Isle of Man, VIII
119, XIV 245, 246.
—— castle of, anecdote regarding, VI
609
—— earls of, XIX 759, 770 *et seq*
—— (Gavin), bishop of Dunkeld, VIII
114—on Caxton's translation of Virgil,
IV 710
—— (Sir Howard), on gunnery, XI
122, 125, 127, 139, 144—on cannonades,
141—on Hale's rockets, 143—his work
on artillery, 145
—— (James), of Cavers, on Goethe, X
700.
—— on the peritoneum, II 838
—— (Mr), botanist, his death in the
Sandwich islands, XVIII 271.
DOULEIA, VIII 120
DOUNE, in Perthshire, VIII 120
Dour, town in Belgium, VIII 120
DOURO, river, VIII 120; XVII 605, 646
—— dispute between Spain and Portugal
about the navigation of, XVIII 391—
wine districts of, 397; XXI 884, 885—
passage of, by the British, 822
Dowr (Gerhard), painter, VIII 120.
DOVE, VIII 120 See Pigeon.
—— (M.), on isothermal lines, VI 772,
773—on atmospheric pressure, 773,
XIV 668, 669—his law of storms, VI
774—on the variation of the needle,
XIV 54—his law of rotation of the
wind, 649—on temperature, 673; XVII
613—on the dependence of atmospheric
pressure, &c., on the direction of the
wind, XIV 677, 678—his works on
meteorology, 689—his chart of isab-
normal lines, 611—area of greatest cold
indicated by, XVIII 177.
—— river, VII 754; XX 529
Dove-colour, dyeing of, VIII 320
DOVE-TAILING, VIII 120; XII 810.
DOVER, in Delaware, VIII 121; VII 704
—— in Kent, VIII 120—population,
XIII 67—harbour of refuge at, XI 222
—— foundations of the pier at, XX 723
—— in New Hampshire, VIII 121;
XVI 174.
—— straits of, VIII 792—Blanchard's
aerial voyage across, II 178.
Doveran, river, XIX 794
Dovre Fjeld, mountains, XVI 320.
Dow (Alexander), on the Oude family,
XVII 19, 20.
DOWAGER, VIII 121
Dowdal (Archbishop), XII 476
Dowdeswell (Mr), on the state of crime
in India, XI 521, 522
DOWEL, in carpentry, VIII 121.
Dowelling, in joinery, V 750.
DOWER, VIII 121
Dowlals foundry blast furnace, XII 545,
546.
DOWLAS, coarse linen cloth, VIII 121.
DOWLETABAD, in Hindustan, VIII 121.
Down, Irish county, VIII 121—agricul-
tural statistics of, XII 516, 517.
—— of birds, VIII 124—elder, 518.
—— of plants, XI 189; V 75.
DOWNHAM, town in Norfolk, VIII 124.
Downie (David), V 555.
DOWNPATRICK, VIII 124, 122—abbey of,
124—Struel Wells near, ib
Downs, VIII 124—in Dorsetshire, 111—

DOW—DRA

- Kent, XIII 64—Surrey, XX 886—
Sussex, 889.
Downs, roadstead off the coast of Kent,
VIII 124; XIII 65
DOWNTON, town in Wiltshire, VIII 124.
DOWER, VIII 124, 121.
DOXOLOGY, VIII 124
Doyère (L.), his work on insects injur-
ous to corn, IX 23.
D'Oyly's Letters to Sir William Drum-
mond, VIII 195
Drab, dyeing of, VIII 320.
DRABLER, VIII 124.
DRABS, VIII 124
DRACHEMA, VIII 124, VII 67, XVI 359.
DRACO, Athenian lawgiver, VIII 124, IV
193—legislation of, 213
—— constellation, VIII 124, 125; IV
79.
—— genus of reptiles, XIX 32.
DRACONARIUS, VIII 125
DRACONTIO month, VIII 125.
DRAGOMAN, VIII 125
DRAGON, fabulous serpent, VIII 125,
XIX 32, 33—in heraldry, XI 334
—— Head and Tail, VIII 125
DRAGON'S blood, VIII 125.
Dragon-fly, IX 176—lives after decapita-
tion, III 177—fossil dragon-flies, XVII
103
Dragon-trees, V 84, 212—of Orotava, 101;
VI 166—Madera, XIII 800
DRAGONTEE, in heraldry, VIII 125
DRAGON, VIII 125 See Army, Cavalry.
Dragon horses, XI 657.
DRAGONING, VIII 125.
DRAGUIGNAN, town of France, VIII 125.
DRAINAGE, VIII 125, II 287, 399; V
163—of towns, III 494, 495, XIX 618
—— of Bedford level, IV 568—in Holland,
XI 581—of the Haarlem Meer, 173—of
mines, XV 226—acts for, II 264—
Smith of Deanston's system, ib—pump
for, XII 176—of tow-paths, XVI 57—
increase of heat in the soil from, XI
700—of plantations, XXI 273—in Cam-
bridgeshire, VI 115—its effect on sal-
mon-fisheries, IX 607, 626—drainage
basins of rivers, XVII 592, 646 See
Drains.
Drains, different kinds of town drains,
VIII 128; their importance to health,
XIV 444—building of, V 734—direc-
tion of, VIII 133—depth, 134—distance
between, ib—in connection with rig-
gation, XII 612 *et seq*. See Drainage
DRAKE (Sir Francis), English admiral,
VIII 132*, IV 835, V 600, 501—his
expedition against Cadix, VIII 712.
—— (Dr), on Shakespeare, VIII 153—
on Dunbar's poetry, 247, n 4.
DRAKENBORCH (Arnold), VIII 133*
DRAMA, VIII 133*—ancient, 184*—mod-
ern, 143—Chinese, VI 579—Italian,
II 479—Persian, 688—Etruscan, IX
359—Spanish, XVIII 114; XX 494—
Greek, 86, 881—of Alfieri, II 479—Aris-
totle on dramatic poetry, XII 559—
stage-dances, VII 646—pastoral dramas,
XVIII 111—female character, as ex-
hibited in, XX 86, 87—Spalding on the
English, 495. See Comedy, Tragedy,
Theatre
Dramali (Pasha), XI 26, 27.
DRAMMEN, in Norway, VIII 169.
DRAN (Henri-François), French surgeon,
VIII 169; XX 818
Draper (Dr), on the rays of the spectrum
concerned in the decomposition of car-
bonic acid by the green parts of plants,
V 105; his researches on the electro-
motive power of heat, XXI 654.
Drapery, in sculpture, XIX 857.
Draptus, genus of insects, IX 236.
Drapiez (Prof.), his works on insects, IX
12
DIASSUS, genus of arachnides, III 379.
DRASTIC medicines, VIII 170.
Draught of water, in ships, XX 161, 162.
Draughts, as a Roman game, XIII 248.
DRAYE, river, VIII 170, VII 668; XII 10
DRAWBACK in commerce, VIII 170. See
Commerce.

DRA—DRO

- DRAWING, VIII. 170—on stone, XIII 511
—by the camera lucida, VI 117—drawings for joinery, XII 806—drawing machines, XIV 415—of miniatures, XV 249. See Perspective
- Drawing-frames, in spinning, XX 511—
in weaving, XXI 784
- DRAY, VIII 175—horses, II 237.
- DRAÏTON (Michael), English poet, VIII 175—his praise of Herefordshire wool, XXI 910
- DREAMS, VIII 176; XIV 583; XVII 680; III 321, n.—of the blind, IV 778
- DREBELL (Cornelius), his thermometer, IV 456—his submarine vessel, VIII 59—
his discovery of the mode of dyeing scarlet, 274
- DREDGING, VIII 176; XVI 63.
- DREELITE, mineral, XV 95.
- DREISENA, fossil mollusks, XVII 106
- DRELIPOUT (Charles), Calvinistic divine, VIII 176
—anatomist, II 762.
- DRENTHE, in Holland, VIII 177.
- DREPANE, genus of fishes, XII 302.
- DRESDEN, VIII 177, XIX 685—Napoleon at, X 163—Royal library at, XIII 419
—porcelain, XVIII 436, 438, 445—operations of Frederick the Great near, 652, 653
- Dress—of the ancient and modern Egyptians, VIII 434, 445—its importance to health, XIV 441—in universities, XXI 443, 476 See Clothing.
- DREST, Pictish king, XIX 742
- DREUX, in France, VIII 178.
- DREYER (Pierre), VIII 178
- Dreyer (Mathew), his works on anonymous books, IV 711.
- DRIFFIELD, Great, town in Yorkshire, VI 1 178.
- DRIFT, in navigation, VIII 178—in mining—sail—wood, ib.—nets, IX 635
—great northern, XV 215
- DRILL, in mechanics, VIII 178
—in agriculture, VIII 178; II 274, 375.
- Driiling wheat, compared with broadcast sowings, II 308.
- DRILLING of soldiers, VIII 178
- DRINUS, river, XI 11.
- DRINK, VIII 178
- Drinking, process of, XVIII 76.
- DRIMODON, in Arran, caves of, III 676
- DRIPSTONE, in architecture, VIII 178; III 609.
- Drutzehen (Andrew), XVIII 526.
- DRIVING, in metallurgy, VIII 178.
—a sea term, VIII 178
- Drobisch on logic, XIII 577, n.—on syllogisms, 628
- DROGHEDA, town in Leinster, VIII 178—ancient monument at New Grange, near, XIV 377—manufactures, ib.—taken by Cromwell, XII 454
- DROHICZYN, in Russian Poland, VIII 179.
- DROBOVYCZ, in Galicia, VIII 179.
- Droits of Admiralty, II 144.
- DROITWICH, in Worcestershire, VIII 179
—salt manufacture, XIX 582, 583; XXI 928.
- Dromas, genus of birds, XVI 800.
- Dromatherium, fossil mammal, XVIII 157
- DROME, in France, VIII 180
- Dromecus, genus of birds, XVI 796
- DROMEDARY, VIII 180, XIV 205—teeth of, XVI 466—bred in some of the Canary islands, VI 167—Arabian, III 246—Asiatic, 740.
- Dromia, genus of crustacea, VII 541
- Dromilites, fossil crustaceans, XVII 102
- Dromius, genus of insects, IX 82.
- DROMORE, Irish town, VIII 180.
- DROME, VIII 180 See Bee.
- DROMERO, in Piedmont, VIII 180.
- DROMFIELD, in Derbyshire, VIII 180
- DRONGOS, birds, XVI 751.
- DRONTHEIM, in Norway, VIII 180. See Trondhjem.
- DROPPING-TUBE, VIII 180.
- Drop-measurer (Brewster's), XII 87.
- Drops, form of, XII 102.
—in architecture, III 509.

DRO—DUB

- DROPSY, VIII 180; XVII 690—in cattle, XXI 567.
- Diosceae, nat order of plants, V 183.
- Drosophila, genus of insects, IX 256.
- Drosscope, VII 766
- DROSSEN, Prussian town, VIII 180.
- Drouillard, affair of, X 228.
- DROWNING, VIII 180—death from, XIV 430—Royal Humane Society of London, XIII 673—why the body of a person drowned first sinks and afterwards rises again, XX 880, n.
- Drug-shops, police of, XIV 441.
- Drugoet, coarse woollen cloth, VIII 183.
- Drugs, Himalayan, XI 444
- DRUDRA, or DRUUM, VIII 183
- DRUMS, VIII 183—in Anglesey, III 146
—destroyed by P. Paulinus, V 378—in Britain, 374, 375—Cæsar on their mode of education, XI 689; IV 443—of Iona, XII 441—Celtic, VI 366—their ceremony named Deiscal, VII 700—their glass rings, X 658
- DRUM, VIII 190—kettle-drum, ib., XV 718—bass-drum, 713—for threshing machines, II 283—of the ear, XVII 679.
- DRUMMOND (William), poet, VIII 190—his notes of Ben Johnson's conversation, XIII 7—his bequest to the University of Edinburgh, 402
—(Sir William), VIII 194—on the conquests of Sesostris, III 622, n 4.
—(Dr), on intestinal worms, XXI 977 n 2, 978 n 4, 980 n 3
—(Alexander), his lectures on the civil law, VII 585 n 3.
—(M^r, M.P.), his speech on the newspaper stamp duty, XVI 191
—(Peter), his tract enterprise, XX 701.
- Drummond-light, its application to light-houses, XIII 480—as a signal in triangulation, IX 555.
- Drumore, battle of, V 441.
- Drums, fishes, XII 284
- DRUNKENNESS, VIII 196—in Lapland, XIII 239; Norway, XVI 326
- Drupe, in botany, V 183.
- Drury (D.), his work on insects, IX 6.
—Lane Theatre, XIII 675; XXI 168, 170, 174, 176—roof of, VI 266
- DRUSES, VIII 197, 478; XX 908; XXI 379—their Confession of Faith, ib.—their contests with the Maronites and Turks, XVII 198; XXI 374.
- Drusilla, XIX 335—Jewish princess, 340
- DRUSUS (John), VIII 200.
- Drusus, German expedition of, X 575.
—(Livius), tribune, XIX 320.
- DRYADES, nymphs, VIII 201, XVI 396.
- DRYANDER (Jonas), naturalist, VIII 201
- Dry measures, XXI 808.
—pile, electric or, XXI 619.
—ron, VIII 206, V 173—Bramah's patent for preventing, 274—in ships, VIII 76, 77; XX 166; means of preventing it, XVI 98, 99; XX 167, XXI 279.
- Dryburgh Abbey, IV 681—Sir Walter Scott buried at, XIX 823; XXI 899.
- DRYDEN (John), VIII 202, 797—on the haughtiness of Hobbes, I 388—on heroic plays, VIII 161—his confession of indecency in his dramatic works, 163—his translations of Juvenal, XIII 80—sum paid for the copyright of his Fables, VII 355—poetry of, XVIII 128—his satire on Settle and Shadwell, XX 63, 68—on Shakespeare, 71, 72, 78—his defective reading, XXI 172.
- Dryophilus, genus of serpents, XIX 57.
- Dryinus, genus of insects, IX 110.
- Drymea, genus of insects, IX 250.
- Dryomyza, genus of insects, IX 251.
- Dryopithecus, fossil apes, XVII 167.
- Dryopteris, genus of insects, IX 140.
- DRYALTER, VIII 213
- DUAL, VIII 213; X 747.
- DUALISM, VIII 213.
- Dualistic hypothesis on the origin of evil, IX 420.
- DUBLIN, VIII 213—Royal Irish Academy

DUB—DUF

- at, II 67—bridge built by Mr Steven, VI 382, n 1—study of mathematics at, I 807—libraries of, XIII 404—gazette, X 444—university, XII 478; XXI 485
—Trinity College library, XIII 403—newspapers of, XVI 185—variation of the needle at, XIV 53—meteorological observations at, 638—metropolitan police, XVIII 207, 208—post-office statistics, 416—early printing at, 533—list of societies in, XX 368
- Dublinensis (Codex), XIX 838
- DUBNO, town in Russian Poland, VIII 227
- DUBOI, town of Hindustan, VIII 227
- Dubois (Jacques), anatomist, II 757.
—(M^r), his work on magnetic experiments, XX 428
- Du Bois-Raymond (Dr), on animal electricity, I 961—on voltaic electricity, XXI 633.
- DUBOS (Jean-Baptiste), VIII 227
- Duboscq (M^r), his manufacture of stereoscopes, XX 685.
- DUBRAS, Roman name of Dover, VIII 228, 120
- Dubrunfaut (M^r), on optics, XVI 679, 681.
- Dubuat (Chevalier), on hydrodynamics, XII 73, 121, 125 *et seq*, I 725, 886, 887; XVI 60—on the motion of rivers, XIX 187—on the resistance of water, 191 *et seq*—on seamanship, XX 3
- DUBUQUE, in Iowa, VIII 228, XII 460.
- Ducal orders of knighthood, XIII 123.
- Du Cange See Cange
- DUCAS (Michael), Greek historian, VIII 228
—(Michael), emperor, VII 316.
—(John), VII 316, 317.
- DUCAT, foreign coin, VIII 228; XV 441, 442, 444, 445.
- DUCAT, Cape, ancient Leucate, VIII 228
- DUCATRON, silver coin, VIII 228.
- DUCENARIUS, VIII 228
- DUCENTESSIMA, VIII 228.
- Ducetus, II 421
- DUCHAL (James, D.D.), VIII 228
- Duchemin (General), on gunnery, XI 145
- Duchet (M^r), on the production of wax, IV 673.
- DUCHY, or Dutchy, VIII 228—court, ib.—duchies in Europe, IX 397.
- DUCY, VIII 228, IX 762, XVI 816, 818
—voice, III 103—artificial, IV 320—Chinese, VI 591.
—(Dr), his enumeration of writers on feudal law, IX 524
- Duck-billed platypus, XIV 193. See Ornithorhynchus
- Duck-shooting, XX 217.
- DUCKING-SPOOL, VIII 228.
- Duckweed, order of plants, V 214.
- Duckworth (Sir J.), his naval expedition to Constantinople, V 608—his defeat of the French squadron against Jamaica, XII 674—his passage through the Dardanelles, XXI 871, n
- DUCLOS (Charles Pineau), VIII 223
- Ducouëdie's hive, III 296.
- DUCY, VIII 229.
- DUCZNY, VIII 229; XX 749, 752—of metals, VI 482.
- Ductor, genus of fossil fishes, XII 845.
- Duclavant (Madame), character of her novels, XIX 290.
- DUDLEY (Edmund), VIII 229.
- (John), Duke of Northumberland, VIII 229, 707.
—(Sir Robert), Earl of Warwick, VIII 229.
—(Robert), Earl of Leicester, VIII 713.
—(Lord Guildford), VIII 707, 709.
—in Worcestershire, VIII 229; XXI 928—canal, ib.
- DUX, VIII 230; VI 611, 626, 627—with the sword, IX 502—duty of avoiding, XV 567—mania for duelling in the seventeenth century, XIX 163.
- Dufay (M^r), on dyeng, VIII 274—on electricity, 525; I 733.
- DUFF (Patrick), of Elgin, fossil reptile discovered by, XVII 129.

DUF—DUM

- Dufour (Leon), his works on insects, IX 14—on the skeleton of the articulat, 30, 31—on the arachnides, III 873, 877, 879 *et seq*—on earth-worms, XI 501.
—(M Arles), on the silk manufacture of France, XXI 793.
—on fortification, IX 833.
- Dufrenite, mineral, XV 101.
- Dufrenoy (M^r), on the hot-blast, XII 553
- Dufrenoyite, mineral, XV 112.
- Dufschmid (Gaspard), his work on insects, IX 11.
- DUGDALE (Sir William), VIII 232
- Dugès (M^r), his experiments on earth-worms, XI 301—on entozoa, XXI 982
- Dugganahs, Bornouese tribe, V 53.
- DUGONG, in zoology, VIII 232, XIV 218
—section of a tooth of, XVI 411—Arctic, its dental system, 443—jaw and teeth of, 446
- Dugway, Troun, V 282.
- DUHALDE (Jean Baptiste), VIII 232.
- DUCHAMEL (de Vigny le Monceau Henri Louis), VIII 232—his artificial magnets, XIV 69—on the structure of bone, II 764—on bodies which do not conduct heat uniformly in all directions, I 952—on the durability of ropes, XIX 402—his experiments on the strength of materials, XX 764, 773—on the growth of trees, XXI 269—on the difference between firs and pines, 274.
—(JEAN BAPTISTE), VIII 234.
- DULCIS (Cains Nepos), VIII 234; VI 287.
- DUISBURG, in Rhenish Prussia, VIII 234
- Dujardin on the supposed organ of sight in animals, III 207—on the origin of these animals, 209—his works on insects, IX 21—on zoophytes, XXI 977, 978, 979.
—(M^r), method of microscopic illumination erroneously ascribed to, XIV 797.
- DUKE, VIII 234—duke-duke, 235—coronet of a, XI 336.
- DUKINFIELD, in Cheshire, VIII 235
- DULCIGNO, in Albania, VIII 235.
- Dulcinus, III 306
- Dules, genus of fishes, XII 277—fossil, 343.
- Dulfield (J.), his works on insects, IX 4.
- Dulong (Pierre Louis), I 952—his eminence as a chemist, ib.—on the law of cooling, ib.—his memoirs on the laws of heat, 953—on the elasticity of steam, ib., 958—his character, ib.—on the expansion of mercury, 957—his method for measuring the expansion of bodies, XVIII 703—his experiments on steam, XX 558.
- Dulse, V 218.
- DULVERTON, in Somerset, VIII 235.
- DULWICH, in Surrey, VIII 235.
—College, erected by Edward Alleyn, II 591.
- Dum Dum, disaffection among the Sepoys at, XVI 801.
- DUMARSAIS (Cesar Chesenau), VIII 235.
- Dumas (Alexander), his Diary of a Physician, XX 424.
—(General), on Napoleon's policy towards Poland, X 144.
—(M^r), on physiological chemistry, XVII 654
- Dumb See Deaf and Dumb.
- DUMBARTON, Scotch county, VIII 235—agricultural statistics, XIX 796, 797, 798—population, 799.
—town, 236; XIX 743.
- DUMBNESS, VIII 237. See Deaf and Dumb.
- Dumeri, his classification of animals, III 190—his arrangement of the genera of the Iguanias, XIX 30, n 4
- DUMFRIES, Scotch county, VIII 237—mountains of, XIX 790—agricultural statistics, 796, 797, 798—population, 799—trigonometrical survey of, XXI 382, 383.
—town, VIII 238.
- DUMONT (Etienne), VIII 240—Bentham's

DUM—DUN

- obligations to, I. 402—his notices of Mirabeau, XV. 259 *et seq.*
 DUMONT (Jean), VIII. 243.
 — (Al.), on the rocks of Belgium and the Rhine, XV. 189.
 DUMOURIEZ (Charles François), VIII. 243, V. 544, 550, X. 66 *et seq.*
 DUN, or Burgh, VIII. 244.
 DUNA, Dvina, or Dvina, Russian river, VIII. 244, XVII. 646, XIX. 516, 514.
 DUNABURG, in Russian Poland, VIII. 244.
 DUNDEER, vitrified fort at, IX. 790, II. 33.
 Dunagoll, vitrified fort at, VI. 26.
 DUNBAR, VIII. 244—battle of, V. 413; VII. 513—herring trade of, IX. 635, n. 2—water conveyed in pipes to, XIX. 196.
 — (WILLIAM), poet, VIII. 244—character of his poetry, XVIII. 121.
 — (Dr), on the embassy from Rome to consult the Athenian laws, VI. 740.
 DUNBLANE, VIII. 251—cathedral of, XVII. 459.
 DUNCAN (Adam, Lord Viscount), VIII. 251—his victory at Camperdown, V. 561, X. 107.
 — (Dr), of Edinburgh, XIV. 424.
 — (Dr Henry), of Ruthwell, savings-banks founded by, XIX. 556.
 — (James), his works on insects, IX. 20—his *Entomologia Edinensis*, 77, n. 2—insects discovered by, 115—on the geology of Roxburghshire, XIX. 452, 453.
 — (John), of Glasgow, his tambouring machine, VII. 449.
 — (Mr), African traveller, II. 210.
 — (Mr), his arctic expedition, XIX. 170.
 — (Mr), on the use of synoptical tables, XXI. 986.
 — Scottish king, XIX. 748.
 — (THOMAS), painter, VIII. 255.
 DUNCANSBAY HEAD, promontory, VIII. 255; VI. 62.
 DUNCOMBE (William), VIII. 255.
 DUNDALK, in Ireland, VIII. 255; XIII. 701.
 DUNDAS (Henry, Viscount Melville), VIII. 255—his measures relative to the affairs of the East India Company, V. 507, 509, 514, 521, 534, 549—on the slave-trade, 541—his defence of the expedition to Holland, 573—his administration, 576—his great power, especially in Scotland, 1b.—his defence and management of the French war, 577—charges of malversation against him, 599—his trial, 600—his services to the navy, VIII. 86—his monument in Edinburgh, 406—his connection with Pitt, XVII. 730, 742—his motion on slavery, XX. 322.
 — (General), experiments by, in firing at iron plates, XX. 183.
 — (Fort), IV. 300.
 — (Sir J. Deans, admiral), XVI. 107; XIX. 510.
 — (Thomas, Lord), steamboat constructed for, XX. 637.
 DUNDEE, VIII. 256—taken by Montrose, V. 406—docks of, VIII. 75—linen manufacture of, XIV. 285—gloves, X. 682.
 — (John Graham, Viscount). See Graham (John).
 DUNDONALD (Lord), on agricultural chemistry, II. 373.
 DUNEDIN, capital of Otago, XVI. 235.
 DUNFERMLINE, VIII. 258—railways connected with, IX. 545—manufactures of, 1b., VII. 641.
 Dung, use and management of, in agriculture, II. 294—analyses of different kinds of, 402, 403. See Manure.
 DUNGANNON, in Ireland, VIII. 259; XXI. 408—ancient relic near, 409.
 DUNGAIVAN, in Ireland, VIII. 259—harbour, XXI. 789—fisheries, 770.
 DUNINO, in Fifeshire, climate of, XIX. 795.
 Dunipace, VI. 275.
 DUNKELD, VIII. 259—cathedral of, 116;

DUN—DUP

- XVII. 459—geology of the neighbourhood, 456—larch trees at, XVI. 101; XXI. 275.
 DUNKERQUE or Dunkirk, in France, VIII. 260—put into the hands of Cromwell by the French, V. 417—sold by Charles II. to France, 422; XII. 66—harbour, X. 243—population, 277.
 DUNKERS, a German sect, VIII. 260.
 Dunleary, XIII. 94—occasion of the name being changed to Kingston, 1b.
 Dunlin, bird, XVI. 803.
 Dunlop cheese, VII. 623; IV. 353.
 Dunlop's act regarding reformatories, XVIII. 205.
 Dunmanus bay, VII. 371.
 DUNMANWAY, in Ireland, VIII. 260; VII. 370.
 Dunmore, XXI. 750.
 DUNMOW, Great and Little, in Essex, VIII. 260—savings-bank at, XIX. 664.
 Dunn and Co., their vertical steam-engines, XX. 611—retort steam-boiler, 615—their upright boiler, 617.
 Dunn's air-pump, XVIII. 46, n. 2.
 DUNNAGE, VIII. 260.
 Dunnet Head and bay, VI. 62.
 DUNNING (John, Lord Ashburton), VIII. 260—his motion in Parliament on the influence of the Crown, V. 489—Horne Tooke's letter to, XXI. 308, 309.
 Dunnose, XXI. 331, 332.
 Dunnottar Castle, XIII. 90.
 Dunnoyer (G. V.), on the alternation of beds of rock, XV. 161.
 DUNOON, in Argyshire, VIII. 261; III. 527.
 Dunrobin Castle, XX. 841.
 DUNS (John), Scotus, VIII. 261—doctrines of, I. 325, 434.
 DUNSE, in Berwickshire, VIII. 261; IV. 679.
 DUNSTABLE, in Bedfordshire, VIII. 261—straw-plaiting at, IV. 568—population, 569—early play-acting at, XXI. 164.
 DUNSTAN (St), archbishop of Canterbury, VIII. 262, 658, 660.
 DUNSTER, in Somerset, VIII. 263.
 Dunsterville's block machinery, IV. 783.
 DUNUM, VIII. 263.
 DUNWICH, in Suffolk, VIII. 263.
 Duodecimal coinage, XV. 430.
 DUODECIMO, VIII. 263.
 DUODENUM, VIII. 263—anatomy of, III. 60.
 Duperre (Admiral), his expedition to Algiers, II. 573.
 Duperrey (Admiral), his pendulum observations, IX. 573—on the variations of the needle, XIV. 54—on the magnetic equator, 58; I. 991—on magnetic intensity, XIV. 62, 64.
 DUPIN (Louis Elie), VIII. 263.
 — (Charles), on the character of the British army, III. 667—on the Jesuits in France, X. 223—on English dockyards, VIII. 79—on the discipline of the British navy, XVI. 108; decrease of sickness in, 106.
 DUPLÉ, VIII. 263.
 Duplex escapement, VII. 33.
 DUPLICATE, VIII. 263—in numismatics, XVI. 363.
 DUPLICATION, VIII. 263—of the cube, 1b.
 DUPLICATION, VIII. 263.
 Duponchel (A. J.), his entomological works, IX. 14.
 DUPOUDRUS, VIII. 263; VII. 67.
 Dupont (Paul), his lithographic process, XIII. 512.
 — (M. H.), his works on insects, IX. 20.
 Dupotet de Sennevoy (Baron), magnetic experimentalist, XX. 426, 427—his visit to Britain, 431.
 Dupoty (Mons), prosecution of, X. 218.
 DUPPE (Brian), English bishop, VIII. 263.
 DUPUIS (Charles François), VIII. 263.
 — (Mons), his mission to Ashantee, III. 726.
 — (M.), his photographic process, XVII. 453.
 DUPOUYRE (Guillaume, Baron), French

DUQ—DUU

- surgeon, VIII. 264—on erectile tissue, II. 799—on the capillaries of the bones, 823.
 Duquesne (Fort), XXI. 745, 746.
 DURA MATER, VIII. 264; III. 56, 105—abscess of the, IX. 827.
 Durability of building stone, XX. 712—of timber, 166.
 DURANCE, river, VIII. 264.
 DURANDUS (Gulielmus), VIII. 264.
 DURANGO, in Mexico, VIII. 264; XIV. 727, 718.
 DURAZZO, in Albania, VIII. 265; IX. 274.
 D'Uiban, town in Natal, XV. 805.
 — (Sir Benjamin), XIII. 34.
 Durckheim (Straus), on insects, IX. 41, 62—on the mollusca, XV. 319.
 DUREX, in Rhemish Prussia, VIII. 265.
 DUREX (Albrecht), VIII. 265—his etchings, 800, 809—his system of fortification, IX. 817—his house at Nuremberg, XVI. 394—his merits as a painter, XVII. 74—his improvements in wood engraving, XXI. 903.
 DURESSE, in law, VIII. 265.
 D'URFEX (Thomas), VIII. 265.
 DURHAM, county palatine of, VIII. 265—breed of cattle, 267—population and value of property, 754.
 — city of, VIII. 268—cathedral library at, XIII. 394—university of, XXI. 471—mustard, XI. 744—diminished mortality, on, owing to sanitary improvements, XIX. 604.
 — (Earl of), appointed governor of Canada, V. 666; VI. 159.
 — in Australia, IV. 278, 282.
 DURLACH, in Baden, VIII. 268.
 Durnst oak, XXI. 720.
 DURNIGES, ancient British people, VIII. 268.
 Durra or dhourra, species of grain, III. 344; II. 55; XV. 17, 348; XVI. 348, XX. 82.
 DURRSTEIN, in Lower Austria, VIII. 268.
 DURSLEY, in Gloucester, VIII. 268.
 Durry (M.), on the character of the Romans, XIX. 308.
 DURY (John), VIII. 268.
 DUSCHAN (Stephan), XX. 62.
 DUSSARA, in Hindustan, VIII. 269.
 DUSSATLE (Jean), VIII. 269.
 DUSSELDORF, VIII. 269—school of painting at, III. 719—government of, XIX. 145.
 Dussumiera, genus of fishes, XII. 251.
 DUST or DUSTEE, Persian river, VIII. 269.
 — unwholesomeness of, XIV. 442, 443.
 Dust-ball, disease in cattle, XXI. 568.
 Dust-brand, a disease in wheat, V. 172.
 Dust-storms, XIV. 685.
 Dutch. See Holland.
 — gold, VIII. 269.
 — school of painting, XI. 591; III. 711; XVII. 74.
 — weight, XXI. 809.
 — West India Islands, XXI. 837.
 DUTENS (Louis), VIII. 269.
 Dutton (Abbe), on optics, XVI. 590, n. 591, n. 2.
 DUTKA, wind instrument, VIII. 270.
 Dutour (M.), on the colour of mixed plates, XVI. 623.
 Dutrochet (M.), on the cause of the ascent of the sap in plants, VIII. 603—on the capillaries, II. 799—on the skin, 834—on endosmosis and exosmosis movements in the sap of plants, XII. 102; V. 68—on the heat of plants, 169.
 Dutteah, V. 763.
 Duty, XV. 564 *et seq.*—collision of duties, 571—the economists on, VIII. 376—maladies exempting from public, XIV. 426—duties of parent and child, XVII. 274, 276, XV. 568.
 — in commerce, VIII. 270—excise duties, IX. 448; XXI. 59—on tea, 70, 89, 90—spirits, 73—license duties, 69—foreign duties on herring, IX. 641, n. 2—on paper, XVII. 260. See Customs, Taxation.
 — meaning of the word as applied to steam-engines, XX. 612.
 DUUMVIRI, VIII. 270.

DUV—EAD

- Duval (Al.), on the structure of teeth, XVI. 410, and n. 1.
 — (Jacques), his work on insects, IX. 24.
 Duverney (M.), his anatomical discoveries, II. 763.
 DuVillard (E. E.), his tables of mortality, XII. 400.
 DWALE, in heraldry, VIII. 270.
 DWARACA, in Hindustan, VIII. 270.
 DWARE, VIII. 270.
 DWIGHT (Timothy, D.D.), VIII. 271—on the utilitarian theory in morals, XV. 553, 554.
 DWINA, or Dvina, two Russian rivers. VIII. 271; XIX. 516, XXI. 398, 608. See Duna.
 Dyaks, people of Borneo, V. 49, 50.
 Dyasteridae, echinoderms, XXI. 991.
 Dycoteles, genus of mammalia, XIV. 197.
 Dydimus of Alexandria, IV. 779.
 DYING, VIII. 272—Chinese skill in, VI. 586—of fishing lines, III. 161—of ivory, XII. 664—of beaver hats, XI. 242—of leather, XIII. 310—Berthollet's work on, IV. 677—Mr J. Wilson's improvements in, VII. 441—in Gloucestershire, X. 681. See Dyestuffs.
 DYER (Sir James), VIII. 320.
 — (Mr), on the university of Oxford, XXI. 480, n. 461.
 — (John), English poet, VIII. 320; XVIII. 124.
 Dyers, diseases of, XIV. 443.
 Dyers-broom, a dyestuff, VIII. 297.
 Dyestuffs, VIII. 282—red, 1b.—yellow, 295, 318—blue, 301—black, 304—brown, 306—green, 309—of Hayti, XI. 254—imports of, into the United Kingdom, VIII. 734—for beaver hats, XI. 242—Tyrian dye, XXI. 406—of Honduras, XI. 612. See Anotta, Cochineal, &c.
 Dyke. See Dike or Dykes.
 DYLE, Belgian river, VIII. 320; IV. 611.
 Dynames, VII. 304.
 DYNAMETER, VIII. 320.
 DYNAMICS, VIII. 321; I. 718, 721—dynamical stability, XX. 152, 156—applied dynamics, XIV. 402—of phrenology, XVII. 560—social, XIII. 263—dynamical theory of heat, XX. 561. See Motion, Statics.
 DYNAMOMETER, VIII. 365; XIV. 404—marine, XI. 216, XX. 645—friction, 601.
 Dynasties, Egyptian, VIII. 452 *et seq.*—table of, 453.
 Dynops, genus of mammalia, XIV. 148.
 DYNRHACHYUM, VIII. 365, 265; IX. 274—siege of, in 1077, VII. 316—coins of, XVI. 370.
 DYSE, goddesses, VIII. 365.
 DYSEART, VIII. 365—chalybeate spring near, IX. 544.
 Dysclaste, mineral, XV. 76.
 DISCRASY, VIII. 365.
 Dysdera, genus of arachnides, III. 378.
 DYSENTERY, a disease, VIII. 365—common in Egypt, 423, successful mode of treatment there, 1b.—in sheep, XXI. 568.
 Dyslute, mineral, XV. 87, 108.
 DYSOREXT, VIII. 365.
 DYSPEPSIA, VIII. 365.
 DYSPNOEA, VIII. 365; XVII. 663.
 Dytiscus, genus of insects, IX. 133.
 Dythacus, genus of insects, IX. 100.
 DYVOUZ, in Scotch law, VIII. 365.
 DZERN, kind of antelope, XIV. 210.
 Dziggithai, in zoology, XIV. 200.

E

- E, letter of the alphabet, VIII. 366; II. 610—in abbreviations, 18.
 EACHARD (John), English divine, VIII. 366.
 — (LAURENCE), English historian, VIII. 366.
 EADMERUS, or Eadmer, English historian, VIII. 366.

EAG—EAR

EAGLE, a constellation, VIII 367; IV 80
— base Irish coin, VIII 367.
— bird, VIII 366, XVI 742; XVII
633—its power of fasting, III 180
— coin of United States, XV 442
— in heraldry, VIII 366—orders of
knighthood, 367
— (Thomas), tea advertised by, in
1680, XXI 89
Eagle-ray, fish, jaws and teeth of, XVI
423 See Myliobates
EAGLE-STONE, VIII 367; II 189.
Eagle-wood, XVII 568; XX 233
Eagleshey, one of the Orkney islands,
XVI 718, 719
Eaheinomawe, IV. 206, XVI 232
EALDERMAN, among the Saxons, VIII
367
Ealred, English historian, II 429
EAR, VIII 367; XVII 678, 679—muscles
of, III 39—atomy of, 45—compa-
rative anatomy of, 98—in the mamma-
lia, XIV 123—pain of, in diving, VIII 60
— of fishes, III 178, XII 220—diseases
of, in the domestic animals, XXI 578
— musical, VIII 367; XV 708. See
Hearing
Ear-trumpet, II 106 See Hearing-trum-
pet
Ear-wax, III 46
EARING, sea term, VIII 367
EARL, British title, VIII 367—colonel of
an, XI 386
— MARSHAL, VIII 367; XIV 318
Earle (Bishop), his description of a scap-
toid, I 51
EARN, river and loch, XVII 456.
EARNEST, VIII 367.
Earnshaw (Thomas), his chronometers,
VII 30, 34
EAR-RING, VIII 367
Ear-shells, XV 380
EARTH, VIII 367—speculations as to its
internal structure, I 791—its annual
motion round the sun, II 36—discovery
of the nutation of its axis, III 805—
measurement of the, II; VII 230, 700,
I 617 *et seq.*, 836 *et seq.*; III 812; V
243—its motions, IV 3—form, 5; IX
547; X 479, XVII 569—ellipticity, I
854, 815—magnitude of, 617; IV 6;
IX 547; X 465—weight, XVII 569—
density of the, I 884; XV 166, n,
XVII 569—Cavendish's experiments on
its density, VI 253; I 884—date of
its creation, VI 668, 677—rotation of,
as demonstrated by Foucault's pendu-
lum experiment, I 854, 855—heat of,
949—radiation of, XIV 644—effects of
the sun's heat on, I 950—total quan-
tity received by, from the sun, II—
nutation of its axis, IV 15—motion of
its translation, 20—effects of its motions
on the appearances of the planets,
54—variations of its orbit, 106—final
configuration of, VII 241—magnetism
of, I 990; XIV 49; XVII 617, its
intensity, XIV 59; nature and causes
of its magnetism, 63, 64—internal heat
of, 636; XV 184, XVII 570—use
of the pendulum in determining its
gravity and oblateness, 384—its sur-
face and general divisions, X 488—
materials of which it is composed, their
arrangement, &c.; see Geology—its sur-
face, productions, and phenomena, see
Physical Geography—electricity of,
XXI 116—words denoting earth, in
different languages, XIII 199 See
Figure of the Earth.
Earth-stopping, in hunting, XII 38
Earth-worm, XI 301—hermaphrodite
nature of, III 171—as a bait, 155—
effects of chloroform on, VI 681
EARTHENWARE, VIII 367; XVIII 430 *et
seq.*—manufacture of, in England, VII,
732—Staffordshire, XX 530.
EARTHQUAKE, VIII 368, XVII 616—
earthquakes near Atna, II 194—at An-
toch, III 273, 274—in the Azores, IV
380, 387—at Caracas, VI 227—in Chile,
643—in China, 582—Comrie, in Perth-
shire, XVII 616—Ionian islands, XII,

EAR—EBN

444, 453—Jamaica, 673—Japan, 689—
Lusbon, XIII 505, X 695, XVIII 386
—Luzon, XIII 742—Merida, XIV 542
—Norway, XVI 322—Quito, XVIII
738—Smyrna, XX 364—Sparta, 501—
regions exempt from, XVII 616—waves
produced by, 582.
EARTH, in chemistry, VIII 368; VI
486, XVI 65—as alimentary substances,
VIII 20.
Earthworks, on railways, XVIII 759
Earthy poisons, XIV 434.
Earwash, river, VII 754—canal, ib
Earwig, IX 155—methods of destroying
it, XXI 549
EASDALE, island, VIII 368—its roofing-
slates, III 526
EASE, sea term, VIII 368
EASER, VIII 368—cask-pieces, ib.
EASINGWOLD, in Yorkshire, VIII 368.
EAST, VIII 368.
EAST INDIA COMPANY, VIII 368, XI 238,
481, 485, 486 *et seq.*, 528, XIII 670—
outlying territories of, VII 147—its
government of Ceylon, VI 396—par-
liamentary enquiry in its affairs in
1772, V 475—subsequent proceedings,
776—charges against it, ib—Mr Fox's
bill relative to its affairs, 508, XI
496—its misgovernment in India, V
509, 519; XI 486, 488—arbitrary con-
duct of its servants, 487; their malad-
ministration, 488—Mr Pitt's bills, V
511, 513, 514; XI 497; XVII 732—Mr
Grant's act in 1833, XI 528—Mr Fran-
cis's bill, V 520—dispute with govern-
ment in 1788 about the payment of
soldiers sent to India, 528—Burmese
war, 646, 783; XI 508—its internal
policy in the government of the country,
510—renewal of its charter in 1793, V
549—abolition of its charter, as a trad-
ing monopoly, VII 437; XI 528; V
612—its present constitution, XI 529—
exportation of bullion by, XVIII 215—
its shipping, XX 134—quantity of tea
sold by, XXI 71—their first importa-
tion of tea, 89—summary of their tea-
trade, 90, 91, cessation of their mono-
poly in, 90—attack of the weavers on
the trade of, 781—school at Hertford,
XI 358.
— (Dutch), XI 533, 534.
East India Docks, VIII 75; XIII 661.
— House, London, XIII 670.
East Indians, XI 487
East Indies, commerce of, III 757; X
289—manufacture of cotton in, VII
436—coins of, XV 442, 445. See India,
Hindustan.
EASTPOURNE, in Sussex, VIII 368
EASTER, VIII 368, I 502—disputes about
the time of observing, VI 80; I 525—
determination of its date, VI 86—Easter
term at Oxford, XXI 468.
— island, XVIII 281—peopling of,
II 694.
Eastern (The Great) steamship, XX 29,
189, 164, 665—comparative size of, 641.
EASTON, in Pennsylvania, VIII 368.
EASTPORT, in Maine, VIII 368
Eastwick's volcanic battery, XXI 610.
Eaton (John), his visit to the Ladrone
islands, XVIII 269
Eau de Brinvilliers, a poisonous liquid, III
380.
— DE COLOGNE, VIII 368; XVII 409
— distilleries of, XVIII 669
— DE LUER, VIII 368—as a remedy
for the bite of serpents, XIX 46
EAVES, in architecture, VIII 368.
EAVES-DROPPER, VIII 368.
EUDOMARUS, or Eudomarus, ecclesias-
tical officer, VIII 368.
EUDOMIA, Spartan festival, VIII 368
Eubœæ, nat order of plants, V 198
EUBERARD (Johann Augustus), VII 368.
Euberg, battle of, X 161.
EUBENGEN, in Württemberg, VII 369.
EBRIONITES, religious sect, VIII 369—
opinions of the, XII 764
Ebn Jounis, Arabian astronomer, III 795
— Sina. See Avicenna.

EBO—ECL

EBONY, VIII 369, V 189—specific gravity
of, XII 89
— order of plants, V 198.
EBORACU, ancient name of York, VIII
370; XXI 955
Eboulement, III 130
EBRO, Spanish river, VIII 370; III 393,
XVII 605, 646, XX 387
Ebsamboul. See Ipsamboul.
EBUDE, or Hebudes, ancient names of the
Hebrides, VIII 370
EBULLITION, VIII 370—produced by the
application of cold, XX 556. See Boil-
ing
Ebura, genus of mollusks, XV 287.
ECASTOR, or Mecastor, an oath, VIII 370
ECATEA, VIII 370
ECBATANA, city in Media, VIII 370, XIV
421
ECCENTRIC, VIII 371—rod in steam-en-
gines, XX 684 *et seq.*
Eccentricity of the solar orbit, discovered
by Hipparchus, III 791.
ECHELLENSIS (Abraham), VIII 371.
ECCLIS, in Lancashire, VIII 371
ECCELSALL-BELOW, in Yorkshire, VIII
371
ECCLISHALL, town in Stafford, VIII 371.
ECCELSIA, VIII 371
ECCELSIASTES, Book of, VIII 371.
ECCELSIASTICAL, VIII 372—academies, II
62—calendar, VI 79.
— Titles Bill, V 672
ECCELSIASTICAL, Apocryphal book, VIII
372
ECCEPOTICS, medicines, VIII 372.
ECDIS, VIII 372.
ECDISY, IX 57.
ECHELOX, VIII 372
Echeneidae, family of fishes, XII 271
Echeneis, genus of fishes, XII 270, 271
Echinida, genus of mammalia, XIV 193;
IV 260.
Echinys, genus of mammalia, XIV 180
— fossil, XVII 173
ECHINADES, islands, VIII 372.
ECHINAECHMUS, XVII 100
ECHINATE, or Echinated, VIII 373
Echinida, XXI 984, 987, 991.
Echinidae, echinoderms, XXI 984—fossil,
XVII 99.
ECHINITE, fossil, VIII 373
Echinococcus, genus of entozoa, XXI 973
ECHINODERMATA, VIII 373; III 192,
XXI 983—fossil, XVII 98.
Echinoidea, fossil echinoderms, XVII 99.
Echinolampas, fossil echinoderms, XVII 100
Echinopora, zoophytes, XXI 1005.
Echinops, dentition of, XVI 452
Echinopsis, fossil echinoderms, XVII 100.
Echinorhinus, genus of fishes, XII 325.
Echinorhynchus, XXI 980
ECHINUS, VIII 373; XXI 987 *et seq.*
— in architecture, VIII 373; III 509
Echiopsis, genus of fishes, XII 238.
ECHO, VIII 373—cause of, II 99, 106
— in music, VIII 373
— in architecture, VIII 373
ECLA, in Spain, VIII 373
Eckart (Master), his mysticism, XV 756.
ECKERNFORDE, in Denmark, VIII 373
Eckhel (Joseph), on ancient coins, XVI
360, 384.
ECKIUS, or Eck (Joannes), VIII 373—
his disputations with Luther, XIII 726.
ECKMUEL, in Bavaria, VIII 373—Davoust
at, X 151.
Eclampsia, disease, XVII 700.
ECLIPSES, VIII 373
ECLIPSE, VIII 374—eclipses of the moon,
IV 45—of the sun, 47—of Jupiter's
satellites, 70—number of, in a year, 49
—list of solar eclipses visible during
the present century, 50—tables for the
calculation of lunar, 120—projection of
lunar, 134, 141—elements for the pro-
jection of solar, 138—Captain Cook on
an eclipse of the sun, VII 340—mode
of finding the longitude by lunar, XIII
688—by the eclipses of Jupiter's satel-
lites, ib.—of the sun, 689—eclipse of the
sun in 1748, 382.
ECLIPSE, VIII 374, IV 12; X 481—its

ECL—EDI

obliquity, IV 12—displacement of the,
13
Eclogite, rock, XV 155
ECLOGUE, in poetry, VIII 374—Virgil's
eclogues, XXI 594
ECLUS, VIII 374. See Clusus
Ecole Polytechnique, X 272
Economic geography, Museum of, XXI 823
Economist newspaper, XXI 875
ECONOMISTS, VIII 374, I 183; XVIII
220, 222, 231—works published by, 2, 2,
n 2—their objects and motives, 700
ECONOMY (Political), VIII 388. See Po-
litical Economy.
ECSTASY, VIII 386; XVII 700.
ECSTATIC, diviners, VIII 386
ECTHESIS, VIII 386
Ectopistes, genus of birds, XVI 794
Ectot (Manour d'), his Danaide wheel,
XII 171
ECUDOR, VIII 386—metallic produce of,
XV 248
Edaphodus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII
119
Edaphrodon, genus of fossil fishes, XII
342
EDDA, VIII 388; XV 707; XVIII 808
Ed-Dirceyeh, VIII 494. See Derayeh.
Eddystone lighthouse, XIII 464, III 491
— erected by Smeaton, XX 335
EDIMATOUS, VIII 389. See Dropsy.
EDEN, VIII 389. See Paradise.
— river, VII 756; IX 544.
— (Sir F M.), quoted, VII 374, 375,
376, n—his work on the poor, XXI 680.
EDENDERRY, in Ireland, VIII 389
EDENTATA, order of mammalia, VIII 389;
XIV 189, 135, XVII 681—fossil, 638;
II 774—their bones, III 76 *et seq.*—
organs of smell, 94—ears, 99—Intestines,
110—of Africa, II 217—of America 713.
EDER, town in Hindustan, VIII 389.
EDESSA, in Macedonia, VIII 389
— in Mesopotamia, VIII 389, XIV
548
EDFE, VIII 389—temple of, III 458;
VIII 513; XI 382, and n 2
Edgar, king of England, VIII 659—his
fleet, XVI 89; XX 110.
— Afheling, VIII 663, 668, 670, XIX
746, 747
— king of Scotland, XIX 749
Edghaston, IV 729—botanic garden at,
731
Edgehill, battle of, V 403.
EDGEWARE, in Middlesex, VIII 389
EDGEWORTH (Maria), novelist, VIII 389—
on Miss Hamilton's Letters on Educa-
tion, II 200—her novels, XIX 279.
— (Richard Lovell), VIII 389.
Edh-Dhafir, king of Egypt, VIII 479.
EDHILLING, Anglo-Saxon title of nobility,
VIII 390
EDIOR, in law, VIII 390.
EDINBURGH, VIII 390—works for sup-
plying it with water, III 387, XII
135—Crawley springs, III 387; VIII
405—study of mathematics at, I 807
—abattoir in, II 11—Royal Observa-
tory of, III 818—Asylum for the
Deaf and Dumb, VII 686—Asylum
for the Blind, IV 776—Bible So-
ciety, 704—ale, V 834—fall of rain at,
VIII 408—School of Design, VII 768
—excellence of its guns and rifles,
XI 101—hackney coaches first estab-
lished in, VII 42—Cromwell in, 512,
513—products of the gas-works of, X
433—libraries in, XIII 400 *et seq.*—
clinical medicine at, XIV 482—resist-
ance to Episcopacy in 1637, V 394—
siege of the Castle in 1680, 440—anti-
Catholic disturbances in 1779, 491—
political prosecutions in 1793-94, 550—
Colleges of Physicians, Surgeons, Jus-
tice, VII 114—professorship of civil
law, 585—irrigated meadows near, XII
620; VIII 400—leper hospital, XIII
340—Philosophical Journal, XII 688—
police of, XVIII 304—post-office, 416—
Edinburgh and Glasgow Union Canal,
XIII 498—university of, XXI 481—
medical school of, 484; XIV 466—ex-

EDI—EDU

hibitions of the Royal Academy, IX. 473—gazette X. 444—early newspapers of, XVI 184—school of painting in, XVII 81—early printing at, XVIII 572—earthen mound, 761—tunnel under, 1b—founded by Edwin, Saxon chief, XIX. 743—establishment of savings-banks in, 676; their management, 668—dome of the Register Office, 388—list of societies in, XX 368—stone chiefly used in building, 711—Scottish Industrial Museum at, XXI 324

Edinburgh Review, XIX 100—origin of the, XX. 349; XII 716—Emspon, editor and contributor to, VIII 650—on salmon-fishing, IX 608, 614—on the character and genius of Dryden, VIII 204—on the radius, III 577—on Greek arithmetic, 578—on palimpsests, IV 701—on Hindu literature, V 270—on Machiavelli, XIII 778—on the intellectual character of Sir J. Mackintosh, 786—on the franchise, X. 738—on the character of Gaftan, XI 2—on Norway, XVI 322—on the dependence of different branches of industry on each other, XVIII 237—Constable's connection with, VII 299—its influence on public opinion, 718—Jeffrey's editorship, 717—Macvey Napier editor, XV 778—Sir J. Leslie's contributions to, XIII 346—on railways, 797—Sir Walter Scott an occasional contributor to, XIX. 532—Sir J. Mackintosh's contributions to, XIII 786—Sydney Smith's connection with, XX. 349—Dr Adam Smith's contributions to, 339, 345, Spaldings, 495, 496.

Edinburghshire, VIII 408—flars prices in, IX 583—analysis of the soil of, II 309—agricultural statistics, XIX. 796, 797, 798—population, 799—trigonometrical survey of, XXI 333.

Edingtonite, mineral, XV. 77

Editha, queen of Edward the Confessor, VIII 662.

Editions of books, IV 707.

Edmondia, fossil mollusks, XVII 105, 108

Edmonston, in Middlesex, VIII 411.

Edmund, king of England, VIII 658.

—Ironside, VIII 662

Edolus, genus of birds, XVI 751

Exom, or Idumæa, VIII 411; XII 357

Edred, king of England, VIII 658

Edrophthalma, crustacea, VII 542—their nervous system, 538.

Edrisi, Arabian geographer, VIII 411

EDUCATION, VIII 412—its effects used as an argument against free agency, I 269—study of medicine fitted to develop the intellect, 101—of farmers, II 366—effects of, on taste, IV 545—Brougham's education bill in 1821, V. 630—its importance in a manufacturing country, VII 457—the economists on, VIII 379—study of natural history, IX 26—Fellenberg's system, 500; Pestalozzi's, XVIII 478, 479, Lancaster's, XIII 181—promoted by the Jesuits, VIII 754—theological, XVIII 494, 495—philology a necessary branch of, XVII 638—proportion of married people in England who can neither read nor write, XVIII 878; in France, 1b—views of Bacon on, I 38; Locke, 267; XIII 548; Aristotle, VIII 668; Milton's work on, XV. 25; Parr's, XVII 805—Plato on, 809, 812—schools as affecting health, XIV. 444—Hannah More's works on, XV. 580—in Afghanistan, II. 205—Armagh, III. 614—Austria, IV. 318—Australia, 291—Bavaria, 619—Bengal, 682—Birmingham, 731—Bogota, 811—Bolivia, 829—Brazil, V. 297—Calcutta, VI. 70—Canada, 157—Carlow, 240—Cavan, 348—Chile, 548—Circars, 730—Clare, 755—Connecticut, VII 295—Constantinople, 302—Cork, 372—Crete, 496—Denmark, 750—Donegal, VIII 104—Down, 132—Dublin, 215, 223, 223—Egypt, 445—England, 745—Florida, IX. 668—Fermanagh, 515—France, X. 268—Genoa, 453—Germany, 691—Glasgow, 682—Cape of Good Hope, 715—Greece, XI 20—

EDU—EDW

Hanover, 213—Hindustan, 531—Holland, 589—Hungary, XII 18—Iceland, 199—Illinois, 362—Indiana, 574—Ionian Islands, 447—Ireland, 553, 534—Italy, 661—Jamaica, 676—Japan, 695—Kentucky, XIII 70—Kildare, 82—Kilkenny, 85—King's County, 91—Kirkcubrightshire, 100, 101—Lancashire, 180—Leeds, 814—Leicestershire, 321—Leitrim, 328—Limerick, 488—London, 666—Lombardy, 647—Londonderry, 682—Longford, 684—Louisiana, 700—Louth, 702—Madeira, 797—Madrid, 805—Isle of Man, XIV 246—Manchester, 258—Maryland, 331—Massachusetts, 341—Mayo, 370—Meath, 376—Mexico, 718—Monaghan, XV 410—Morocco, 595—New Brunswick, XVI 164—New Hampshire, 174—New Jersey, 176—New Orleans, 177—New York, 220, 229—Norway, 331—Nova Scotia, 344—Ohio, 490—Paris, XVII 284—Pennsylvania, 398—Perisa, 429—Peru, 474—Petersburg, 491—Portugal, XVIII 396—Queen's County, 728—Roscommon, XIX 421—Sardinia, 639—Scotland, 801, VIII 747; I 249—Two Sicilies, XX. 255—Sligo, 330—Sweden, 866—Spain, 492—Sparta, 503—Tennessee, XXI 156—Tipperary, 286—Turkey, 381—Tyronne, 407—United States, 423—Venezuela, 537—Virginia, 599—Waterford, 769—Westmeath, 839—Wexford, 846—Wicklow, 859—Württemberg, 939—See National Education, Universities, Blind, Deaf and Dumb

Education Grant, VIII 747, XIX 802

EDUCOATION, VIII 412

EDWARD, name of several English kings, VIII 412

—the Confessor, VIII 662—his character, 663.

—the Martyr, VIII 660.

—I., reign of, VIII 680—his death and character, 681—his fox-hounds, XII 34—constitution of the Mint under, VII 74—act for assaying gold and silver, 77—castle of, at Caernarvon, VI 55—his war with France, X 14—wars with Scotland, XIX. 754; XXI. 686—naval engagement with the French, XVI. 90—Ireland, in the reign of, XII 469—expulsion of the Jews by, 779.

—II., reign of, VIII 681—deposition and murder of, 682—his constitution of the Mint, VII 74—his treatment of the Irish, XII 470—his invasion of Scotland, XIX. 755—woollen manufactures in his reign, XXI 913

—III., reign of, VIII 682—Turner on the reign of, 683—laws regarding the coinage, VII. 77—his wars with France, X. 16 *et seq.*—his treatment of the Irish, XII 470—his encouragement of chivalry, VI 622—his fondness for the chase, XII 34—his navy, XVI 90; XX. 121—his household, XI. 773—woollen manufacture in his reign, XXI 914—his encouragement of textile industry, 780

—IV., reign of, VIII 691—death and character, 692—his household book, XI 773—his laws for promoting archery, III 425

—V., reign of, VIII 693—Sir Thomas More's Life of, XV. 582—enactments against vagrancy, XVIII 300

—VI., reign of, VIII 706—state of the currency under, VII 72—statutes against forestalling and engrossing corn, 375—religious persecution, 482—the Reformation promoted by, XVIII 829—naval affairs in the reign of, XX. 126.

—son of Alfred the Great, VIII 657.

—the Black Prince, VI 614, 621, VIII. 683; X. 17, 18—his expedition to Spain, IX. 464.

Edwards (Lieut.), his operations in the second Sikh war, XVIII 693.

EDWARDS (Bryan), historian, VIII 413.

—(Dr W. F.), on the effect of light on the lower animals, XIII 460; VI. 781.

EDW—EGY

EDWARDS (George), naturalist, VIII 412—on birds, XVI 738

—(George), on blasting rocks in the bed of the Severn, VII 70

—(JONATHAN), VIII 415—his scheme of necessity, I. 148—anticipated by Collins, 1b—moral and intellectual character of, 356—on virtue, XV. 559, makes it consist in the love to being, 561, I 357—on original sin, XXI 205

—(Milne), on the mollusca, XV 319

et seq.—on fossil coals, XVII 96—on zoophytes, XXI 999, n. 8, 1004

Edwin, or Edwy, king of England, history of his reign, VIII 658

Edye (Mr), on the weight of timber, XX. 173—his beam, 186

Eelcote, town in Belgium, VIII 417.

EEL, VIII 417, XII 280—angling for, III 162—as an article of food, IX 764—bobbing for, IV 800—electrical, see Gymnotus—nine-eyed eel, XII 228—effects of electricity on, VIII 602—sand-eel, in Lapland, XIII 242

EFFENDI, VIII 417

EFFERVESCENCE, VIII 417.

Efficiency, of a machine, XIV 404—of prime movers, 416

EFFIGY, VIII 417

Effingham (Lord), V. 481

EFFLUORESCENCE, VIII 417; VII 550.

EFFLUVIUM, VIII 417

Effodina, tribe of mammalia, XIV. 190

Egalité, execution of, X 83

Egbert, king of England, VIII 656, 657.

Egea, deposit of infusoria at, XVII 94

Egede (Hans), Norwegian missionary, XI 39

EGGER, in Bohemia, VIII 417.

—Swiss lake, XXI 1010

Egeran, mineral, XV. 85

EGERIA, Ægæa, nymph, VIII 418; XIX. 296.

—planet, IV. 91.

Egerton (Sir P.), on fossil fishes, XVII. 116, 125, 126

Egg, VIII 418—as an article of food, IX 763—modes of preserving eggs, 767; XVIII 815—artificial hatching of, 1b—quantity imported from Honfleur, XI 615—use of, in clarifying, VI 755—serpent's egg of the Druids, VIII 188; III 167—eggs of insects, IX. 53—Hewison's work on the eggs of British birds, XVI 829—test of the freshness of, XVIII 51—fossil eggs, XVII 155

See Ova, Poultry.

Egg-apples, V. 201

EGHAM, village in Surrey, VIII 418

EGHARD, VIII 418 See Æghnhard.

EGHLANTINE, a plant, VIII 418.

Egmont (Count), XI 563 *et seq.*

EGNATIA, Italian city, VIII 418

EGREMONT, in Cumberland, VIII 418.

EGRET, bird, VIII 418; XVI 799

EGYPT, VIII 419; II 224—physical geography, VIII 419—chronology and history, 449—topography and monuments, 496—statistics, 515—Dolomieu on the physical constitution of, 95—pyramids of, II. 23; III. 437, 451, 457—singing and dancing gulls, II 600—Abdallatif's account of, 23—manufacture of sal-ammoniac, 721—management of bees, IV 587—catacombs, VI. 330—cotton and wool manufacture, VII. 448—mining, 188—cotton-culture, 436—carpets, VI 269—French trade with, X. 259—resemblances between ancient Egypt and India, V 271—similarity of its monuments to those of Mexico, XIV 720—Alexander's invasion of, XIII 767—Bonaparte's expedition to, V. 564; X. 109, 119, 120; XV. 791; XXI. 371—Sir Ralph Abercromby's expedition, V. 583, X. 120; II. 29—British invasion in 1807, V. 608—monarchy of, XV 413—information in the Bible regarding, XI 368—hieroglyphical symbols of, 392—Dr Young on the monuments of, 404—coms of, XVI 380—plague in, XVII 748 *et seq.*; II. 22—Plato's visit to, XVII 787—vessels of ancient, X. 117

EGY—EIM

—conquered by Selm I, XXI. 369—its condition in the second century B.C., XIX. 312—Cæsar's campaigns in, 326—reduced to a Roman province, 330—weights and measures, XXI 810—map of, VIII Plate. See Egyptians, Hieroglyphics &c

Egyptian Institute, I. 947

—thorn, II 58

—wheel, XII 69

Egyptians, their skulls, III 29—their veneration for the dog, 288; XI. 763, cat, XIV 170, crocodile, VII 506, ibus, XVI. 801—were ignorant of the arch, III 401—then architecture, 400, 494, 457—army, 620—geographical discoveries in Asia, 752—astonomy, 782—visions of the Bible, IV 700—eligion, 217, VII 711, 694, XI 410, XII 686—did they borrow their superstitions from India? V. 271; XIII. 194—their beer, 318—bucks, 342; XVIII. 520—calendar, VI 76 *et seq.*, 670, 672, III 783—castes VI. 814—the Chinese not descended from, 517—practised circumcision, 732—used coffins, VII 55—their mode of cooling water, 100—gnomons, 778—dyeing, VIII 272—calico-printing, 314—divination, 54—embalming, 643—hieroglyphics, XI 368, II 608, V. 10—language, XI 409, 412; XIII 218—their treatment of the hair, XI 182—funeral rites, X. 343—their knowledge of geometry, 497—glass-making, 657—urgation, XII 621—railway bridges, 609—the notion of their Indian origin, XIII. 194—their physiognomy, 218—locks, 533—libraries, 381—resemblance to the ancient Mexicans, XIV. 720, 721—their knowledge of medicine, 450—mysteries, XV. 752—mythology, 760, 764—navigation, XVI. 1—Osiris, XVII 4—paintings, 46—paper, 246—papyrus, 262—their supposed resemblance to the Chinese, 354—exports of the precious metals to, XVIII. 468—sculpture, XIX. 848; VIII. 170—their version of the Scriptures, 839—acquaintance in ancient times with the power of steam, XX. 573—surgery, 809, 811—masonry, 710—ancient weights, XXI 808—ancient wines of, 882—Egyptian dictionary, 965

Ehite, mineral, XV 104

Ehrard's burning mirrors, VI. 11.

Ehrenberg, summary of his views of infusoria, III 206, 208; XIII 163—his arrangement of these animals, 211—on the brain and nerves, II 808—on the brain, 820, 821—on the development of living organisms in the air, III 210—on infusorial organic remains, XIV. 805; XVII. 94, 95—on a species of Medusa, XXI 997—on polypes, 1002—on corals, 1004, n. 1.

EHRENBREITSTEIN, in Rhenish Prussia, VIII 518, VII 46

Ehretaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 201

Eia, or Ey, VIII 518.

EICERÆ, sect of Syrian monks, VIII 518

EICHHORN (Johann Gottfried), VIII 518—on the authorship of the Epistle to the Hebrews, XI 277, 278—on the recension of the New Testament text, XIX. 836—on the book of Revelation, 99

EICHSTADT, town of Bavaria, VIII 518

EIDER, or Eyder, river, VIII 518—its connection with the canal of Kiel, VII 748.

EIDER-DUCK, VIII. 518; XVI 817; XVII 634—down of, VIII 518—of Iceland, XII. 203

EIDOGRAPH, VIII 518; VI. 119; XVII 238

Eifel group of rocks, XV 199.

Eiffes compensation-balance, VII. 30.

EIGNE, VIII 518.

Eikon Basiliké, authorship of, X. 440; VII 263, XV. 26.

ELAT-PRUSSISCH, Prussian town, VIII. 519

EILENBURG, town in Saxony, VIII. 519.

Eilethyas, remains of, VIII 518.

Einbeck, or Einbeck, in Hanover, VIII 519.

EIM—ELD

Elmeo, island, XVIII. 280
 Einhoff, on the composition of bailey-flour, V 320
 ENSIEDLEN, town in Switzerland, VIII. 519; XIX. 733
 EISENACH, in Germany, VIII. 519; XIX. 683
 Eisenapfite mineral, XV. 101
 EISENBERG, in Germany, VIII. 519; XIX. 680.
 Eisennickelkies, XV. 116.
 EISENSTADT, in Hungary, VIII. 519
 EISLEBEN, town in Saxony, VIII. 519.
 EISTEDDPRO, assemblies of Welsh bards, VIII. 520
 ELECTICITY, in law, VIII. 520.
 EKATERINBURG, in Asiatic Russia, VIII. 520.
 EKATERINOSLAV, or Yekaterenoslav, in European Russia, VIII. 520, XIX. 521
 EKRON, in Palestine, VIII. 520, XVII. 182, 514
 EL-Adid, king of Egypt, VIII. 479.
 Elaeagnaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 205
 Elaeolite, mineral, XV. 73.
 ELAEOTHESTUM, VIII. 520; IV. 505; XI. 168
 Elagabalus, Roman emperor, XIX. 347.
 ELAINE, VIII. 520; IX. 757; XVI. 492—
 one of the components of fat, II. 788.
 ELAM, VIII. 520.
 EL-A'mir, king of Egypt, VIII. 479.
 ELANUS, genus of birds, XVI. 743
 ELAPHEBOLIA, Greek festival, VIII. 520.
 ELAPHEBOLION, the ninth Athenian month, VIII. 520.
 Elaphrus, genus of insects, IX. 98
 ELAPUS, genus of snakes, VIII. 520; XIX. 64.
 Elapsopsis, genus of fishes, XII. 233
 Elasmodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 342, XVII. 119
 Elasmotherium, fossil mammal, XVII. 173.
 ELASTICITY, VIII. 520—a property of all bodies, II. 100; XX. 749—of aeriform fluids, XI. 270—of heat, I. 767—of air, XVIII. 23, 30, 50, 58, 61—modulus of, I. 74; II. 101; in various woods and metals, VI. 251—of timber, XXI. 274, 275—motion of elastic fluids, XVIII. 68—Bernoulli's problem of the elastic curve, XX. 782, leading properties of that curve, ib.—elastic force of steam, 557—experiments on, ib., 558 *et seq*
 ELATEA, town of Phocis, VIII. 520.
 Elater, genus of insects, IX. 106.
 Elateridae, family of insects, IX. 105—in Jamaica, XII. 682.
 Elaterite, XV. 124.
 ELATERIUM, in pharmacy, VIII. 521.
 Elaters, in the hepaticae, V. 146.
 ELATH, city of Idumaea, VIII. 521 See Akabah.
 Elatinaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 154
 EL-AZHAR, Egyptian university, VIII. 487, 447
 ELBA, VIII. 521—iron mines of, IX. 359; XXI. 393—tunny fishery, 394—Napoleon banished to, X. 169, XV. 795.
 ELBE, river, VIII. 521, X. 582, 585; XI. 211; IX. 384, 385; XVII. 605, 646, XVIII. 662; XIX. 684, 687—corn-trade of the, VII. 403
 ELBERFELD, in Rhemish Prussia, VIII. 521.
 ELBERG, French city, VIII. 522.
 ELBRUS, Prussian town, VIII. 522.
 Elbow-joint, III. 34.
 EL-Burullus, Egyptian lake, VIII. 429
 Elbuz, or Elbrouz mountains, XIII. 78; XVII. 592, 597, 599, 643.
 ELCEASITES, Jewish-Gnostic sect, VIII. 522.
 ELCHN, Spanish town, VIII. 522.
 ELCHINGEN, Bavarian village, VIII. 522—
 battle of, X. 137
 Elcho (Lord), his registration bill, XVIII. 840.
 ELDER, Jewish, VIII. 522—of the primitive church, I. 487, 502, 512; XII. 371—in Presbyterian churches, XVIII. 480, 484.
 — tree, V. 195, XVII. 764—specific

ELD—ELE

gravity of the wood, XII. 89—cells of, V. 63
 Elder (Randolf) and Co, their combined cylinder steam-engine, XX. 647.
 ELDORADO, VIII. 522
 Eldred on gunnery, XI. 103.
 ELEATIC PHILOSOPHY, VIII. 522
 ELEAZAR, eldest son of Aaron, VIII. 522.
 — son of Ananias, XII. 773.
 ELECAMPANT, plant, VIII. 522.
 Elecate, genus of fishes, XII. 297.
 ELECTION, VIII. 522—parliamentary, XVII. 296—bribery at elections, V. 342—in theology, XXI. 215
 ELECTIVE AFFINITY, VIII. 522—franchise, X. 286, 738.
 Electric battery, VIII. 611; XXI. 99
 — bells, VIII. 537, 550; IV. 630
 — clocks, VII. 27; I. 936; XXI. 644
 — current, XXI. 100 and *n.* 1—weak do, 632.
 — eel. See Gymnotus.
 — figures, VIII. 606
 — jar, VIII. 611—construction and action of, ib
 — kites, VIII. 608.
 — light, I. 924
 — shock, VIII. 601; XXI. 609, 646—
 of fishes, XII. 138, 261.
 — spark, XXI. 610, 653.
 — TELEGRAPH, VIII. 627. See Telegraph
 Electrical machines, VIII. 535, 536, 603—
 Van Marum's, 538—for medical purposes, 603—on the construction and use of, 605—Sir W. Snow Harris's, 604, Hare's, ib., Walkere de St Amand's, 605; Ingenhousz's, ib
 ELECTRICITY, VIII. 523—history of, ib.; I. 660, 733—connection between it and magnetism, 800—phenomena and laws of, VIII. 535—on the electricity produced by heat, pressure, and separation of parts, 557; and by change of form, 565—changes produced by it on organic and inorganic bodies, 588—contributions of *Æpinus* to, II. 163—conduction and induction of, I. 973—observations of Gay-Lussac and Biot in a balloon, II. 182—Beccaria on, IV. 560—Canton's discoveries, VI. 201—Cavallo on, 345—animal electricity, I. 959, 960, 961, 988—Cavendish on, VI. 351—electrical theory of chemical attraction, 450—atmospheric, I. 962; XIV. 660—Coulomb's memoirs on, VII. 462, 463—Franklin's discoveries, X. 291—its effect on fermentation, V. 319, 329; on beer, 330—used to produce mechanical energy, XIV. 418—of fishes, XII. 133, 261; XVII. 671—of plants, V. 170—of minerals, XV. 59—quantity discharged during thunder-storms, XIV. 663—use of gutta percha in electrical experiments, XI. 163—mathematical theory of, I. 937—distribution of, ib., 988—its use in resuscitating drowned persons, VIII. 133—nervous power not identical with, XVII. 671—Priestley's history of, XVIII. 514—ordinary and voltaic electricity, difference of, XXI. 621—its influence on health little known, XIX. 608—its supposed agency in the Deluge, VII. 721—its influence in the formation of clouds and rain, 39—electrical action, in reference to electric telegraphs, XXI. 94—therapeutic effects of, 635—light and heat by means of, 637.
 ELECTRIDES, islands, VIII. 628
 Electro-chemistry, Sir H. Davy's discoveries in, VII. 668 *et seq*—on the chemical origin of galvanism, I. 964—chemical effects from the pile, 965—electro-chemical theory, 968—electro-chemical decomposition, 978. See Voltaic Electricity.
 Electrophorus, Ronald's, VIII. 626.
 Electro-magnetism, I. 973—discovered by Professor Oersted, VIII. 631, 600; I. 973; XXI. 638—details respecting its discovery, I. 973—Amper's electro-dynamic theory, 974; XXI. 638—various opinions on the nature of the

ELE—ELE

electro-magnetic force, I. 974—mutual action of electric conductors, 975—
 electro-magnets, XIV. 74—influence of, in producing double refraction, XVI. 674: on the axis of crystals, ib.; I. 981—
 electro-magnetic rotations, 975, 977—
 as a prime mover, 987—Arago on, XXI. 638, fundamental experiments in, 638, rotations, ib.; inductions, 639—electro-magnetism as a mechanical power, 641.
 Electro-biology, XX. 441.
 Electro-dynamic machines, I. 987—Amper's, XXI. 639; Marsh's improvement on, ib.
 Electro-gilding, X. 626; XXI. 637.
 Electro-motive force, conduction, and insulation, XXI. 94
 ELECTRODE, VIII. 628; XXI. 95, 629
 Electrometers, VIII. 616 *et seq*; XXI. 97—
 Volta's condensing, VIII. 614—Ben-net and Singer's, 617—Volta's shaw, I. 962—Sir W. Snow Harris's, VIII. 620, 540—Faraday's instructions for using, 617—uses of, I. 738
 Electromotors, XXI. 99.
 ELECTRON, VIII. 628
 Electrophorus, VIII. 606; I. 961—Ingenhousz on the, XII. 380
 Electrosopes, VIII. 616 *et seq*—Hauy's, 558—Bohnberg's, XXI. 620—Sir W. Snow Harris's, VIII. 620
 Electrotypes, XXI. 635—in nature printing, XVIII. 555—in bank-note printing, 557.
 ELECTROTYPING, or electro-plating, VIII. 627, I. 937—trade in, at Birmingham, IV. 732
 Electrum, XVI. 352; XIX. 843—coins of, 359, 375
 ELECTUARY, in pharmacy, VIII. 628
 Eledone, genus of mollusks, XV. 401.
 ELEMOSYNA Carucatum, VIII. 628.
 ELEMOSINARIUS, VIII. 628
 Elegance of style, XIX. 141, 142
 Eleginus, genus of fishes, XII. 285.
 ELGRI, in law, VIII. 628.
 ELGUY, VIII. 628—Roman elegiac poets, XVIII. 105.
 El-Elfee (Mohammad Bey), VIII. 489, 490, 492
 ELEMENT, VIII. 628.
 — in physics and astronomy, VIII. 628; XII. 459—in chemistry, VI. 437—
 non-metallic elements, 455—in minerals, XV. 61—Hippocrates' theory of elements, XI. 633—elements of wine, XXI. 888
 Elementary bodies, VI. 437—table of, 438.
 ELEM, VIII. 628.
 ELEPHANT, VIII. 628
 Eleotins, genus of fishes, XII. 307.
 ELEPHANT, VIII. 628; XIV. 195; XVII. 631—of Asia, III. 739—Africa, II. 217—Assam, III. 764—Ceylon, VI. 394—in India, XI. 454—Egypt, VIII. 432—Nepaul, XVI. 143—Sumatra, X. 804—
 elephant-shooting, 211—longevity of, II. 234—frank of, III. 100—ivory, 105; XII. 684—teeth, 105—dentition, 106; XVI. 473, 474—length of its tusks, III. 110—chemical composition of the tusk, XVI. 418—size of tusks, XII. 684—sea-elephant, XIV. 171—fossil, XVII. 168, 169, 606, 637, 638.
 — ORDER OF THE, in Denmark, VIII. 628
 ELEPHANTA ISLE, VIII. 628; V. 1
 ELEPHANTIASIS, a disease, VIII. 629; XIV. 443—in Ceylon, VI. 392—leprosy, sometimes so called, XIII. 340.
 ELEPHANTINE, island, VIII. 629, 514.
 — BOOKS, VIII. 629
 Elephas, genus of mammalia, XIV. 194—
 fossil, XVII. 168—*E. primigenius*, 169, XVII. 606, 610
 ELEUSINIA, Greek festival, VIII. 629; XV. 738.
 Eleusinium, in ancient Athens, IV. 170
 ELEUSIS, city of Attica, VIII. 630, 629; IV. 216, 217—coins of, XVI. 371.
 ELIUTHERIA, festival, VIII. 631
 ELIUTHERIOPOLIS, in Palestine, VIII. 631.
 Eliutherus, Syrian river, XX. 904
 Elevation of the Host, VIII. 631.

ELE—ELL

Elevation, in architecture, III. 509.
 — of a place, the cause of cold, VII. 100
 ELEVATOR MUSCLES, VIII. 631
 ELEVATORY, surgical instrument, VIII. 631.
 ELEVE, VIII. 631
 ELF, VIII. 631—elf-arrows, ib.—elf-candles, XIII. 457.
 EL-Faiz, king of Egypt, VIII. 479
 Elfield, early printing at, XVIII. 532.
 Elfrida, VIII. 660
 El-Geezeh, in Egypt, VIII. 499—pyramids of, 450.
 EL-Ghooree, VIII. 487
 ELGIN, Scotch town, VIII. 631; XV. 576, 577—cathedral, III. 482—reptilian remains in the sandstone of, XIX. 793
 — MARBLES, VIII. 632; III. 703; XVII. 51, 508
 — (Lord), on the timber trade of Canada, VI. 142—on the education tax in Canada, 157—his treaty with the Chinese in 1858, XXI. 265
 ELGINSHIRE, VIII. 632 See Morayshire
 Elgiva, VIII. 639
 EL-Hakim, king of Egypt, VIII. 478 See Hdkim.
 ELI, Jewish high priest, VIII. 632
 Eliac sect of philosophers, XVII. 504
 ELIAS LEVITA, Jewish grammarian, VIII. 632
 ELIJAH, VIII. 633.
 Eliomichthys, genus of fossil fishes, XVII. 125
 ELIOT (John), VIII. 633
 — (Sir John), V. 393.
 ELIQUATION, in chemistry, VIII. 633
 ELIS, or Elhea, VIII. 633, 634, XI. 13, 19—coins of, XVI. 372, 357.
 Elisa, or Dido, VIII. 16.
 ELISABETGRAD, in Southern Russia, VIII. 634
 ELISABETPOL, in Georgia, VIII. 634
 ELISIA, Jewish prophet, VIII. 634
 ELISTON, in grammar, VIII. 635
 ELIXATION, in pharmacy, VIII. 635.
 ELIXIR, VIII. 635.
 ELIZABETH, queen of England, VIII. 635
 — reign of, 711—archery in her reign, III. 425, 427—restrictions on commerce, V. 382—her friendship for the Earl of Essex, VII. 761—her quarrel with him, 762—dramatists of the age of, VIII. 157—trial by battle, 231—her commitment to the Tower in Mary's reign, 709—death and character, 714—aid to Holland, XI. 569, 571—policy towards Ireland, XII. 477—her navy, XVI. 92—joint-stock companies in her reign, XII. 818—poetry in the age of, XVIII. 121—
 enactments regarding the poor, 801—
 anecdote of Raleigh and, 801—date of her death, 321, *n.*—Protestantism maintained by, 829—her policy towards Scotland and Queen Mary, XIX. 778 *et seq*—state of the navy in the reign of, XX. 127—negotiations for her marriage with Eric of Sweden, 847—wool-len manufacture in her reign, XXI. 915
 — empress of Russia, XIX. 482
 — (Port), on Algoa Bay, X. 714.
 ELIZABETHAN STYLE, in architecture, VIII. 637, III. 454.
 ELK, VIII. 637; XIV. 206; IX. 387—
 great fossil or Irish elk, XIV. 244; XVII. 170, 638—dentition of, XVI. 467.
 EL-Kamel, king of Egypt, VIII. 482
 EL-Karn, Egyptian lake, VIII. 429.
 EL-Karnak, temple of, VIII. 507.
 EL-Khuds, name of Jerusalem, XII. 734.
 Elkington's electro-plating establishment, IV. 732—his improvements in the art, XXI. 637.
 — system of draining, VIII. 133.
 ELL, a measure, VIII. 637.
 ELLET (Dr), monster described by, XV. 508.
 ELLESMERE, in Shropshire, VIII. 637—
 aqueduct of, III. 338—canal, IX. 229.
 Ellet (Charles), on the Mississippi, XVI. 62, 63, 60, 81, 86.
 Ellice's islands, XVIII. 273.

ELL-ELS

- ELLICHPOOR, in Hindustan, VIII. 638
 Elliot (Captain), chief commissioner to China, VI. 596—his proceedings there, 597
 — (George Argus), Lord Heathfield, VIII. 638—his defence of Gibraltar, X. 618.
 — (Sir Gilbert), I. 214, 215—his letter to Hume on causation, 287—his charges against Sir Elijah Impey, V. 529—his work on the improvement of Edinburgh, VII. 635—on the Alien Bill, V. 546
 — (Hugh), V. 530.
 — (Prof.), his ocular stereoscope, XX. 685.
 Elliottson (Dr), on animal magnetism XX. 427, 431, 432
 ELLIOTT (Ebenezer), the corn-law rhymist, VIII. 628.
 ELLIPSE, or Ellipse, VIII. 639, X. 544, 550—mensuration of an, XIV. 517—instantaneous ellipse, I. 810—in masonry, XX. 725—various ways of describing, 726
 — in grammar, VIII. 639.
 Ellipsoids, X. 558—attraction of, I. 823; IV. 230—ellipsoidal lenses, XVI. 574.
 ELLIPTIC, VIII. 639
 — compasses, VII. 221
 — functions, I. 822.
 — spheroids, IV. 221.
 — transcendents, IX. 679.
 — TURNING, VIII. 639
 Ellipticity of the earth, I. 815, 854.
 ELLIPTOGRAPH, VIII. 639.
 Ellis on Dunbar's poetry, VIII. 247—on Gower's poetry, X. 740
 — (Leslie), on Abel's mathematical discoveries, I. 822—his report on mathematics, 804, n. 1—on Laplace's doctrine of probabilities, 820—on chemical forces, 936, n. 1—his biography of Duncan Gregory, 807, n. 2.
 — (Mr), his observations on animalcules and mucus, III. 204—on the cochineal insect, VIII. 283
 Ellman (John), his improvement of South Downs, II. 346
 ELLORA, in Hindustan, VIII. 640
 ELLORF, in Saxony, VIII. 640
 Ellwood (Thomas), his intercourse with Milton, XV. 31—imprisonment of, XVIII. 719.
 ELM, VIII. 640; XVII. 758, 764—timber, XX. 167; XXI. 274—rock-elm, 276—specific gravity of the wood, XII. 89; strength of, XX. 757, 758
 — order of plants, V. 206.
 ELMACINUS (George), VIII. 640.
 El-Jansoorah, in Egypt, VIII. 497.
 El-Menzeh, lake, VIII. 429.
 El-Mo'izz, VIII. 477.
 El-Mustansir, king of Egypt, VIII. 478.
 ELMINA, African town, VIII. 640.
 Elmis, genus of insects, IX. 116
 Elmo (St), fine of, VIII. 583; XIV. 470.
 — castle of, XV. 780.
 ELMLEY (Peter), VIII. 640
 Elmonition. See Declamation.
 Elodes, genus of insects, IX. 107.
 Elogia, IX. 374—Cuvier's elegies, VII. 605.
 ELOGE, or Eulogy, VIII. 640.
 ELOHIM, VIII. 640; XXI. 188.
 ELOHIM, or Elohim, in law, VIII. 640.
 ELOHIM, in astronomy, VIII. 640
 Elopidae, family of fishes, XII. 251.
 Elops, genus of fishes, XII. 251.
 Eloquence of the Druids, VIII. 189. See Rhetoric.
 ELORA, town in Hindustan, VIII. 640
 — temple of, VII. 716
 ELPHIN, in Ireland, VIII. 641; XIX. 420.
 Elphinstone (Hon. Mountstuart), his account of Afghanistan, II. 201—on the Punjab, XVIII. 687, 688—on the Himalayas, XI. 448—on the great desert of Hindustan, 448—on the Indian monsoon, 451—on Indian land-tax, XXI. 45 and n. 2
 — (WILLIAM), Scotch bishop, VIII. 641; XXI. 478—his Breviarium, XIII. 400, n. 5.
 ELSNORE, or Elsinore, VIII. 641.

ELT-ELM

- ELTHAM, in Kent, VIII. 641.
 ELVANITE rock, XV. 134, 135, 137, 187
 ELVAS in Portugal, VIII. 641.
 EL-UKSUI, VIII. 606. See UKSUR.
 ELUTRIATION, VIII. 641
 Elwood (Mrs), on Cutch, VIII. 597
 ELV, in Cambridgeshire, VIII. 641.
 — cathedral of, VI. 115
 — Isle of, VI. 114—eels from, III. 162, n.
 Elymas, VIII. 520
 Elymas, king of Libya, VI. 285
 Elymas arenarius, plant, VIII. 645.
 ELYSIUM, VIII. 642
 ELYTRA, wing-sheaths of beetles, VIII. 642; IX. 40.
 ELZEVIERS, printers, VIII. 642
 — their New Testament, IV. 698, XIX. 587
 EMANATION, VIII. 642.
 — of radiant heat, I. 944, 947
 EMANCIPATION, in Roman law, VIII. 642.
 — of negro slaves, XX. 324
 EMATHIA, VIII. 642
 EMAUM GHUR, in Scinde, VIII. 642.
 EMBALMING, VIII. 643.
 — by the Guanches, VI. 163
 EMBANKMENT, VIII. 643; VII. 323, 324, XIX. 213—effect of, on the navigation of tidal rivers, XVI. 86—embankments on railways, XVIII. 759
 EMBARGO, in commerce, VIII. 647
 EMBASSY, VIII. 647; II. 652. See Diplomacy
 EMBEILLED, VIII. 647.
 EMBDEN, or Emden, in Hanover, VIII. 647; XI. 212—presbyterian church at, XVIII. 486
 EMBER-WEEKS, VIII. 647.
 Emberriza, genus of birds, XVI. 760
 EMBLazoning, VIII. 647. See Blazonry and Heraldry
 EMBLEM, VIII. 647.
 EMBOLISM, VIII. 648
 Embolite, mineral, XV. 107.
 Embossing, VIII. 648.
 EMBRASURE, in architecture, VIII. 648— in fortification, IX. 807.
 Embrithite, mineral, XV. 119
 EMBROCATION, VIII. 648
 EMBROIDERY, VIII. 648—in Glasgow, X. 650—in Greece, XI. 17—imports of, VIII. 734—of Sindh, XX. 304
 EMBRUN, in France, VIII. 648
 EMBRYO, in physiology, VIII. 648; XVII. 684 *et seq*
 — in plants, V. 140, 155, 157, 158.
 EMERALD, VIII. 648, IV. 682, 683, XV. 88; XVII. 628—comparative analysis of emerald and beryl, IV. 683—dichroism in, XVI. 663—specific gravity of, XII. 88. See Beryl.
 — copper, XV. 102.
 — type, XXI. 401
 EMERYUS, VIII. 649.
 EMERYUS, VIII. 649.
 EMERYUS, VIII. 649.
 Emerson, on mechanics, XX. 716, 718—on the strength of timber, &c, 758.
 — (WILLIAM), VIII. 649, I. 718 and n. 5—rule for ordinates given by, XX. 142.
 — (Dr), on the mortality at Philadelphia, XV. 609.
 EMERY, VIII. 649; XV. 87—of Naros, XI. 14.
 Emeryite, mineral, XV. 79.
 EMERY, VIII. 649; XVIII. 133.
 EMEU. See EMU.
 EMIGRATION, VIII. 649—from Ireland, XII. 502—to Canada, in 1852-53, VI. 153—Scottish, to Cape of Good Hope, X. 712—New Zealand as a field for, XVI. 235—the United States, XXI. 422, 432 *et seq*; XVIII. 339—annual, from United Kingdom, VI. 154—its insufficiency to keep down population, XVIII. 343—encouragement of, XXI. 677.
 EMIGRANCE, VIII. 652.
 EMIR, VIII. 652, 199; III. 350—rule of emirs in Spain, XX. 461.
 Emly, in Tipperary, XXI. 287.
 Emma, wife of Canute, VIII. 652.
 EMANOR, VIII. 652.

EMM-ENC

- Emmanuel (Victor), king of Sardinia, XII. 658—his aid to the British and French in the late Russian war, XIX. 307—his reign, 642
 — king of Portugal, XVII. 4
 — College, Cambridge, XXI. 466.
 Emmelichthys, genus of fishes, XII. 213, 287, 288
 EMMERICH, in Rhenish Prussia, VIII. 652
 Emmett (Robert), V. 624; VIII. 218; XII. 500.
 EMNUS (Abbo), VIII. 652
 Emory (Major), his account of New Mexico, XIV. 729.
 Emotional theories on the foundation of moral rectitude, XV. 543
 Emotions, or passions, XIV. 578. See Moral Philosophy.
 EMPALMENT, a punishment, VIII. 652
 EMPEDOCLES, VIII. 652—on the soul of animals, III. 309—taught the true theory of the moon's light, I. 568
 EMPEROR, VIII. 653
 — of Japan, fish, XII. 301.
 Empetraceae, nat. order of plants, V. 205
 EMPHYSEMA, VIII. 653
 Empidæ, family of insects, IX. 285
 EMPIRE, VIII. 653—German, *ib*—empires in Europe, IX. 397.
 EMPIRIC, VIII. 653.
 Empis, genus of insects, IX. 236.
 Employes on railways, XVIII. 755.
 EMPORIUM, VIII. 653
 EMPSON (William), VIII. 653—on the English government and laws, 756—on law, XIII. 270
 Empusa, genus of insects, IX. 157.
 EMPYREMA, a disease, VIII. 653.
 EMPYREUM or Emphyreum, VIII. 653
 EMPYREUMA, in chemistry, VIII. 653
 EMS, in Nassau, VIII. 653.
 — river, VIII. 653, XI. 211; XVIII. 682.
 EMU, or Emeu, VIII. 653; VI. 261; XVI. 796; XVII. 634; XXI. 31.
 Emy (Colonel), roofs constructed by, XXI. 394, 395.
 Emys, tortoise, XIX. 17—fossil, XVII. 153.
 ENALIOSAURIA, fossil reptiles, VIII. 653; XVII. 143, 640—geological distribution of, 154
 ENAMEL, VIII. 653—of the teeth, II. 830, III. 105; XVII. 407, 410—painting in, VIII. 654—improved by Petrot, XVII. 494—photography on enamelled glass and metals, 551
 ENAMELLING, VIII. 654—of Delft-ware, VII. 705—of leather, XIII. 310—of pottery and porcelain, XVIII. 444.
 Enargite, mineral, XV. 119.
 ENCAUSTIC and ENCAUSTUM, VIII. 654
 — PAINTING, VIII. 654—among the Greeks, XVII. 51.
 ENCEINTE, in fortification, VIII. 654
 Encecladus, genus of insects, IX. 85.
 Encephalopus mollusks, XV. 355, 322.
 ENCHANTMENT, VIII. 654. See Divination, Magic, Witchcraft.
 ENCHASING, or chasing, VIII. 654.
 Enchelophis, genus of fishes, XII. 268.
 Enchelis, genus of animalcules, III. 200.
 Enchelycore, genus of fishes, XII. 231
 Enchelynassa, genus of fishes, XII. 231, 250.
 Enchelyopus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 347.
 Enchodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 345
 ENCHORIAL CHARACTERS, VIII. 654; XI. 371, 372, 403. See Demotic.
 Encma (Juan de la), X. 628.
 Encke (Johann Franz), I. 855—his eminence in cometary astronomy, *ib*—his astronomical labours at the Berlin Observatory, III. 819—on the perturbation of the small planets, IV. 91; I. 858—his researches on the comet of 1819, 857—attributed its accelerated motion to a resisting medium, *ib*—this theory questioned, *ib*—his comet, 856; IV. 76, 94.
 Encoubert, in zoology, XIV. 191.
 Encumbites, XVII. 98, 99.
 Encrinus, XXI. 994.

ENC-ENG

- Encumbered Estates Bill, V. 671, XVII. 365—court plans of, XXI. 334
 ENCYCLOPEDIA, VIII. 654, VII. 607—Alfianus probably the first compiler of an, II. 477—Chinese, VI. 577. See Preface to the ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA.
 — Britannica, VII. 299; see Preface to the—value of presentation copies, and paper duty, of the last edition, 357, n. 2—stereotyping of, XVIII. 550
 — contributions to, by Dr Barclay, IV. 449; Dr Doig, VIII. 91; Thomas Galway, X. 387; Bishop Gleig, 677, Hazlitt, XI. 259, Haydon, 252; Leslie, XIII. 345, 346; Mill, XV. 12, Milne, 600, n; Playfair, XVIII. 5, 6, n. 1; IV. 96, n; Robison, XIX. 239, I. 870, 871, 872, 930, n. 2, XX. 18, Dr Thomas Young, I. 874, 900; VI. 378, 369, XXI. 964; Professor Wallace, 687, James Wilson, XII. 331, n; XXI. 876, Spalding, XX. 496; Robert Stephenson, 683; Dr Thomas Thomson, XXI. 236; P. F. Tytler, 415—former editors of, XIX. 289; Macvey Napier, XV. 778; Dr James Browne, sub-editor, V. 688—Smellie's connection with, XX. 336.
 — Edinburgh, Telford's contributions to, XXI. 146; Dr Andrew Thomson's, 232
 Encyclopedical tree, D'Alembert's, I. 1.
 Encyclopedists, X. 47
 Encyclopedie (French), D'Alembert's contributions to, II. 462
 ENDEMIC diseases, VIII. 654.
 Endive, V. 197—culture of, XI. 743
 Endocarp, in botany, V. 135
 Endoceras, fossil mollusks, XVII. 112.
 Endocæ, Greek sculptor, XIX. 852
 ENDOGENS, one of the primary classes of plants, VIII. 655; V. 80, 83, 179
 Endomachus, genus of insects, IX. 151.
 Endopleura, in botany, V. 139
 ENOPOR, town in Galilee, VIII. 655—witch of, III. 321
 Endorse, in heraldry, XI. 327
 Endosmose, XII. 101, 102; V. 86.
 Endosperm, in botany, V. 139
 Endospores, in botany, V. 142
 Endothecium, in botany, V. 126.
 Endowments, in the church, I. 542—Scotch Established Church, XVIII. 494
 ENDYMION, VIII. 655
 Energetics, applied, XIV. 416
 Energy, in mechanics, XIV. 403, 404, 411
 — sources of, 418—stored and restored, 408—distributed between two bodies, 418—transformation of, 418—all forms of, convertible, XX. 618.
 ENFANTIN, communist, VII. 211
 ENFIELD (William), LL.D., VIII. 655.
 — village in Middlesex, VIII. 655.
 — rifled musket, XI. 101.
 — Lock, manufacture of fire-arms at, XXI. 695
 ENFIELD, in the military art, VIII. 655; IX. 801.
 ENGADINE, Swiss valley, VIII. 655.
 ENGASTRIMYTHI, VIII. 655
 ENGHIEUX, town of Belgium, VIII. 655.
 — (Duc d'), VIII. 655—execution of, X. 129; XV. 794.
 ENGINEER, VIII. 655—institution of civil engineers, III. 506—French corps of, 641—Austrian, 645—British, 666. See Army—naval, XVI. 104—log of, in steam-vessels, XX. 656
 Engineering (Civil), I. 865; VIII. 655—its relation to physics, I. 865—application of statistical principles to, 870—taught in Durham University, XXI. 473; and in Trinity College, Dublin, 489.
 Engisthes, tribe of insects, IX. 114
 ENGLAND, VIII. 656—history of, *ib*—statistics, 715—agriculture, II. 253 *et seq*.—expeditions against Algiers, 569 *et seq*.—American colonies, 700, 703, 707, 708—archery, III. 424 *et seq*.—pointed architecture, 448, 480—later architecture, 454—recent pointed architecture, 456—Saxon and Anglo-Norman architecture, 480—weights and measures, 584—army,

ENG—ENG

662—gunpowder, 683—artillery, 1b—
panthers, 712—baking, IV. 378—bell-
ringing, 629—brewing, 321—canals, 367
—union of its crown with that of Scot-
land, 381—history after that union, 1b
—union with Scotland, 449; XXI 418
—attempt to dissolve that union, V
452—castles in former times, VI 326—
influence of the wars of the Roses
on chivalry, 625—coinage and the
mint, VII 68—commerce, 189—naviga-
tion laws, 145, 189—mercantile system,
192; losses from that system, 103—
Lord High Constable of, 299—corn
laws and trade, 374—influence of the
cottage system, 433—effects of the
cotton manufacture, 438, history of
that manufacture, 440—cutlery of, 600
—war with Denmark, 742—condition
of, during the Crusades, 528—law of
divorce, VIII 68—dock-yards, 78—
drama, 143, 146, 156—duelling, 261—
title of Duke, 234—fisheries, IX 643—
law regarding fishing on the sea-coast,
602—hunting, XII 33 *et seq*—glass-
making, X 659—language, XIII 211—
law of libel, 357—lunatic asylums, XIV
538—visit of Louis Philippe to, in 1845,
X 222—exportations from, and import-
ations into, France from England, 261
—friendly societies in, 810—leprosy,
XIII 340—royal arms of, XI 322—his-
torical writers, 548—horses, 693 *et seq*
—horsemanship, 673—insurance offices
in, XII 406—condition of the Jews in,
779, 782, 783—trassic rocks in, XV.
206—oolitic or jurassic, 206, 207, 208—
cretaceous, 209—coal, 203; VII 116
et seq, 127—religious missions to foreign
countries, XV 270; sum of money ex-
pended on, 273—banking, 453—money,
435, 436, 438, 439; XVI 388—mysti-
cism in, XV 758—system of education
in, 823—vital statistics of, 649—oaths
in, XVI 399—proportion of insane,
XIV 536—navy, XVI 89—newspapers,
180—history of art in, XVII 77 and
n. 1—history of the parliament of, 288
—franchise in, 293—classical learning
in sixteenth century, 523—its philology
compared with that of Germany, 525—
heights of mountains in, 643—poetry,
XVIII 120—North-west voyages under-
taken by, 166—police of, 191—poor laws
of, 299 *et seq*—increase of population,
341—expectation of life, 343—post-
office, 403 *et seq*—pottery, 433—porce-
lain, 437—Presbyterianism, 458—pri-
sons, 567—introduction of printing, 534
—railways, 752; extent of, 784—the
Reformation, 828; VII 483—roads,
XIX 225—omance, 267—royal family,
456—sculpture, 865—sanitary measures,
603—ship-building, XX 119 *et seq*—
surgery, 818—silk-manufacture, 276;
rearing of silk-worms, 292—slavery,
320—suicides, 800—quantity of spirits
charged with consumption duties in,
XXI 74—early history of the tea-trade
in, 89—land-taxes in, 45—timber, 268
et seq—sheep and wool, 906 *et seq*—
universities, 452—woollen manufactures,
913—defences of, 701—map of, VIII
Plate. See Chronological Table, VI
681 *et seq*, also Britain, Scotland.

ENGLAND, CHURCH OF, VIII 792, 744—
ordination in, XVI 708. See Episco-
pacy, Bishop, Benefice, &c.

Engledue (Dr W. C.) on phreno-mesmer-
ism, XX 440.

Englefield (Sir H.), his portable baeo-
meter, IV. 466—his filter, IX 581—on
heat, XI 263—on the spectrum, XVI
592.

Englehardt, on the level of the Caspian
Sea, VI 311.

ENGLISH CHANNEL, VIII 792—analysis of
the water of, XIX 585
— arc of meridian, I 837.
— blue, in dyeing, VIII 304.
— LANGUAGE, VIII 793; XIII 211—
its superiority to the French as an in-
strument of thought, I 229, n. 2—spe-

ENG—ENT

cimen of a dictionary of, VIII 9—
Bibles, IV 702

English type, XXI 401, 403

Englishmen, then tendency to dread a
French invasion, V 552—distinguished
as sportsmen, XX 211

ENGOTLEE, in heraldry, VIII 813.

ENGRAFTING, in gardening, VIII 798
See Grafting

ENGRAILED, in heraldry, VIII 789; XI
326.

Engramelle (M. D J.), his work on in-
sects, IX. 6

Engraulus, genus of fishes, XII 237—
fossil, 347.

ENGRAVING, VIII 799—on gems, 813—
aquatinta, III 381—of dies, VII 94—
on glass, VIII 813—steel, 1b—mezzo-
tinto, XIV. 733; XIX 463—Blond's
coloured engravings, IV. 788—of gun-
furniture, XI 101—on stone, XIII 511
—use of the dry needle in, XX. 746—
multiplication of engraved copperplates
by voltaic electricity, XXI 636—wood
engraving, 902—of the maps of the
trigonometrical survey, 336

ENGRAINED, in dyeing, VIII 813

Engrossing of corn, statutes against, VII
375.

ENGUERA, Spanish town, VIII 813

Enguri. See Angora.

ENHARMONIC, VIII 813. See Music

Enhydra, sea-otter, XIV. 159—dentation
of, XVI 461.

Enicocerus, genus of insects, IX. 116

Enicurus, genus of birds, XVI 752.

ENIGMA, VIII 813. See Ænigma.

ENIPES, river, VIII 813

ENKREUTZEN, in Holland, VIII 813.

ENLISTMENT, VIII 813—Mr Windham's
act respecting, V 599

ENMANOR, in heraldry, VIII 814.

En-Nasir, king of Egypt, VIII 484, 485

ENNEACRINOS, fountain, IV 170

ENNEAGON, in geometry, VIII 814.

ENNEAGONAL, VIII 814

ENNIS, in Ireland, VIII 814; VI 754.

ENNISCORTHY, in Ireland, VIII 814, XXI
848.

ENNISKILLEN, in Ireland, VIII 814; IX
516.

ENNISTOWN, in Ireland, VIII 814.

ENNIUS (Q.), Roman poet, VIII 814;
XIX 313—poetry of, XVIII 104—on
echini, as food, XXI 390.

ENOCH, VIII 815; I 454

Enontekis, climate of, XIII 287.

Enoploclyta, fossil lobsters, XVII 102.

Enoplosus, genus of fishes, XII 275—fossil,
343.

Enoplotheus, genus of mollusks, XV. 399.

ENOS, in European Turkey, VIII 815

ENS, in Metaphysics, VIII 815.

— Austrian city, VIII 815.

— river, VIII 815; IV. 309, 312.

ENSEELED, in falconry, VIII 815.

ENSHAM, in Oxford, VIII 815

Ensiform cartilage, III 9.

ENSIGN, VIII 815; VII 202—naval, VIII
815.

Ensisheim, meteoric stone of, XIV. 629.

ENT (Sir George), VIII 815.

ENTABLATURE, VIII 815; III 509—Doric,
464, 476, 477—Ionic, 465, 475, 477—
Corinthian, 467, 474, 477—Caryatic, 477

ENTAIL, VIII 815—abolition of, in the
Ionian islands, XII 448

Entalophora, fossils, XVII 98

Entasis, in architecture, III 509.

Entelmutha, XXI 974.

Entomon, genus of annelides, XI 301

Entomoconchus, fossils, XVII 101.

ENTOMOLOGICAL, IX. 1—the study defended
against the charge of cruelty, III 177
—use of flies in angling, 147 *et seq*—
tenacity of life in insects, 176—their in-
sensitivity to pain, 177—eyes of in-
sects, 98—Fabricius on, IX. 465—La-
treille, XIII 248—Moulet, XV. 666—
Kirby and Spence's introduction to,
XIII 96; XX. 504—distribution of in-
sects, XVII 636—kinds injurious in
gardens, XI 758, n.—how some can

ENT—EPI

walk on water, XX. 753—method of
destroying noxious kinds, XXI 549.

Entomostraca, crustacea, VII. 542—their
nervous system, 533—their organs of
reproduction, 559—fossil, XVII 101.

ENTROZOA, IX. 266; III 192, 193; XXI
974 See Intestinal Worms.

ENTRE DUERO E MINHO, IX. 266; XVIII
395.

Entre Rios, in La Plata, XVII 779.

Entrecasteaux See D'Entrecasteaux.

ENTREPOIT, in commerce, IX 266

ENTRESOL, in architecture, IX. 266

Entrophic organs, III 58, 105

ENTRY, in law, IX. 266—in book-keeping,
V 28, 29.

ENUMERATION, IX. 266—enumerations of
the people, XV. 625.

Envalson (Carl), Swedish dramatist, XIX.
609.

ENVELOPE, in fortification, IX. 266.

Envelopes of flowers, V. 122, 123.
— for letters, XXI 68

ENVOL, IX. 266 See Ambassador

ENVIED NAGY, in Transylvania, IX. 266

ENZELLI, Persian town, IX. 266.

Eoa, XI 387.

EOCENE PERIOD, in geology, IX. 266; XV
211—flora of, V. 237—coals, XVII 97

EOPIELE. See Eopiple

Eols, genus of mollusks, XV 356, 357,
369

Eolophone, musical instrument, XI 230.

EOLOA, island, IX. 266

EOREA, Athenian festival, IX. 266

Eos See Aurora

EOSTRE, Saxon goddess, IX. 266.

Eparacidae, nat order of plants, V. 198
—region of, 229; XVII 629.

EPACT, in chronology, IX. 266; VI 83—
tables of, 84, 85.

EPAMINONDAS, Theban general, IX 266,
XXI 177—his army, III 628—ane-dote
of, IX. 578—degraded, XXI 178—un-
successful attempt on Sparta, 1b—
death of, 179

EPAULEMENT, in fortification, IX. 266

EPAULETTE, IX. 267

Epée (Abbé de l'), on the education of the
deaf and dumb, VII 674, 677, 680.

Epæra, genus of arachnides, III 381.

EPENTHESIS, in grammar, IX. 267.

Epæolus, genus of insects, IX. 200.

EPERIES, town in Hungary, IX. 267—
butcheries of, XII 22

EPERNAY, French town, IX. 267—wines of,
XXI 888

EPHRAACIE, IX. 267.

EPHRAE, a Jewish measure, IX. 267.

EPHREUM, IX. 267; XI 168.

EPHREI, IX. 267.

— insects, IX. 177; III 149.

EPHREMERIS, IX. 267; III 815; IV. 74,
XIII 687.

EPHRESIAN, Epistle to the, IX. 267.

EPHREUS, IX. 267—church of, XVIII 481
—coins of, XVI 376

EPHREU, Athenian judges, IX. 269.

Ephraites, genus of insects, IX. 190; XX
500.

Epibulus, genus of fishes, XII 265, 267.

Epibypus, genus of fishes, XII 302—fossil,
344.

EPHOD, in Jewish antiquity, IX 269

EPHORI, Dorne magistrates, IX. 269; XX
502.

EPHORUS, Greek historian, IX. 270.

EPHRAEM STRUS, IX. 270.

EPHRAIM, IX. 271.

EPHYDOR, Athenian officer, IX. 271

Ephydra, genus of insects, IX. 266.

Epi, a Greek prefix, IX. 271.

EPICATE, IX. 271

EPIC poem, IX. 271; XVIII 99.

Epicalyx, in botany, V. 123

Epicarides, crustacea, VII 542.

Epicarp, in botany, V. 135.

EPICEDION, IX. 271.

EPICENE, in grammar, IX. 271

Epicharis, genus of insects, IX. 200.

EPICHRABUS, Greek poet, IX. 271

EPICHREROTONIA, IX. 272.

EPI—EPI

Epichlorite, mineral, XV 78.

EPICLERUS, IX. 272

EPICLETUS, Stoc philosopher, IX. 272;
XIV. 454.

EPICUREAN PHILOSOPHY, IX. 272; XV.
552, I 318—Bacon's admiration of
Epicurean physics, 71—Gassendi's par-
tiality for, 1b.

EPICURUS, IX. 272—character of, I 319—
respect paid to his system by his fol-
lowers, 321—his definition of motion,
566—his notion of vision, 621—mathe-
matism, III 308 and n—Canonica,
VI 191.

EPICYCLE, IX. 274—system of, IV. 53

EPICYCLOID, in geometry, IX. 274; VII.
269—epicycloidal teeth for wheels, XIV.
395

EPICYTUS, genus of fishes, XII 246.

EPIDAMNUS, city of Illyricum, IX. 274,
IV. 202

EPIDACTYLUS, Greek city, IX. 274—serpents
of, XIX. 56

EPIDEMIC, IX. 275, VIII 653—insanity,
XIV 527—fevers, IX. 526—diseases
among silkworms, XX. 292, 293—
Sydenham on epidemics, 894

Epidermis of skin, II 894, XIII 302—of
the mucous membrane, II 836—of
plants, V 74.

EPIDICAIA, IX. 275.

Epidii, Caledonian tribe, VI 74

Epidote, mineral, XV 85—rock, 135.

Epiglottis, in man, III 50—in the lower
animals, 101.

EPIGONI, IX. 275.

EPIGRAM, in poetry, IX. 275; XIV. 320

Epigynous stamens and petals, V. 127,
179.

EPILEPSY, IX. 275; XIV. 436; XVII.
700—with insanity, 635—in the horse,
XXI 574.

Epilobium, plant, V 192.

EPILOQUE, IX. 276

Epimachus, genus of birds, XVI 771.

EPIMENIDES, the Cretan, IX. 276

EPIMETHEUS, IX. 276, XVIII 640.

EPINAL, French town, IX. 276, XXI 672.

Epinay (Madame d'), her account of David
Hume in Paris, XII 4, n. 2.

Epiphaneis, XI 391.

EPIPHANUS (St), IX. 276—on the Ebion-
ites, VIII 369

EPIPHANY, Christian festival, IX. 276.

Epiphleum, in plants, V 82

Epiphragm, in mosses, V. 145.

EPIPHRYTES, plants growing upon other
plants, IX. 276, V 221, 77, 101.

EPHROS, in Greece, IX. 277—monarchy of,
XV. 413—coins of, XVI 370

EPISCOPACY, IX. 278—favoured by James
I, V. 388—his design to establish it in
Scotland, 1b—attempt of Charles I. to
set it up in Scotland, 894—violent at-
tempts of Charles II. to introduce it
into Scotland, 428—its difference from
Presbyterianism, XVIII 480—rise of,
482—no scriptural warrant for, accord-
ing to Presbyterians, 481—its alleged
succession from the apostles, 482—
abolished in England in 1642, 489—
supposed possibility of its union with
the Greek Church, XI. 35—James VI's
plan for introducing into Scotland, XIX.
789

Episcopalianis, IX. 394—their places of
worship in Scotland, XIX. 801—severe
treatment of, in Scotland, after the re-
bellion of 1746, XX. 316

EPISCORIUS (Simon), Armenian divine, IX.
282.

Episus, genus of arachnides, III 380.

EPISODE, in poetry, IX. 282

Episperrm, in botany, V 139.

Epistilite, mineral, XV. 76

EPISTILES AND GOSPELS, XV. 282.

Epistropheus, vertebra, III 5.

Epistylum, or Epistile, in architecture,
III 509

EPITAPH, IX. 282.

EPITHALAMUM, IX. 283.

Epithelium of plants, V. 74.

Epitragus, genus of insects, IX. 132.

EPI—ERA

Epizoa, XXI 381.
 Epoch, in chronology, IX. 283; VI 664—
 difference between *era* and *epoch*, II
 165—in geology, XV. 195, 196 *et seq.*
 EPOCH, in lyric poetry, IX. 283
 EPPING, town in Essex, IX. 283—forest,
 336—dairies, 337
 Eproboscidea, division of insects, IX. 258
 EPOUVETTE, IX. 283, XI. 157.
 Epsom, town in Surrey, IX. 283.
 Epsomite, or Epsom-salt, XV. 99—Epsom
 Salts Cave, in Indiana, XII. 375
 EPTOLON, Roman priests, IX. 283
 Equation of time, IV. 23—table of, for
 converting mean time into apparent
 time, 133—table of, for every day of
 the year, VII. 797—tables of, for the
 times of new and full moon, IV.
 123-126
 ——— clocks, VII. 15
 ——— in astronomy, IV. 103.
 EQUATIONS, IX. 284—homogeneous, I.
 645, *n*—absolute, II. 50—in algebra,
 502 *et seq.*—quadratic, 510—certain
 general properties of, 513—cubic, 516
 —biquadratic, 520—reciprocal 522—
 resolution of those whose roots are
 rational, 524—resolution of, by approxi-
 mation, 526—loci of, 544—differential,
 IX. 741—determination of the equa-
 tions to curves, X. 543; of the forms
 and properties of curves from their
 equations, 545, 551—equations to sur-
 faces of the second degree deduced
 from their properties, 558—Sturm's
 theorem in, XX. 784
 EQUATOR, IX. 316; XVI. 7—astronomical,
 IV. 2—geographical, X. 480—magnetic,
 I. 991, XIV. 67; XVII. 617
 EQUATORIAL, IX. 316—currents, XIV. 652;
 XVII. 577, 579.
 ——— instrument, IX. 316; IV. 154.
 ——— mounting of telescopes, XXI. 144.
 EQUERRY, IX. 316, XI. 776.
 Eques, genus of fishes, XII. 285.
 EQUES ATRATUS, IX. 316; XIII. 112.
 EQUESTRIAN, IX. 316
 EQUILANGULAR, IX. 316.
 EQUIDISTANT, IX. 316
 EQUILATERAL, IX. 316.
 EQUILIBRIUM, IX. 316—in mechanics, XIV.
 380—of the human body, III. 41—of
 fluids, XII. 78—of forces, VIII. 340—of
 arches, III. 416, V. 351; XII. 586—of
 roofs, XIX. 378, 379—theory of the
 tides, I. 816—of a ship, XX. 18, 152—
 of two pressures, 538—of three pres-
 sures, 540—of four, 541—several, 542—
 parallel, 544—general condition of, 548.
 See Arch, Balance, Statics.
 EQUIMULTIPLE, IX. 317.
 EQUINOCTIAL, IX. 317—points, *ib*; IV. 12
 —dial, 317; VII. 779—current, IV. 178
 —line, X. 490
 EQUINOX, IX. 317; IV. 14—Chinese cere-
 monies at VI. 568. See Precession of
 the Equinoxes.
 EQUIPOLLENCE, in logic, IX. 317.
 EQUITRIA, Roman festival, IX. 317.
 Equisetacea, nat. order of plants, V. 216
 —reproductive organs of, 143—spores
 or cells of, 66, 68.
 Equitable Life Assurance Society, III.
 223, 224, 281; XII. 405, 412—its valu-
 able tables, XV. 614, 642.
 EQUITRES, in ancient Rome, IX. 317; XIX.
 286
 EQUITY, IX. 317—courts of, *ib*—a source
 of law, XIII. 257.
 EQUIVALENT, IX. 318—chemical, *ib*; VI.
 441.
 Equula, genus of fishes, XII. 299.
 EQUULEUS, instrument of torture, IX. 318.
 ——— Equiculus, and Equus Minor, a
 constellation, IX. 318; IV. 80
 EQUUS, IX. 318; XIV. 199—fossil, XVII.
 173. See Horse.
 ERA, or *Æra*, IX. 318; II. 175; VI. 665—
 of the foundation of Rome, 666—Chris-
 tian, 667—of the Creation, 668—of Con-
 stantinople, 670—of Alexandria, *ib*—
 of Antioch, 671—of Nabonassar, *ib*—of
 the Seleucidae, *ib*—of Macedonia, *ib*—

ERA—ERI

of Alexander, 672—of Tyre, *ib*—Cæsar-
 era of Antioch, *ib*—Julian, *ib*—of
 Spain, *ib*—of Actum, *ib*—of Diocle-
 tian, *ib*—of Martyrs, *ib*—of the Ar-
 menians, 673—of the Hegira, 674—of
 the Yezdegird, or Galilean, 674—
 Jewish eras, 669—Chinese, 675—Hindu,
 676—dates at which different eras com-
 menced, 677
 ERANARCHA, Greek officer, IX. 318
 ERASISTRATUS, IX. 318; XIV. 452—his
 anatomical knowledge, II. 751—on the
 nerves, 814—his skill in surgery, XX.
 811
 ERASMUS (Desiderius), IX. 318, XI. 590—
 effect of his writings in promoting the
 Reformation, I. 13, *n* 2—his advice to
 Ammon for pushing his fortune, II. 719
 —his influence on the revival of learn-
 ing, XVII. 523—his New Testament,
 IV. 696—his controversy with Luther
 on free will, XIII. 734—on Luther, 734,
 737—at Oxford, XXI. 454
 ERASTUS (Thomas), the originator of Eras-
 tian opinions, IX. 323
 ERATO, a muse, IX. 323; XV. 699
 ERATOSTHENES, IX. 323—on astronomy,
 III. 790; IV. 6—on the figure of the
 earth, IX. 547—on geography, X. 464-
 467—on geometry, 501—as a philologist,
 XVII. 517
 ERATOSTRATES, IX. 323
 ERBACH, town of Hesse-Darmstadt, IX.
 323.
 ERBIL, town of Persia, IX. 323; III. 396.
 Erbium, a metal, VI. 488
 Erdmann (M.), on magnetism, XIV. 42.
 EREBUS, IX. 323
 ——— genus of insects, IX. 214.
 ERECHTHEUS, IX. 323, IV. 192—temple
 of, 168, III. 515.
 Erechle tissue, II. 799.
 EREKIL, modern name of Heraclea, IX.
 323; XI. 817.
 EREMITES, IX. 323; XI. 352
 Eremophilus, genus of fishes, XII. 263.
 Eresus, genus of arachnides, III. 383.
 ERETISMUS, IX. 323.
 Erethistes, genus of fishes, XII. 262.
 Eretshon, genus of mammalia, XIV. 187.
 ERETRIA, IX. 323; IV. 199.
 Eretrian school of philosophy, XIV. 499.
 ERFURT, Prussian city, IX. 324—interview
 between Napoleon and the Emperor of
 Russia at, X. 151—Electoral Academy
 at, II. 67.
 ERGASTULUM, IX. 324.
 ERGOT of rye, IX. 324; V. 172, XIV. 439.
 Erboll (Loch), XX. 840, 841.
 Eric, kings of Sweden, XX. 845, 847.
 Erica, genus of plants, V. 198. See
 Heath.
 ERICACEÆ, nat. order of plants, IX. 324;
 V. 198. See Heath.
 ERICHSEN (G. F.), his works on insects,
 IX. 21.
 ERICHT (Loch), XVII. 455.
 ERICUS, Roman military engine, IX. 324.
 ERICSON (Gustavus), XX. 846.
 Ericsson (Mr.), his pyrometer, XVIII. 706
 —his screw-propeller, XX. 137, 639.
 Eriulus, dentition of, XVI. 452
 ERIDANUS, river, IX. 324—constellation,
ib; IV. 80.
 ERIE, Lake, IX. 324; VI. 186; XVII. 395,
 605—harbours on, XVI. 214.
 ——— Canal, XVI. 217, VI. 154.
 ERIGENA (Joannes Scotus), IX. 324—his
 pantheistic doctrines, XVII. 233
 ERIGONIA, IX. 325, 266.
 ERINACEUS, genus of mammalia, XIV. 150
 —teeth of, XVI. 451.
 ERINITE, mineral, IX. 325; XV. 83, 103
 ERINNA, Greek poetess, IX. 325.
 ERINNYES, the furies, IX. 325; X. 252
 Eriocaulonaceæ, nat. order of plants, V.
 215.
 ERIMETER, IX. 325; VI. 651; XVI. 623;
 I. 897.
 Erioptera, genus of insects, IX. 226.
 Eriopha, genus of insects, IX. 250.
 ERIPHYLLA, IX. 325.
 ERIS, goddess, IX. 325.

ERI—ESC

Erismacanthus, fossil fishes, XVII. 117
 Eristalis, genus of insects, IX. 241.
 ERIVAN, in Russian Armenia, IX. 325,
 XIX. 551, 521.
 ERLANGEN, town in Bavaria, IX. 325.
 ERLAU, town of Hungary, IX. 325
 Erman (Prof. Adolphe), on the results of
 Hansteen's magnetical expedition, I.
 991—on electro-magnetism, VIII. 532—
 his experiments on the electricity of
 flame, 567—on the geographical distribu-
 tion of gold, XV. 231.
 ——— (Mr.), on salmon fishings of the
 Obi, IX. 607, *n*.
 ERMIN, order of knights, IX. 325.
 ERMINE, IX. 325; XIV. 187—its fur, X.
 348
 ——— in heraldry, IX. 325, XI. 325—
 ermines, *ib*—ermineous, *ib*—ermittes,
ib
 ERNE, Lough, IX. 325, 514, XII. 505
 ——— rivers, IX. 514; XII. 505, VI.
 347, VIII. 104
 ERNESTI (John Augustus), IX. 325.
 ——— (Augustus Wilhelm), IX. 327.
 Erodion, genus of arachnides, III. 378.
 Erodus, genus of insects, IX. 129.
 EROS, Greek Cupid, IX. 327, VII. 590
 EROSION, IX. 327—of rocks, XV. 159
 EROTIA, Thespian festival, IX. 327; VII.
 590
 EROTIC, IX. 327.
 Erytynus, genus of insects, IX. 151.
 EROVAD, town of Hindustan, IX. 327.
 ERPEUTUS, or d'Erpe (Thomas), IX. 327
 ERPEUTOLOGI, IX. 327. See Reptilia
 Errand, in fortification, IX. 814
 ERRATIC, IX. 327—blocks, *ib*; XV. 215;
 XVII. 603
 ERRHINE, medicine, IX. 327.
 ERROR, in philosophy, IX. 327—in astro-
 nomy, *ib*—probable errors, XVIII. 624.
 ——— writ of, in law, IX. 327.
 ERSE language, IX. 328
 Erskine of Dun, XIX. 780.
 ——— (Capt.), on the Fijians, XVIII. 274
 ——— on the Friendly Islands, 276.
 ——— (EBENEZER), IX. 328; XVIII. 493,
 497—monument to, XX. 701
 ——— (RALPH), IX. 328; XVIII. 498
 ——— (THOMAS), Lord Erskine, IX. 328.
 ERUGINOUS, IX. 329.
 Eruptions, frequency of volcanic, XXI.
 601—cones of, 604
 Eruthra, temple of Hercules at, VII. 714
 Erulben's classification of animals, III.
 183.
 Erycana, genus of insects, IX. 208.
 ERYMANTHUS, IX. 329
 Eryon, fossil animals, XVII. 102.
 ERYTHREAS, IX. 329; III. 269—surgical
 treatment of, XX. 827—in sheep, XXI.
 578
 ERYTHREÆ, in Asia Minor, IX. 329.
 ERYTHREUM MARE, IX. 329; XIX. 817—
 peninsula of the, II. 209.
 Erythræus, genus of anachnides, III. 388
 Erythrin, VIII. 285.
 Erythræ, mineral, XV. 104.
 Erythronidae, family of fishes, XII. 250.
 Erythrinus, genus of fishes, XII. 251
 Erythroxylaceæ, nat. order of plants, V.
 186.
 ERYX, in Sicily, IX. 329; VI. 290.
 ——— genus of serpents, XIX. 65
 EZERBOUM, in Armenia, IX. 330; XXI.
 284—taken by the Russians, XIX. 495.
 EZERGIBGE, mountains, IX. 330, 382; X.
 583.
 Es-Sâth, king of Egypt, VIII. 482.
 ESARHADDON, IX. 330.
 ESAU, IX. 330—the land of, XII. 357.
 ESCALADE, IX. 330.
 Escallonaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 194
 —region of, 228; XVII. 629.
 Escape, in architecture, III. 509.
 ESCAPEMENT of clocks, IX. 330; VII. 7,
 XVII. 384—gravity escapements, VII.
 11—of watches, 32.
 ESCARPMENT, IX. 330, 818.
 ESCARS, in geology, XV. 215.
 ESCARTELED, in heraldry, IX. 330
 ESCALOT, IX. 330.

ESC—ESS

Eschara, fossil animals, XVII. 98.
 ESCHAROTIC, IX. 330.
 ESCHER, in law, IX. 330
 Escher (Mr.), lost in a glacier, II. 625.
 ESCHERVIN, IX. 330.
 Eschscholtz Bay, fossils of, XVIII. 180
 ——— (F.), his works on insects, IX. 15—
 on the ciliogrades, XXI. 1000
 ESCHWEGE in Hesse-Cassel, IX. 330
 ESCHWILLER, town in Rhemish Prussia,
 IX. 330
 ESCUAGE, IX. 330
 ESCULENT, IX. 330—roots, XI. 739
 ESCURIAL, IX. 330—meaning of the name,
 XIII. 410, *n* 1—its architects, III. 453,
n—library of the, XIII. 409—Arabic
 MSS in the, VI. 310—founded by Philip
 II, XX. 470
 ESCUTCHEON, or Scutcheon, in heraldry,
 IX. 331; XI. 324—ornaments of, 335—
 funeral, 340.
 Esdaile (Dr), his work and experiments
 on mesmerism, XX. 436, 437
 Esdraelon, plain of, XVII. 182.
 ESERAS, Books of, IX. 331
 Esenbeck (Nees ab), his works on insects,
 IX. 13.
 Esgraur-frath, lead mine, V. 245.
 ESHER, in Surrey, IX. 332.
 Esk, rivers, IX. 332—in Cumberland, VII.
 576—in Edinburghshire, VIII. 408—in
 Forfarshire, IX. 752, XIX. 792
 ESKI-SAGRA, Turkish town, IX. 332.
 Esion (M d'), on animal magnetism, XX.
 418 *et seq.*
 Esmarkite, mineral, XV. 88
 ESNE, or Esneh, town in Egypt, IX. 332.
 See Isné.
 Esocidae, family of fishes, XII. 253, 254.
 Esocidae, family of fossil fishes, XII. 347.
 ESOPHAGUS, IX. 332—in man, III. 59—in
 brutes, 108—in insects, IX. 51—diseases
 of, in domestic animals, XXI. 564.
 ESOTERIC, IX. 332, 455.
 ESOX, genus of fishes, XII. 254—fossil, 347
 ——— angling for *E. lucius*, III. 158, 159
 ESPALIER, IX. 333—rails, XI. 700.
 ESPALION, French town, IX. 333
 Espartero (General), XX. 480-483.
 ESPARTO, a kind of rush, IX. 333.
 Espen (Dr Van), on canon law, VI. 190
 Esper (E. J. C.), his works on insects, IX.
 7, 8
 Espinasse (General), on artillery, III. 689.
 ESPINEL (Vicente) IX. 333—his novel,
 XIX. 256.
 ESPLANADE, in fortification, IX. 333
 ESPOUSALS, in law, IX. 333.
 ESQUILINE, hill, IX. 333, XIX. 356, 357.
 ESQUIMAUX, IX. 333; II. 680; XI. 43, 44;
 XIII. 141; XVIII. 179—in ethnology,
 IX. 347—their language, II. 694, XI.
 44; XIII. 219.
 ESQUIRE, IX. 333, VI. 613
 Esqurol (M.), on mental diseases, XIV.
 528, 537.
 Esquivel (Don Juan d'), governor of Ja-
 maica, XII. 672.
 ESSAYING, IX. 333. See Assaying.
 ESSECK, or Esseg, capital of Slavonia, IX.
 334.
 ESSEPARTI, IX. 334
 ESSEN, Prussian town, IX. 334.
 ESSENCE, IX. 334—essences of plants, XVI.
 496
 ——— d'ORIENT, IX. 334.
 ESSENES, Jewish sect, IX. 334, 338.
 ESSENTIAL, IX. 335.
 ——— oils, IX. 335; XVI. 492, 496
 ESSEQUEBO, county and river, IX. 335; XI.
 81; XVII. 646.
 ESSEX, IX. 335—police in, XVIII. 200—
 population and value of property, VIII.
 754.
 ——— (Earl of), in the reign of Charles
 the First, V. 402 *et seq.*
 ——— (Robert, Earl of), VII. 761; II. 15;
 VIII. 713—his friendship for Bacon, IV.
 352—Bacon's ingratitude to, 353—his
 failure in Ireland, XII. 478.
 ——— towns in the United States, IX.
 337.
 Essington (Fort), IV. 800

ESS—ETH

ESSLING, Austrian village, IX. 337, III. 760—battle of, X. 152.
 ESSLINGEN, in Württemberg, IX. 337.
 ESTAFETTE, IX. 338.
 Estang (Count d'), V. 484; XVI. 122, XXI. 752.
 ESTATE, in law, IX. 338.
 ESTATES, in a political sense, IX. 373—the three estates, XVII. 291.
 ESTE, town in Lombardy, IX. 338.
 ESTELLA, Spanish town, IX. 338.
 ESTEPONA, Spanish town, IX. 338.
 ESTERHAZY, Hungarian village, IX. 338.
 ESTHER, book of, IX. 338.
 Esthera, fossils, XVII. 101.
 ESTHETICS, IX. 338. See *Æsthetics*.
 ESTHONIA, Baltic province of Russia, IX. 338; XIX. 521—language of, XIII. 215.
 Estimation of motion and forces in dynamics, VIII. 340.
 ESTOILEE, in heraldry, IX. 339.
 ESTOPPEL, in law, IX. 339.
 Estrees (Admiral d'), V. 426.
 ESTREMADURA, IX. 339; XX. 498—apartite found in, II. 415—climate of, XVIII. 394—wines of, XXI. 884, 885.
 ESTREMOZ, Portuguese town, IX. 339.
 ESTRIOR, in commerce, IX. 339.
 ESTUARY, IX. 340. See *Estuary*.
 EUNICULUS, genus of fishes, XII. 229.
 ETAMPES, in France, IX. 340; XX. 35.
 ETAWEE, in Hindustan, IX. 340.
 ETCHING, IX. 340; VIII. 799, 800, 801—needle, 803.
 — voltaic, XXI. 636—on stone, XIII. 511.
 ETELENT, Arabian town, IX. 340.
 Etels, genus of fishes, XII. 276.
 ETROOCLES, IX. 340, VII. 491.
 ETEOCLES, VII. 493.
 ETERNITY, IX. 340.
 ETESIAN WINDS, IX. 340, VIII. 422.
 Ethan, psalms ascribed to, XVIII. 679.
 Etichebert, VIII. 656.
 Ethelbald, king of England, VIII. 657.
 Ethelbert, king of England, VIII. 657.
 Ethelfleda, VIII. 658.
 Ethelgiva, or Elgiva, VIII. 659.
 Ethelred, king of England, VIII. 657, 660—number of mints in his time, VII. 73—his navy, XX. 119.
 Ethelwold, VIII. 660.
 Ethelwulf, king of England, VIII. 657.
 ETHER, IX. 340.
 — in chemistry, IX. 140—caoutchouc dissolved by, VI. 208—how to inflame it by electricity, VIII. 590—specific gravity of, XII. 89—poisonous qualities of, XIV. 439.
 ETHERIDGE (Sir George), IX. 340.
 Etherow, river, VII. 764.
 Ethical Philosophy, Bacon's disquisitions on, I. 35—Hobbes' principles, 42—Cudworth's system, 44—little attention paid to, at the era of the Restoration, 46—Barrow on, ib.—Dr Law's system, 170, 172 and n. 2—examination of Sir J. Mackintosh's views on, 295, 296 *et seq.*—Butler's definition of self-love, 296—selfish desires, ib., 297—on the existence and supremacy of the conscience or moral faculty, 298—Bentham on the word *ought*, 299—deontology, 300—the formation of our passions, affections, and sentiments of virtue and duty, by means of association of ideas, 305—free-will, 307—division of the subject, 311, 312—Paley's views, 301, 314—inspection of ancient ethics, 315—ethical philosophers of Greece, 316—Plato, ib.—Aristotle, 317—Epicureans and Stoics, 318—Epicurus and Zeno, 319—system of the Stoics, 320—estimate of the practical philosophy of Greece, 321—literature of Alexandria, 322—scholastic ethics, 323—Jewish and Mahomedan writers, 324—Augustin's system, 325—doctrines of Anselm, Aquinas, Scotus, and Bradwardine, ib.—William of Ockham and John Gerson, 326—Aquinas, ib.—the mystics, 327—temptations and errors of the scholastic age, 328—nominalists and realists, ib.—exten-

ETH—ETR

sive influence of Aquinas' system, 328, 329—Spanish writers on scholastic ethics, 330, 331—modern ethics, 331—Grotius, ib.; on Carneades' principles and arguments, ib. 332—Hobbes' principles, (see Hobbes)—difference between the acts resulting from reason and passion, 347—self-love, 296, 330, 332; difference between it and benevolence, 360—definition of moral sentiments, 362—conscience, 298, 362, 420, 424, 425—avarice, 382—principle of hoarding, ib.—origin of benevolence, 383; pity, one of its sources, ib.—origin of a sense of justice, ib.—crime and duty, ib.—power of association in regard to remorse, 384—moral faculty uniformly spoken of as one, ib.—moral approbation, ib.—right and wrong, duty and virtue, ib.—comparative morality of various religions, 390—ethics should contain principles recognised by every religion, ib.—honour, cowardice, and duelling, 391—social affections and malevolent passions, 397—humility, ib.—love of praise, 398—utility and virtue, 399, 417, 425—affinity of ethics to jurisprudence, 400—direct object of ethics, ib.—intimately connected with law, ib.—Stewart's ethical theory, 409—the main object of conscience is to govern our voluntary exertions, ib.—manner as an index of character and disposition, 411—Dr T. Brown on sympathy and conscience, 415—defect of the terms Association and Suggestion, 417—the laws of God founded on the principle of promoting happiness, 418—the existence of evil, ib.—virtue must be loved for its own sake, 419—primary pleasures, pains and appetites, 421, their number not determined, ib.—two sects, the partisans of the selfish principle, and the advocates of benevolence, ib.—secondary desires or pleasures, 422—anger, 423—magnanimity, ib.—operation of conscience in reference to religious systems, 427—ethical philosophy of Scotland, ib.—of Germany, 428—of Plato, XVII. 807—of the Pythagorean school, XVIII. 711. See *Ethics*.
 ETHICS, IX. 340; XV. 537—Aristotle on, III. 560; Kant, XIII. 50—medical, XIV. 464. See *Ethical Philosophy*, *Moral Philosophy*, *Duty*, *Conscience*.
 ETIOPIA, IX. 340; II. 56—gold from, XV. 230—calendar, VII. 673—antiquity of painting in, XVII. 46—mountains, 644—Ethiopian race of man, XI. 541, II. 775, 221.
 Ethiopic alphabet, II. 615—Bibles, IV. 700; XIX. 339—language, XIII. 210, XVII. 535.
 ETHIOPS, IX. 340—Ethiops, mineral, VI. 498.
 Ethmoid bone, III. 16, 94.
 — cells, III. 94.
 ETHNARCHA, IX. 340.
 Ethnographical phrenology, XVII. 565.
 ETHNOLOGY, IX. 341, XI. 541, XVII. 641—of Britain prior to historical times, III. 420—its connection with archaeology, 421—Frithard's writings on, XVIII. 512.
 Ethology, political, XIII. 264.
 ETIENNE (St), town in France, IX. 355—manufacture of ribbons at, X. 255—(Charles), his anatomical researches, II. 757.
 Etolation of vegetables, XIII. 460. See *Blanching*.
 ETIQUETTE, IX. 355.
 Etmeidan, XXI. 372, 374.
 Etma. See *Ætma*.
 ETON, IX. 355—fagging at, 467.
 Etroplus, genus of fishes, XII. 265.
 Etrurnus, genus of fishes, XII. 251.
 ETRURIA, IX. 355—the arched dome invented in, III. 401—cities of, enumeration of their sites, IX. 361—monarchy of, XV. 418—coins of, XVI. 362—list of the cities of, IX. 361. See *Etruscans*.
 ETRUSCANS, IX. 355, XIX. 294—their al-

ETS—EUL

phabet, II. Plate—architecture, III. 440—art, XVII. 48—sculpture, XIX. 840—Etruscan remains at Perugia, XVII. 475—their libraries, XIII. 284—language, 200, 213—wars with the Romans, XIX. 297, 304, 305. See *Etruria*.
 ETSCH, river, IX. 361, II. 141.
 ETSLINGEN, town of Baden, IX. 361.
 ETTMÜLLER (Michael), IX. 361.
 ETTRICK, in Selkirkshire, IX. 362, XX. 41.
 ETTRY (William), painter, IX. 362, XVII. 84.
 ETYMOLOGY, IX. 363; X. 744.
 EU, French town, IX. 363—chateau d', ib.—visit of Queen Victoria to, X. 230.
 Euanemus, genus of fishes, XII. 262.
 Euathlus, sophism of, XIII. 634, n.
 EURÆA, island, IX. 363; II. 10—coins of, XVI. 374—subdued by Mithridates, XV. 284. See *Negropont*.
 EURYLIDES, Megarian philosopher, IX. 364.
 EURYLUS, Athenian comic poet, IX. 364.
 Eucalypti, plants, V. 229; XVII. 629, IV. 261, XXI. 31.
 EUCHARIST, IX. 364; VII. 206. See *Supper* (the Lord's).
 Eucharites, devotees, XV. 407.
 Eucloia, genus of insects, IX. 125.
 Eucloine, VII. 670.
 EUCOLOGUM, IX. 364.
 Enchroite, mineral, XV. 103.
 ENCLASE, IX. 364; XV. 88.
 ENCLAD of Alexandria, IX. 364; III. 790; X. 499, 500—his Elements of Geometry, I. 551, 700, and n. 3, VII. 249, 250, X. 505; XX. 300—on optics, XVI. 521; I. 619—his Porisms, XVIII. 360, 361; XX. 300—on angles, III. 143—his personal character, 302—his Data, VII. 682, XX. 300.
 — of Megara, XVII. 786—his admiration of Socrates, XX. 379.
 EUCLIDES, disciple of Socrates, IX. 365.
 Eucnemis, genus of insects, IX. 106.
 Eucnemion, Greek astronomer, II. 788.
 Eudea, fossil sponges, XVII. 93.
 EUDÆMUS, disciple of Aristotle, IX. 360—his astronomy, III. 789—on mathematics, X. 500.
 Eudes, duke of Aquitaine, X. 6.
 Eudalite, mineral, XV. 75.
 EUROMETER, IX. 366, I. 962; VI. 464, XI. 623—Cavendish's, VI. 332—Dr Ure's, VIII. 625.
 EUROCLA, empresses, IX. 366; VII. 315.
 EUROCLANS, heretics, IX. 366.
 EURODUS of Chidus, IX. 366; X. 467, 409; III. 545, n. 5—his astronomy, 788.
 — of Cyzicus, voyages of, X. 462.
 EVERGETES, title of honour, IX. 366.
 — Egyptian king, XI. 381.
 EUGANIAN HILLS, IX. 367; XII. 636.
 EUGENE (François), Prince, IX. 367; X. 34; V. 242—his military exploits, IV. 303—at the battle of Blenheim, V. 448.
 Eugeniastrinus, fossil echinoderms, XVII. 98, 99.
 Eugenius, Roman usurper, VII. 309, 311.
 Euglossa, genus of insects, IX. 201.
 Eugnathus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 336, XVII. 126.
 EUGUBIAN TABLES, IX. 371.
 Eugubio, Italian town, XI. 78.
 EUGHARMONIC, IX. 372.
 Eukairite, XV. 118.
 Eulabes, genus of birds, XVI. 753.
 EULER (Leonard), IX. 372—his supremacy as a mathematical analyst, I. 694—the real founder of the theory of continued fractions, 705—his applications of it, ib.—his extension of the properties of angular sections, 712—his algebra, 713—his invention of a method of determining particular integrals, 715—his explication of the principle of partial differences, 716—on dynamics, 719, 724—on magnetism, 742—his attempt to destroy the coloured margin of a focal image, 749—his calculations and discoveries regarding the planetary motions, 751—his researches on comets, 783, 784—on light, 896—his character,

EUL—EUR

II. 90—on achromatic glasses, ib.—employments of his last days, 174—on the arithmetic of sines, 547, 555, 560—on annuities, III. 221—on the problem of the three bodies, 810; IV. 105—his astronomical labours, III. 810—on hydrostatics, XII. 78—on the polarity of the needle, XIV. 4—on life assurance, XII. 398—on mortality, XV. 633—on music, 701—fluxions, IX. 676, 677—on the mode of judging of the strength of a bridge from a model, V. 359—on the equilibrium of vessels, XX. 152—on the strength of columns, 758, 760, 771—his dissertations worthy of perusal, 772.
 Euler (Albert), on overshoot wheels, XII. 168—his reacting machine, 172.
 Eulma, genus of mollusks, XV. 383—fossil, XVII. 110.
 Eulsite, rock, XV. 133.
 EULOGY, IX. 374.
 Eulopa, genus of insects, IX. 170.
 Eulytine, mineral, XV. 90.
 Eumachus, VI. 285.
 EUMENES, IX. 374, XIII. 772, 774; XIV. 452.
 — I. and II., kings of Pergamus, IX. 374; XVII. 410.
 — genus of insects, IX. 197.
 Eumenia, genus of insects, IX. 208.
 EUMENIDES, the furies, IX. 374, 375, X. 352—dance of, VII. 645.
 Eumerus, genus of insects, IX. 239.
 Eumolpus, genus of insects, IX. 149.
 Eumorphus, genus of insects, IX. 151.
 EUMOLPIDÆ, priests of Demeter, IX. 374; VIII. 629; XV. 763.
 EUNAPIUS of Sardis, Greek sophist, IX. 374.
 Eunice, genus of annelides, XI. 297.
 Eunomia, planet, IV. 91.
 EUNOMIANS, Arian sect, IX. 374.
 EUNUCH, IX. 375, VI. 329.
 Euomphalus, fossil mollusks, XVII. 109, 110.
 Eupatagus, fossil echinoidea, XVII. 100.
 EUPATOR, IX. 375.
 EUPATORIA, or Kozlov, IX. 375; IV. 743; VII. 505—disembarkation of troops near, in 1854, XIX. 502.
 EUPATRIDÆ, IX. 375, IV. 193.
 Eupelix, genus of insects, IX. 170.
 EUPEN, town of Rhemish Prussia, IX. 375.
 EUPHEMISM, in rhetoric, IX. 375.
 Euphonia, genus of birds, XVI. 751.
 EUPHONY, in grammar, IX. 375.
 Euphobia, genus of plants, V. 206, 123, 127—species in Cape Verde islands, XXI. 544—species of, employed in Ireland for poisoning fish, IX. 622.
 Euphorbiaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 206.
 EUPHORBUM, IX. 375; V. 206.
 EUPHORBUS, a Trojan, IX. 375.
 EUPHORBION, IX. 375.
 EUPHRANOR, Greek artist, IX. 375; XVII. 57.
 EUPHRATES, river, IX. 376; IV. 344, 363, 364; XVII. 607, 646.
 EUPHROSINE, one of the Graces, IX. 375, X. 741.
 — genus of annelides, XI. 297.
 Euphyllite, mineral, XV. 79.
 Euplocampus, genus of insects, IX. 218.
 Euplocomus, genus of birds, XVI. 780.
 Eupoda, family of insects, IX. 146.
 EUPOLIS, Athenian poet, IX. 377.
 EUPOMPEUS, Greek painter, IX. 377; XVII. 54.
 Eupryon matches, XIV. 351.
 EURE, in France, IX. 377.
 — (Sir Wm.), his account of a dramatic representation of the sixteenth century, VIII. 144.
 EURE-ET-LOIRE, in France, IX. 377.
 Eulinius, genus of insects, IX. 138.
 Euribia, genus of mollusks, IX. 381—E. Gandiaudi, ib.
 Euric, Gothic king in Spain, XX. 460.
 Eurina, genus of insects, IX. 254.
 Eurimorhynchus, genus of birds, XVI. 804.
 EURIPIDES, IX. 378; XX. 448, 449—tragedies of, VIII. 138—danced on the

EUR-EVA

- stage, 142—Porson's editions of, XVIII 369—intimacy of Socrates with, XX 373
- EUTHYRS, strait, IX. 380, 364
- in the ancient amphitheatre, IX. 380.
- Eumte, rock, XV. 137—rains of, in granite, 187.
- EUCROLYDON, tempestuous wind, IX. 380
- EUCROPA, in Grecian mythology, IX. 380
- EUCROPE, IX. 380—balance of power in, IV 387—British colonies in, VII 147—introduction of cotton manufacture, 440—earliest races inhabiting, VI. 364—state of, at the commencement of the Crusades, VII 324—origin and development of medicine in, XIV. 451, 457, 468, 468—mineral wealth and produce, XV. 247—ethnology of, IX. 350—portions of, unknown to the ancients, X. 464—rise of European power in India, XI. 431—art of paper-making in, XVIII 251—scholastic learning in, 521—philology first established in, 523—extent of its coast-line, 584—mean elevation of its surface, 590—mountains of, 595, 642—snow-level, 603—rivers, 605—waterfalls, ib.—birds, 638, XVI 824—fishes, XVII 638—poetry of modern, XVIII 106—production of the precious metals in, 462—Presbyterianism in eastern, 486—reptiles, XIX. 31, 51—trade with Russia, 541—course of the rivers of, 181—introduction of tea into, XXI 88—volcanoes, 608, 605—map of, IX. Plate.
- EUROTAS, river, IX. 404; XIII. 143.
- EURYALCIS, a Trojan, IX. 404
- Euryathra, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 342.
- Eurybna, genus of insects, IX. 208.
- Eurychora, genus of insects, IX. 129.
- EUTRICE, wife of Orpheus, IX. 404; XVII. 2.
- Eurylaimus, genus of birds, XVI. 757.
- EURYKMOND, river of Asia Minor, IX. 404.
- Eurymerica, genus of fishes, XII. 231.
- Eurynotus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 334; XVII. 125.
- Eurypterus, fossils, XVII. 101.
- Euryptys, genus of birds, XVI. 798.
- EUTYSTREUS, king of Argos, IX. 404; XI 347.
- EUSEBIUS, bishop of Caesarea, IX. 404—his account of a letter from Abgarus to Jesus, II. 40—on the evangelists, IX. 406.
- the Asiatic, his blindness and erudition, IV. 778.
- Instace (Rev. Mr.), on the character of Bossuet, V. 60.
- Eustachian tube, III. 46—Eustachian valve, II. 794; III. 63.
- EUSTACHIUS (Bartolomeo Eustachi), anatomist, IX. 405—his anatomical discoveries, II. 759, 761.
- EUSTATHIUS, bishop of Beroa, IX. 405
- archbishop of Thessalonica, IX. 405, XIII. 381
- a Græco-Roman jurist, IX. 405.
- EUSTATIUS (St), island, IX. 405—surrender to the British, V. 496
- Eustrochus, genus of insects, IX. 132.
- EUSTYLE, IX. 405; III. 509
- Eusynchite, XV. 106.
- EUTERPE, a muse, IX. 405; XV. 699.
- Euthalms, his division of biblical MSS. into classes, XIX. 838.
- Euthydemus, XX. 379, 400.
- EUTYN, city in Oldenburg, IX. 405.
- Eutocius, III. 301; X. 489.
- EUTROPIUS, Roman historian, IX. 405.
- genus of fishes, XII. 262.
- EUTYCHES, founder of the Eutychnian sect, IX. 405; XV. 500, 501.
- Euxemides, Greek painter, XVII. 54.
- Euxenite, mineral, XV. 110.
- EUXINE, or Black Sea, IX. 406, IV 740—comparative freshness of, XVII. 573—specific gravity of its water, ib
- Euzothus, genus of insects, IX. 103.
- EVAERUS SCHOLASTICUS, IX. 406.
- EVALD (Johannes), Danish poet, XIX. 698.
- EVANDER, IX. 406.
- EVANGELISTS, IX. 406.

EVA-EXO

- Evama, genus of insects, IX. 184.
- Evanales, tribe of insects, IX. 184
- Evans (Sir De Lacy), XIX. 505—his command of the British legion in Spain, XX 479, 480
- (Mr), on British coins, XVI. 302 and n. 6
- (Mr), his journeys into the interior of Australia, IV. 234
- (Oliver), of Philadelphia, his high-pressure steam-engines, XX. 581.
- EVAPORATION, IX. 406, XIV 446; XI 270; I. 934—Leslie's atomometer for measuring, IV 177—cold produced by, VII. 100, 104, 545; VI. 459—principle of its frigorific power, VII. 102—crystallisation by, 505, 507—analysis of beer by, V. 336—in the air-pump, XVIII. 40—electricity developed by, VIII. 568; I. 962—electricity a promoter of, VII. 89—evaporation in steam-boilers, XX. 633
- Evchester, VIII. 267
- EVE, mother of mankind, IX. 415; II. 129, XXI. 197.
- EVECTION, IX. 415; IV. 36—discovered by Ptolemy, III. 792
- EVELYN (John), IX. 415—on agriculture, II. 258—on erratic spiders, III. 382—on the English stage, VIII. 161, 162—on the dispersion of libraries, XIII. 398—his Sylva, XXI. 267—on shipping, XX. 128.
- (Sir George S.), his barometrical measurements, IV. 465, 466—on weights and measures, XXI. 800, 802.
- EVENMERUS, IX. 415
- Evening-primrose order of plants, V. 192.
- Eventuality, phrenological faculty, XVII. 563
- Everest (Col.), his measurement of arc of meridian, in India, I. 853, IX. 552.
- mount, in Nepal, XV. 667; XVI. 141.
- Evergreens, VII. 698; XI. 696, 748; XVII. 755, 760.
- Eversmann (E.), his work on insects, IX. 21.
- EVESHAM, in Worcestershire, IX. 416
- EVIDENCE, IX. 416—judicial, 418—unwritten or oral, 419—the economists on, VIII. 377—circumstantial, XIII. 262—Dr Beddoes on demonstrative, IV. 566—law of, VIII. 790—of poisoning, XVIII. 131.
- EVIL, IX. 420—origin of, I. 418; III. 311; XIII. 90—its existence inexplicable, I. 468.
- EVIL-EYE, IX. 421, VIII. 446—king's evil, ib. XIX. 842.
- EVOCATI, Roman soldiers, IX. 421.
- EVOLUTION, IX. 421—in algebra, II. 497—evolutions in seamanship, XX. 15 et seq.
- EVORA, Portuguese city, IX. 421.
- EVERMOND (Charles M. de St Denys), IX. 422
- Evremoniana, II. 739.
- EVREUX, French town, IX. 422.
- EWALD (Johannes), Danish poet, IX. 422, VII. 750.
- on the Egyptian language, XI. 412—on the Pentateuch, XVII. 401, 402.
- Ewes, milk of, XV. 11. See Sheep
- Ex, or Exe, river, IX. 423; VII. 768.
- EXALTATION of the Cross, Roman Catholic feast, IX. 423; VII. 520.
- Christ's state of, XXI. 211.
- EXAMINATIONS, IX. 423—different kinds of, ib., 424, 425—academical examinations at Bologna, XXI. 451; Oxford, 458; Cambridge, 464; London, 467 et seq.
- Example, argument from, XIX. 124, 125.
- EXARON, IX. 427—of a diocese, ib.
- EXAUTORITAS, IX. 427.
- EXCAMBION, IX. 427.
- EX CATHEDRA, IX. 427.
- Excavator, V. 731.
- EXCELLENCY, title of honour, IX. 427
- EXCENTRIC, IX. 427
- EXCENTRICITY, in astronomy, IX. 427.
- EXCHANGE, IX. 428—inland, ib.—foreign, 430—nominal, ib.—real, 435—computed, 440. See Bills of Exchange

EXC-EXP

- EXCHANGE or Bourse, IX. 447, V. 21—Royal Exchange of London, XIII. 663, XI 59, clock of, VII. 19, 20, 21—in Dublin, VIII. 225—Stock Exchange, London, XIII. 663
- EXCHERQUEER Bills, IX. 447.
- COURT OF, IX. 447; II. 7.
- CHAMBER, Court of, IX. 448.
- Chancellor of the, VI. 412.
- in Scotland, IX. 448.
- EXCISE, IX. 448—duties, XXI. 59—Sir R Walpole's scheme of, V. 457, XXI. 692—laws regarding distillation, VIII. 49, 50—duties, in Scotland, XIX. 808
- Excitability, vegetable, XI. 693.
- Exclamation, in rhetoric, XIX. 133.
- EXCLUSION, Bill of, IX. 449, V. 427
- EXCOMMUNICATION, IX. 449—in the Greek Church, XI. 19
- Excretions, XVII. 665, 666, 667—of roots, V. 100
- EXCUBITE, IX. 449.
- EXCUSATI, IX. 450.
- Exe, river. See Ex.
- EXERCATION, IX. 450—morsel of, VII. 418
- EXECUTION, IX. 450, VIII. 791—for crimes in England and Wales, 750—pleas in bar of, XIV. 445.
- EXECUTIVE, IX. 450—power, VIII. 775—in the United States, XXI. 429.
- EXECUTOR, in law, IX. 450.
- EXECUTRY, in Scots law, IX. 451.
- EXEDRA, IX. 451.
- EXEGESIS, IX. 451; XVII. 526
- EXEGETES, IX. 451.
- EXEGETICA, in algebra, IX. 451.
- EXEGETICS, in theology, IX. 451
- Exercise, conducive to health, XIV. 441; XIX. 611—of artillery, III. 696—æora or gestation, II. 164—fencing, as an exercise, IX. 503 and n—riding, XI 673—swimming, XX. 880.
- EXERGUS, in numismatics, IX. 451; XVI. 353
- EXETER in Devonshire, IX. 451—vale of, VII. 762—cathedral, III. 482, VII. 764—savings-bank at, XIX. 657.
- College, Oxford, XXI. 459
- EXPOLIATION, in surgery, IX. 452.
- EXHALANTS of the human body, II. 802.
- EXHALATION, IX. 452—of leaves, V. 103—of gaseous matter from plants, 104. See Evaporation
- EXHAUSTIONS, in mathematics, IX. 452
- EXHIBITION, IX. 453—of works of the fine arts, ib., XVII. 85—great exhibition of 1851, ib.; opening of, by the Queen, V. 672—French exhibition of 1855, IX. 454; X. 257—of the fine arts in Dublin, VIII 223—art treasure exhibition at Manchester, XIV. 266
- Exhibitioners at Oxford, XXI. 456.
- EXIGENT, a writ in law, IX. 454.
- EXILE, IX. 454. See Ostracism.
- Eximeno, on music, XV. 716.
- Existence of God, XXI. 185.
- EXMOOR forest, XX. 410
- EXMOUTH, town in Devonshire, IX. 454.
- (Lord), his expedition against Algiers, II. 572; V. 621.
- EXOCETUS, genus of fishes, XII. 204.
- EXODIUM, IX. 455.
- EXODUS, Book of, IX. 455; XVII. 400—of the Israelites, VIII. 458.
- papyr, XVII. 264
- EXOGENOUS plants or Exogens, IX. 455; V. 80, 83, 179; XXI. 267.
- Exoglossum, genus of fishes, XII. 258.
- Exogyra, fossil mollusks, XVII. 105.
- EXORCISM, IX. 455—in baptism, IV. 424.
- EXORCISTS, IX. 455
- EXORDIUM, in rhetoric, IX. 455.
- EXOSMOSIS and Endosmosis, IX. 455; XII. 101, 102; VIII. 603; V. 68.
- Exosperm, in botany, V. 139.
- EXOSPORES, in botany, V. 142.
- EXOSOMAS, XIX. 557.
- EXOTERICO and Esotero, IX. 455, 332.
- Exothecium, in botany, V. 126.
- EXOTIC, IX. 455
- Expansibility of air, XVIII. 31, 50.
- EXPANSION, IX. 455—produced by electricity, VIII. 589—by heat, XI. 267—

EXP-EYE

- of the gases, I. 935, 937 and n 4—valves, XII. 585, 654—work of steam with and without expansion, 620, 621, 624, 627.
- Expansive engine, Watt's, XX. 579
- EXPECTATION, IX. 456. See Probability
- of life, IX. 456, XV. 647—in different countries, XII. 395; XVIII. 351, 353, in England, 355. See Annuities
- Expenditure of the United Kingdom, VIII. 751—of the United States, XXI. 428.
- Experience, sources of, XIV. 562—probability of future events derived from, XVIII. 604—its testimony slighted by Plato, XVII. 802
- EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY, IX. 456, I. 800
- EXPERIMENTUM CRUCIS, IX. 456
- EXPIATION, feast of, IX. 456
- EXPLOSION, IX. 456—in powder manufactories, XI. 159—in coal mines, VII. 124—lateral explosion, in electricity, VIII. 613—of steam-boilers, X. 634, 651, rarity of, in British steam-vessels, ib
- EXPONENT, in algebra, IX. 457, II. 491.
- of the ratio, in arithmetic, IX. 457.
- EXPONENTIAL calculus, IX. 457; VI. 68—curve, IX. 457—equation—quantity, ib.
- Exports from England, VII. 190.
- from the United Kingdom, VIII. 736, 737—of grain, VII. 397—decline in the real, and increase in official, value of, 737—of cotton manufactures, 456—of British produce, value of, XIV. 275; VIII. 733, to the Mediterranean, XIV. 470—of leather, XIII. 311—of duties on, XXI. 59—of the United States, 426.
- EXPOSING OF CHILDREN, IX. 457
- in China, VI. 595.
- EX-POST-FACTO, IX. 457.
- EXPRESSED OILS, IX. 457; XVII. 408. See Oils
- Expression, Sir C Bell on the anatomy of, IV. 630—in music, XV. 715—in sculpture, XIX. 854 et seq
- Expurgatory Indexes, IV. 712.
- Extension, a primary quality of matter, XIV. 570—consciousness of, 566, and n. 1.
- EXTENT, in law, IX. 457.
- Extinction of volcanic foci, XXI. 606.
- EXTRACT, in pharmacy, IX. 457
- of lead, IX. 457.
- EXTRACTION of roots, in algebra and arithmetic, IX. 457; II. 497; III. 606.
- EXTRAORDINARI, in the Roman army, IX. 457.
- EXTRAVAGANTES, IX. 457; VI. 190.
- EXTRAVASATION, IX. 457—of blood, XVII. 690
- EXTREME, in logic, IX. 458; XIII. 607.
- and mean proportion, in geometry, IX. 458
- UNCTION, IX. 458; XVIII. 336.
- Exudation of liquor sanguinis, XVII. 690
- inflammatory, ib.—tubercular, ib.—cancerous, ib.—theory of the exudations, 693.
- EXUVIÆ of animals, IX. 458.
- EY, IX. 458.
- Eydoux, on the mollusca, XV. 327, 376.
- EYE, town in Suffolk, IX. 458
- IX. 458, XIII. 461, XVI. 694—its structure first analysed by Kepler, I. 625—muscles of, III. 39, 45—anatomy of, 43—polarisation produced by, XVI. 676—its state for making microscopical observations, XV. 800—structure and functions, XVII. 677, 678—alleged reading of clairvoyants without the aid of, XX. 438—of the lower animals, III. 94—of ants, 262—of the arachnides, 368—those of spiders phosphorescent, 378 n—of albinos, II. 4—its diseases in the domestic animals, XXI. 576—effects of galvanism on the, 634—of the crustacea, VII. 538—of insects, IX. 46; III. 98—of fishes, XII. 219—mammalia, XIV. 133—leeches, XI. 305, n. 3. See Eyeball, Eyelids, Optics, Sight.

EYE—FAC

- Eye of plants, propagation by, XI 694
— of tuberous plants, V. 79.
Eye-glass micrometer, XIV 745.
Eye-lids, III 45—third eye-lid, or nictitating membrane, 98
Eye-teeth, III 25
Eyeball, XVII 678—its form in different animals, III 95
Eyebright, V. 202.
EYEMOUTH, in Berwickshire, IX. 458—fishings of, IV 680.
Eyk (Van), XVII 63
Eylais, arachnides, III 389
Eylan, battle of, X. 145; XIX 493
EYRE, in law, IX. 458.
— (Edward John), his explorations in Australia, IV 256
Eytelwein on the motion and velocity of water, XII 74—on hydrodynamics, 76, 112, 120, 128 *et seq.*
EZEKIEL, the prophet, IX. 453—style of, XVIII 98—his description of Tyre, XXI 405.
EZIONGEBER, IX. 459, II 494; XXI 27, 28.
EZRA, IX. 459; XII 767—Old Testament canon completed by, IV 696—the supposed author of Chronicles, VI 663; IV. 696.

F

- F, letter of the alphabet, IX. 460—in abbreviations, II 610.
Fabaceæ, nat. order of plants, V 190.
Fabbioni on the chemical origin of galvanism, I. 964—his discovery of a substance forming swimming bricks, V. 346
Faber (Peter), Jesuit, XII 751.
FABII, Roman family, IX. 460
FABIVS PICTOR, IX. 460.
— MAXIMUS Verrucosus, IX. 460—his war with Hannibal, VI 295, XIX 310, 311
— Ambustus, IX. 460; XIX 308.
FABLE, IX. 461—origin of, II 187, XV 759—fables of Lokman, XIII 636; Phædrus, XVII 504; La Fontaine, IX. 751; Dryden, VIII 203; Æsop, II 187; Wilde, XXI 867; Yriarte's, 966
FABLIANX, French, XVIII 115.
FABRETTI (Raffaele), antiquary, IX. 463.
FABRIANO (Gentile de), painter, IX. 464.
— Italian city, IX. 464.
FABRICIUS (George), poet, IX. 464.
— (JEROME), Acquapendente, IX. 464—his anatomical discoveries, II 760—on surgery, XX 818.
— (JOANNES ALBERTUS), IX. 464
— (JOHANN CHRIST), entomologist, IX. 465, 466—merits of his system, III 188—on the crustaceæ, VII 540—on entomology, IX. 33 *et seq.*
— (John), on the sun's spots, IV 25.
— (Otho), on the insects of Greenland, IX. 68—on ornithology, XVI 729—on the ovum of Boroe, XXI 1000.
FABROT (Charles-Annibal), IX. 466
Fabry (Honoratus) on aeronautics, II 168
FABYAN (Robert), IX. 466
Façade, in architecture, III 509.
FACIOLATI (Jacopo), IX. 466
Face, constituent parts of, III 1—bones of, 21—its general properties, 29—muscles of, 39—bones of, in the mammalia, 78; XIV. 133—in birds, III 85.
Face-bedded work, in masonry, XX 713
FACIAL ANGLE, IX. 466; III 30, 79, XIV 137, n. l.
— bones, in brutes, III 78.
FACIES HIPPOCRATICA, IX. 466.
FACIOM, IX. 466.
FACIOR, IX. 466. See Agent.
— in arithmetic and algebra, IX. 466; III 685; II 491—binomial factors, IX. 285.
FACTORY, IX. 466—cotton factories in Lancashire, VII 451; XIV. 252; in Scotland, VII 451; in United Kingdom, 454; IX. 286, 288—persons employed in factories, VII 454; XIV. 259

FAC—FAI

- horse-power employed in, 288—condition of females in, 280—economy of, 281—influence of labour in, on intelligence and health, 279; on the well-being and opinions of the operatives, *ib.*—weekly earnings of workers in, 253—*in* Lanarkshire, XIII 175—factory acts, XXI 790—inspection of factories, 791—returns, 792—meaning of the word in France, 793 See Manufactures
FACTORY, in commerce, IX. 467
FACULÆ, in astronomy, IX. 467, IV. 28 *et seq.* See Solar Spots
FACULTIES in universities, XXI 475, *et seq.*
FACULTY, IX. 467—organs of the faculties, in phrenology, XVII 562, 673—intellectual faculties, 565—combinations of, 564—theory and classification of, 566—according to metaphysicians, 673—derangement of, XIV 529—obliteration and non-development of, *ib.*
— Dean of, IX. 467; VII 689 See Advocates
Fad, loch, VI 25.
Fænus, genus of insects, IX. 184.
FÆNZA, Italian town, IX. 467.
FÆRUS (Gabriel), IX. 467—his edition of Terence, XXI 188
FÆSULÆ, now Fiesole, Etrurian city, IX. 467—theatre at, 359.
FAGGING, in schools, IX. 467—at Eton, 355—evils of, XIV 444.
— a mode of reaping, II 313.
FAGGOT, IX. 467.
Fagnani (Count de), on fluxions, IX. 679.
FAGUS, beech-tree, IX. 467. See Beech.
Fahlberg's observations on the Gymnotus electricus, VIII 575.
Fahlöre, XV. 120
Fahln, copper and iron mines, XV. 239; XX. 862
Fahlumite, mineral, XV. 89.
FAHRENHEIT (Gabriel Daniel), IX. 467—his aræometer, III 391—his thermometer, IV. 467; XXI 222, 223—his hydrometer, XII 86.
FAIENCE, IX. 467.
FAIPO, town of Cochui-China, IX. 468; VII 49.
FAIRING, IX. 468. See Syncope.
Fairbairn (W.), his assistance to Mr Stephenson in erecting the Menai tubular bridge, I. 877—experiments on the strength of iron, XII 566, 567, 569, 571, 572—his iron-steamers, XX. 137, 174—on the strength of iron plates, 175—of rivets and riveted joints, 176—on the strength of iron beams, 177—on the resistance of iron to bulging force, 182—his double-fined boiler, 354—on the prevention of smoke in furnaces, 355—on the law of density of steam, 572—his description of the steam-engines erected by him at Saltaire Mills, 608—on the collapse of steam-boiler flues, 616—his plan for strengthening flues, 634—on the rupture of boilers, 635—on the strength of materials, 780, 781.
FAIRFAX (Edward), poet, IX. 468—his translation, XXI 85.
— (THOMAS, Lord), IX. 469; V. 404 *et seq.*—defeat at Atherton Moor, 404.
— (Lord), XXI 742.
FAIRFORD, town in Gloucestershire, IX. 471.
FAIRIES, IX. 471—still believed in, in some parts of Britain, I. 464
— of the mine, IX. 471—fairy circle, or rings, *ib.*; V. 100, XX. 839.
FAIR-ISLE, IX. 469; XX. 118
FAIRIS AND MARKETS, IX. 468—Edinburgh, VII 405—France, X. 268—Falkirk, IX. 474—of Leipsic, XIII 325—Germany, X. 590—Glasgow, 655—Hindustan, XI 459—Hurdwar, XII 49—Hungary, 17—Nijm-Novgorod, XVI 267
Fairy, screw steam yacht, description of, XX. 665
— Tales, XIX 287.
FAITH, IX. 471—in theology, 471; I. 522—impropriety of making a certain faith necessary for civil privileges, 534.
— (Sb), fairs at, IX. 468.

FAI—FAN

- Faizabad, town in Oude, XVII 18
FAIZNĀH-LANCASTER, in Norfolk, IX. 472
Fakhr-ed-Din, IX. 268, 270
FAKIR, a religious mendicant, IX. 472—Fakir's houses, XI. 469.
FALAISE, French town, IX. 473
FALASHA, or Talashas, people of Abyssinia, IX. 473, II. 56
FALCATED, IX. 473
Falconellus, genus of birds, XVI 804
Falco, genus of birds, XVI 745.
FALCON, IX. 473; XI 248, XVI 745
FALCONIDE, family of birds, XVI 740
FALCONER (William), IX. 473—poetry of, XVIII 124.
— (Dr), on the pleistocene fossil mammalia, XV 216
FALCONRY, IX. 473; XI 247; XX. 209, 210
Falcunculus, genus of birds, XVI 748
Faldernann (F), his works on insects, IX. 20
FALERII, Etrurian city, IX. 473
Falerian wine, XXI 882
FALERIENSIS AGER, in Campania, IX. 474
FALKIRK, IX. 474—battles of, V 461; XIX. 755; XXI 686—fairs, or trysts at, IX. 468; XX. 708—iron-works, 704—course of, VI 276
FALKLAND, town in Fife, IX. 474—palace of, *ib.*
— ISLANDS, IX. 474; V 242—flora of, 228, XVII 629—dispute regarding them between Britain and Spain, V. 470—tussac grass of, II 330.
— (Lucius Cary, Lord), VI 306—death of, V 404.
FALL, Scotch measure, IX. 475.
— OF MAN, IX. 475; II 123—narrative of, in Genesis, considered as a mere allegory, XXI 198—man's present state since, *ib.*
— RIVER, town in Massachusetts, IX. 475.
— of the leaf, V. 109
FALLACY, IX. 475, XIII 613, n.
Fallen (C F), his entomological works, IX. 12.
Fallenia, genus of insects, IX. 233
FALLING or SHOOTING star, IX. 479, 587; VIII 588; XIV. 688. See Meteorolite.
FALLING-SICKNESS, IX. 479, 275 See Epilepsy.
FALLOPIAN TUBES, IX. 479; III 71
FALLOPPPIO (Gabriello), IX. 479—his anatomical discoveries, II 759, 761
Fallow-deer, XIV. 207—shooting of, XX. 211.
Fallowing, in agriculture, II 289—summer or naked fallow, 291—Tennant's system of winter fallowing, 290—rag-fallowing, 307.
Fallows (Rev. Fearn), his pendulum observations, IX. 573, 574—astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope, III 618.
Falls, in hunting, IX. 688.
FALMOUTH, in Cornwall, IX. 479.
— in Jamaica, XII 680.
Falsehood, XV. 566
Falsequarter, XXI 562.
FALSTER, island in the Baltic, IX. 479
Falterona (Mount), in Tuscany, XXI 392.
FALUN or Fahlun, Swedish town, IX. 479—copper mines, XV. 239, XX. 862.
Falx of the dura mater, III 56.
FAMA, goddess, IX. 479.
— CLAMOSA, IX. 480
FAMAGOSTA, town in Cyprus, IX. 480, VII 610.
FAMILY, IX. 480.
— in natural history, IX. 480; V. 175; XV. 67, 68.
Famine at Antioch about the year 381, III 274—in India, XI 453—in Egypt, VIII 478—Ireland in 1846, IX. 629—Italy in 1847, XII 650.
FAN, IX. 480—fan-palm, V. 214
FANAROTA, IX. 14.
FANATISM, IX. 481.
FANOX, IX. 482—poetic, XVIII 93, 94 See Taste, Apparitions.
Fane (Sir Henry), XI 667.

FAN—FAR

- Fangs of serpents, III. 113; XIX. 44—of a tooth, XVI 439.
FANIN (Father), VII 680.
FANTOMS, IX. 482.
FANNERS, IX. 482; II 283, XVIII 87.
FANO, city in Papal States, IX. 482.
— island, XII 451.
FANSHAWE (Sir Richard), IX. 482.
FANTASIA, in music, IX. 482.
Fantees, III 275.
Faraday (Michael), I. 977—his early history and connection with Davy, *ib.*—variety of his publications, *ib.*—his researches on electricity, *ib.*—on electro-magnetic rotations, *ib.*—on the identity of electrical and chemical forces, 978—on the uniform nature of electricity from whatever source, 979—volta-electrical induction, *ib.*—his discovery of dia-magnetism, 980—on the magnetism of oxygen, 981—on the optical changes induced by magnetism, *ib.*—liquifies certain gases, 982—his wide reputation, *ib.*—his electrical discoveries, VIII 532—discovery of magneto-electricity, *ib.* I. 979—his new law of electrical conduction, VIII 533, 542, I. 978—his theory of static electricity, VIII 533—on the electricity produced by friction, 539—on the velocity of electricity, 543—on the distribution of electricity, 552—on the pyro-electricity of oxalate of lime, 561—on the electricity of the solar rays, 569—on the gynomus, 576—on electro-chemical decomposition, 596, I. 978—on Mr Barry's experiments, VIII 597—on electro-magnetism, 601—his improvements on the electrophorus, 607—his experiments with an insulated wire, 613—his instructions for using electrometers, 617—on magnetic metals, XIV. 16—on para and dia-magnetism, *ib.*—on the variation of the needle, 68—on filtration, IX. 582—his analysis of tea-growing soils from China, XXI 84—his voltaic trough, 612—his volta-meter, 619—on the difference between ordinary and voltaic electricity, 621—on electric conduction, 622—on the chemical effects of voltaic electricity, 628—his further researches, 629, 630—on magnetic electricity, 644, 645, 646
FARCE, IX. 482.
FARCY, a disease in horses, IX. 482; XXI 573
Fardlebound, a disease of cattle, XXI 567
FAREHAM, town in Hants, IX. 482.
Farel, reformer, VI 109, 110.
FAREWELL, cape, IX. 483; XI 38 *et seq.*
Farey's elliptograph, VIII 639.
Fargeau (L. de St.), his works on insects, IX. 13.
FARINA, IX. 483
Fario, genus of fishes, XII 245.
FARIONELLA, genus of fishes, XII 248
FARM, IX. 483; II 964 *et seq.*—capital required for, 366—number of farms in Britain, IX. 483—in France, X. 249—size of, II 364—size of English, VIII. 724—size of Irish, XII 513—small farms increase the price of raw produce, VII 429—large and small farms compared, 428—in Prussia, XVIII 665.
— labourers, II 366, IV. 680.
— buildings, II 267, 371—house, 268—cottages, *ib.*
FARMER (Hugh), IX. 483.
— (RICHARD), D.D., IX. 483.
Farmers, education of, II 366—clubs, 265
Farming of taxes, XXI. 42, 43.
FARNABLE (Thomas), IX. 483.
FARNSE (Cardinal), VI 227.
— PALACE, IX. 484; III. 452, 479, 485.
FARNHAM, town in Surrey, IX. 484—Royal Military College at, II 71—its hops, XX. 836.
FARNOLIANS, heretics, IX. 484.
FARO, Portuguese town, IX. 484.
— cape, in Sicily, IX. 484.
— game with cards, IX. 484.
FAROE, islands, IX. 484; VII 745—Faroese ballads, IV. 397.

FAR—FAY

FAROLITE, mineral, XV 75
 FARQUHAR (George), dramatist, IX 485; VIII 162, XVI 172
 FARQUHARSON (Rev. James), on aurora borealis, IV 245, 248
 FARR (Dr), on life assurance, XII 390, 402
 —on medical jurisprudence, XIV 424
 —on vital statistics, XVIII 637
 FARTEN (E James), on life contingencies, XII 396, 398
 FARRIER, IX 487
 FARRIERY, or veterinary science, IX 485, XI 671; XXI 554
 FARRINGTON, GREAT, in Berkshire, IX 485
 FARNS, or FARNISTAN, in Persia, IX 486
 FARSHOOT, in Egypt, VIII 424
 FARTASH, cape, IX 486
 FARTHING, IX 486—of gold, VII 77
 FARTHINGALE, IX 486
 FASCIES, IX 486
 FASCIA, IX 486—in anatomy, II 824—in architecture, IX 486; III 509
 FASCIDE, in botany, V 117
 FASCINATION, IX 486
 FASCINES, IX 486, 804
 FASCIOLA, genus of entozoa, XXI 980
 FASHION, IX 486—its effect on taste, IV 646
 FAST, IX 488, II 51, III 180; VIII 22—Mohammedan fasts, XV 303—in the Greco-Russian church, XIX 527—death from fasting, XIV 430
 FASTERN'S EVE, IX 489
 FASTI, IX 489—Dies fasti, ib
 FASTOFF (Sir John), IX 489
 FAT, IX 490, II 788; XVI 492, VI 510; XVII 655—tissue containing, II 787—fatty degeneration, XVII 690, 696—consumption of, in the Polar regions, 668—alimentary qualities of, VIII 20—in insects, IX 60
 —or fatty matter, of plants, V 73; IX 756, II 381
 —or FAT, IX 490
 FATA MORGANA, IX 490—in the great Hungarian plain, XII 10—in Antrim, III 285—F. glacialis, XVIII 168, n. See Mirage
 FATALIST, IX 490. See Predestination
 FATE, IX 490
 FATES, IX 490, XVII 272
 FATHIMITES, or Fatimites, IX 490
 FATHER, IX 490. See Parent
 —in theology, IX 490
 FATHERS, in the primitive church, IX 490
 FATHOM, IX 492
 Fatio de Duillier, IX 672
 Faugher, battle of, XII 470
 Faujaste, mineral, XV 77
 Faults in rocks, XV 171, 176, 177; XVII 621
 FAUN, IX 492
 FAUNA, in mythology, IX 493; V 4
 —in natural history, IX 493
 FAUNALIA, rural festival, IX 493
 Faure (M.), on the cabinet of medals at Madrid, XIII 409
 Faust, magician, X 362
 Faustina, wife of Marcus Aurelius, IX 493; XIX 344, 345; XIII 279
 FAUSTUS, IX 493. See Fust
 Favé (Captain), on the emperor of the French's system of artillery, XI 140—on the origin of gunpowder, 151
 FAYERSHAM, town in Kent, IX 493—James II. at, V 483
 FAYGIANA, island, IX 493; XX 246
 FAYESSE, IX 493
 FAYONTUS, IX 493
 FAVORINUS, sophist, IX 493
 Favostidae, XXI 1006—fossil, XVII 96, 97
 FAYRE (M.), on the heat of combustion of coal, XX 630
 FAWKES (Francis), IX 493
 —(Guy), his connection with the gunpowder plot, V 386
 FAWN, IX 493—colour-dyeing of, VIII 308
 Fay (M. du), on dew, VII 766, 767, 769.

FAY—FEL

FATAL, one of the Azores, IX 493; IV 336
 FAYALITE, mineral, XV 89
 FAYETTE (Marquis de la), V 483
 FAYOUM, in Egypt, IX 493; VIII 503
 Fe, Fo, or FOHI, Chinese god, IX 493, VII 243, 717—religion of, XV 761, 762, VI 569
 FEALTY, in feudal law, IX 493
 FEAR, IX 493—its tendency to make nations take excessive precautions against enemies, VII 145—monomania of, XIV 531
 Fearnall (Mr), his steam-boats, XX 137
 Fearn (Mr), on electric vibrations, XXI 631
 FEAST, or Festival, IX 494—feasts of the ancients, ib—church feasts, VI 89—dancing at, VII 645—religious festivals of the Egyptians, VIII 443, 448
 Featham (Messrs), their stores, XX 743
 Feather ore, XV 119—feather-grass, XIX 515
 Featherings, in architecture, III 509
 FEATHERS, IX 495; XVI 735—uses to man, IX 496—plucking of, XIII 491—collectors of, Galway, X 391
 FEBRIFUGE, IX 496
 FEBRUARY, IX 496—gardening calendar for, XI 758
 Feburner's hive, III 295
 FEBAMP, French town, IX 496
 Fechner's experiments on Ohm's theory of electrical conduction, I 894
 Fediales. See Fetales
 Fecondation of germs, XVII 683
 Fecondity of the queen-bee, IV 583
 FEDERAL, IX 496
 FEE, in law, IX 498
 Feeding of live stock, II 339, 418—of milch cows, VII 621
 FEEJEE ISLANDS, IX 499; XVIII 273—inhabitants of, 274, 275; IX 247
 Feeling, Dr T. Brown's application of the term, I 413. See Ethical Philosophy (sense of), XIV 565—in bees, IV 575—weak in insects, III 177
 Feelings, arrangements of, in phrenology, XVII 562
 Fehmic courts, XXI 632
 Fehrbellin, battle of, XVIII 649
 Feilitzsch (Prof), on hydraulics, XII 155
 Feirings, in ploughing, II 286
 FEIRIE (Rhyndis), Dutch poet, IX 499
 Felah, VIII 107
 FELAGYHAZA, in Hungary, IX 499
 FELBREN (André), IX 499
 —(Jean François), IX 499
 FELICITAS, IX 449
 FELICUDI, island, XIII 502
 FELIS, genus of quadrupeds, IX 499, XIV 168—bones of the foot in this genus, III 82—organs of the voice, 101—dentition, XVI 459—fossil species, XVII 171
 FELIX (M. Minucius), IX 499
 —name of several Roman pontiffs, IX 499
 —V, II 644
 Fell (Bishop), his abuse of Hobbes, XI 550
 Fellatah, XI 776, 779; II 222; V 51
 FELLEBERG (Emmanuel von), IX 499
 —his school at Hofwyl, XVII 477
 Felling of timber, VIII 210; XX 170; XXI 273
 FELLOW, in colleges, IX 500; XXI 456. See Universities
 Fellows (Sir Charles), his researches on Lycia, III 503—on the coins of Lycia, XVI 377
 FELO DE SE, IX 500. See Suicide
 FELON, in law, IX 500—ancient punishment of, XII 379
 FELONY, IX 500
 Feloo, cataract of, XX 49
 Felopos, African nation, II 222; IX 352
 FELSAP, IX 501; VI 481; XV 70—amorphous, 72—changes in the decomposition of, II 390—analysis of, 389
 Felspathic lavas, XV 132—traps, 134—ash, 135
 Felstone, XV 134—columnar, 166—relations between it and greenstone, 139
 FELT, IX 501
 FELTHAM (Owen), IX 501

FEL—FER

FELTING, VIII 275; X 350, XI 240, 241—distinguished from weaving, XXI 780
 Felton on Dryden, VIII 203
 —assassin of the Duke of Buckingham, V 392
 FELTRE, Italian town, IX 501
 FELUCCA, IX 501, IV 800
 Female. See Woman
 FEMERN, island, IX 501
 FEMININE, in grammar, IX 501; X 747
 FEMME COVERT, in law, IX 501
 Femur, or thigh-bone, III 34, 36—in the mammalia, 82—in birds, 80—in reptiles, 88
 FEN, IX 501; II 362, IV 567—fen country of Cambridgeshire, VI 114—of Lincolnshire, II 363, XIII 491—of Suffolk, XX 790
 FENCES, IX 501; II 269—in hunting, XI 678—for gardens, 698, XVII 773
 FENCE-MOSTH, IX 501
 FENCING, IX 501
 FENELON (F de S de Lamotte), IX 505—his works, I 83—his character contrasted with that of Bossuet, 351—his controversy with Bossuet, ib, V 60; XV 788—his character, I 83, 351—why distrusted by Louis XIV, ib—his adoption and defence of Madame Guyon's opinions, XI 163; I 352—his banishment from the court, and condemnation by the pope, ib
 Fenestrella, XVII 98, 96
 Fennec, in zoology, XIV 165
 Fennel, V 137, 195; XI 745
 FENTON (Sir Geoffrey), IX 509
 —(ELLJAB), English poet, IX 509—his share in Pope's version of the Odyssey, XVIII 330
 Fenugreek, yellow dyestuff, VIII 297
 FEOD, or FEUD, IX 509. See Feudal law
 Feodor, reign of, XIX 476
 —Ivanovitch, XIX 474
 FEOFFMENT, in law, IX 509
 FESE, order of mammalia, XIV 135, 146
 FERALLIA, Roman festival, IX 509
 FERDINAND, IX 510
 —Prince of Saxe-Coburg, XVIII 390
 Ferdinand and Isabella, IX 510, XX 465—their agreement with Columbus, VII 157—their expulsion of the Jews from Spain, XII 781—Prescott's history of, XVIII 503, 504
 —II, emperor of Austria, IV 303
 —IV, king of the two Sicilies, XX 260, 264
 —III, king of Leon, XX 463
 —IV, of Castile and Leon, XX 468
 —VI, of Spain, XX 471
 —VII, of Spain, XX 472
 Ferdousi. See Firdous
 FERÉ (La), French town, IX 510
 FERENTARI, Roman troops, IX 510; III 631
 FERENTINUM, Etrurian city, IX 510
 —a city of the Hernici, IX 510
 FERETRUS, surname of Jupiter, IX 510
 FERÉ (Francis Paul), IX 510
 Ferghana, XIII 77
 Fergus, river, VI 758
 FERGUSON (Adam), LL D., IX 510—on the history of language, I 176—on Dr Reid's works, 219, n. 1
 —(JAMES), IX 512
 —(ROBERT), poet, IX 512
 —(Robert), "the plotter," VII 631
 —(Robert), of Raith, his observations on subterranean temperature, VI 768
 Fergusonia, mineral, XV 110
 FERGUSON (Mr), on Assyrian architecture, III 501, 502—his restoration of a Ninevite palace, XVI 277
 FERIZ, IX 513—Latina, ib
 FERISHTA (Mohammed Casim), IX 513
 FERMANAGH, IX 513—effects of the cottage-system in, VII 431—land under crop, XII 516—cereal produce, 517
 FERMAT (Pierre de), IX 516, 671—his method of drawing tangents to curves, I 561—on refraction, 628—his edition of Diophantus, II 463—his disputes with Descartes, VI 279—on probability, XVIII 588

FER—FEU

FERMENTATION, IX 517—panary, IV 380—in brewing, V 329—in distillation, VIII 49—influence of electricity on, 597—combustion from, XIV 427—in wine-making, XXI 883, 888, 889
 FERMO, Italian city, IX 517—delegation of, XVII 248
 FERMOX, town in Cork, IX 517
 Fern order of plants, V 216. See Ferns and Filices
 FERN ISLANDS, IX 517
 Fernand (John), blind author, IV 799
 FERNANDO DE NORONHA, island, IX 517
 FERNANDO Po, island, IX 517, II 229; IV 653
 Fernel, measurement of arc of meridian by, I 618, IX 548
 —JEAN (François), physician, IX 518; XIV 459
 FERNET, village in Gex, the residence of Voltaire, IX 518; XXI 600
 FERNS, IX 518, V 143, 216—tree-ferns, 84—their proportion to phenogamous plants, XVII 626—work on, in nature-printing, XVIII 555—in Cape Verde Islands, XXI 544—fossil, V 234. See Filices
 FEROE ISLES, IX 518. See Faroe
 FERONIA, goddess, IX 518
 —genus of insects, IX 90
 Feronsien, section of coleoptera, IX 92—synoptical table of, ib
 FEROZPOOR, town in Hindustan, IX 518
 FEROZESHAR, in Hindustan, IX 518—battle of, ib, V 670; XI 509
 FEROZPOOR, town in Hindustan, IX 518
 FERTAR, on the "palatines" of Ireland, XII 511
 FERRARA, city in the Papal States, IX 518—legation, XVII 243—library of, XIII 413—university of, XXI 492
 Ferrari (Lewis), his discoveries in algebra, II 485—on equations, IX 306
 FERRARS (George), IX 519
 FERRATUS (J.), V 254, n. 1
 FERRET, IX 519; XIV 157
 —in glass-making, IX 519
 FERREUS (Scipio), his improvements in algebra, II 484
 Ferrari (Dr), on apparitions, III 316 *et seq*
 —on Sterne's plagiarisms, XX 693
 Ferric acid, VI 489
 Fernier (Prof), Colendge accused of plagiarism by, VII 111—on the Pythagorean doctrine of number, XVII 232, n.
 —(Miss), her novels, XIX 283
 —(Mr), his account of Persia, XVII 419 *et seq*
 FERRO, one of the Canary islands, IX 519; VI 167
 Ferrocyanic acid, calico printing with, VIII 319
 FERROL, town in Spain, IX 519—harbour of, X 372
 Ferrotyle, XVII 550
 FERULA IX 519—F. Græca, plant, VII 610
 Ferrussina, fossil mollusks, XVII 110, 111
 Ferrussac (Baron), on the mollusca, XV 327 *et seq*, 373
 Fersaltie, river, VIII 813
 FESCENNINI, IX 519—place whence Fescennine verses received the name, 360
 FESS, in heraldry, IX 519; XI 328
 FESTI DIES, IX 519
 Festinog, in Wales, XIV 543, 544
 Festival. See Feast
 FESTOON, in architecture, IX 519
 FESTUS (Sextus Pompeius), IX 519
 FETHARD, town in Ireland, IX 519
 FETIALES, or Fediales, IX 520; VI 766
 FETICHE, IX 520; VII 246
 FETLOCK, IX 520; XI 641, 648 *et seq*
 Fethol, mineral, XV 84
 FEU, in Scots law, IX 520
 FEUD, IX 520
 FEUDAL LAW, IX 520—Sir Thomas Craig on, VII 478
 —system, XV 681—origin of the, IX 520—agriculture under the, II 251—armies, III 636—effect of the crusades on, VII 581; II 251—its influence on poetry, XVIII 107—origin

FEU—FIE

- of prisons from, 566—present system of taxation arose out of the decline of, XXI. 37.
- Femilants, X. 68
- FEVER, IX. 526; XVII. 690—prevalence of, in marshy districts, IV. 184—at Gibraltar, X. 619—Dr Rush on yellow fever, XIX. 466—fever in veterinary science, XXI. 555
- Feversham. See Faversham.
- FEVRE (Tannegui Le), IX. 526.
- FEZ, in Africa, IX. 526; XV. 595
- FEZZAN, in Africa, IX. 527; II. 219.
- Fiennell (Mr), on Irish fisheries, IX. 620, 622
- Fierra, VII. 42
- FIARS PRICES, IX. 532—in Edinburghshire, VIII. 409.
- Fiber, genus of mammalia, XIV. 183.
- FIBRE, IX. 533—fibres of the human body, II. 777—vegetable, V. 69; IX. 655; chemical properties of, VI. 518, 516—colours of fibres, XVI. 622—fibres for micrometers, XIV. 744—tissues of, XVII. 652.
- textile. See Textile Fibres.
- FIBRIN, IX. 533, 757—liquid, II. 780—its qualities as an aliment, VIII. 138
- Fibrine (animal), II. 381; IX. 757; XVII. 654; XIX. 610.
- (vegetable), II. 381; VI. 519; XIX. 610.
- Fibro-cartilage, II. 832—of the vertebrae, III. 6.
- Fibroferrite, XV. 97
- Fibrolite, mineral, XV. 88
- Fibrous system of the human body, II. 824, 825.
- tissues of animals, III. 171, XVII. 652—strength of fibrous bodies, XX. 755.
- FIBULA, IX. 533; III. 35, 36, 37—in the mammalia, 82—in birds, 86—in reptiles, 89
- FICHTE (Johann Gottlieb), IX. 533; XI. 282—his system of philosophy, XIV. 606—his classification of duties, XV. 565—on lies of necessity, 572—on the meaning of the pronoun I, I. 200.
- FICHTENGEBIRGE, mountains, IX. 536; X. 588
- Fichtelite, mineral, XV. 125.
- FICINO (Marsilio), IX. 536—his versions of Plato and Plotinus, XVII. 522
- Ficoides, nat. order of plants, V. 194.
- FICOTON, IX. 537—works of. See Novel, Romance.
- Ficula, genus of mollusks, XV. 887—*F. laevigata*, ib.
- Ficus, genus of plants, IX. 536; V. 206.
- Fid, IX. 537.
- FIDDES (Richard), IX. 537
- FIDDELE, IX. 537. See Violin.
- FIDE-JUSSIEU, IX. 537.
- FIDEI-CONSUMMUM, IX. 537
- Fidelo (Fortunato), on legal medicine, XIV. 422
- FIDENZA (now Castel Guibio), IX. 537.
- FIDES, IX. 537.
- Fieber (F. X.), his works on insects, IX. 23
- FIER, IX. 538. See Fea.
- FIELD (JOHN), IX. 538.
- in heraldry, IX. 538; XI. 324—in numismatics, XVI. 353.
- MARSHALL, IX. 538; XIV. 318.
- OFFICERS, IX. 538.
- (H. W.), his assaying furnace, III. 769.
- artillery, III. 688.
- of the cloth of gold, VIII. 698.
- operations in trigonometry, XXI. 346.
- Field-fare, bird, XVI. 751—shooting of, XX. 216.
- Field-sports, their influence on the character, XII. 33; and on the health, ib.
- Field-works, IX. 805, 808.
- FIELDRINE (Henry), IX. 538—his criticism on the law of evidence, 419—his tomb at Lisbon, XIII. 507—on the causes and impunity of crime, XVIII. 192—his plan of police, ib.—merits of his novels,

FIE—FIL

- XIX. 272—his structures on Richardson, 169
- Fierasfer, genus of fishes, XII. 268
- FIERI FACIAS, in law, IX. 543.
- Fieschi, his plot, trial, and execution, X. 211.
- FIESOLE, Italian city, IX. 543, 467
- FIFE, musical instrument, IX. 543.
- FIFESIRE, IX. 543—ferries on the Forth, 796—agricultural statistics, XIX. 796, 797, 798—population, 799—trigonometrical survey of, XXI. 393
- FIFTH-MONARCHY-MEN, IX. 548; V. 416; XIII. 165.
- FIGEAC, French town, IX. 546
- Figget whins, irrigation of, XII. 620.
- Fighting fish, XII. 289.
- Figites, genus of insects, IX. 192
- Fig-mangold order of plants, V. 194.
- Fig-shells, XV. 387
- Fig-tree, IX. 536, V. 206—culture of, XI. 708—fig-house, 729.
- Figs, IX. 536—value of imports of, VIII. 734.
- FIGUEIRA, Portuguese town, IX. 546.
- Figueredo (Jorge de), V. 290
- FIGUERAS, Spanish town, IX. 546
- Figure, perception of, XIV. 573 See Form.
- FIGURE OF THE EARTH, IX. 547; III. 805, 812; IV. 5; VII. 700, I. 617, 836, 850, 853; X. 465, 479—no accurate information of, derived from antiquity, I. 617—attempt of Eratosthenes to measure an arc of meridian, ib.—first modern measurement of any accuracy by Snellius, 618—measurement of an arc by Norwood, Femel, and Picard, ib.—Richer's observation that a pendulum vibrates slower at the equator, 619—explanation of this by Newton and Huygens, ib.—determination of, by Newton, 677—measurements by Cassini and Fontenelle, 685—Maclaurin's view of, 772—measurement of degrees of latitude under the equator and within the arctic circle, 773, 773; V. 243; VII. 229; I. 853, 854—measurement of a degree of latitude by La Caille, 774, by Delambre, Mechain, &c., 775—various estimates of the amount of depression at the poles, 776—measurement of a perpendicular to the meridian by Broussaud, ib.—as determined by the pendulum, ib., 850, 851—Ivory's estimate of the earth's ellipticity, 777—analytical investigation to determine the earth's figure by Clairaut, Legendre, and Laplace, ib.; III. 812—the demonstration completed by Ivory, I. 777—discussions on the earth's figure led to an examination of the theory of the tides, 778—French arc of meridian, 836—English arc, 837—connection of gravity and the figure of the earth, 851—Indian arc, 853—Russian arc, 854—various proofs of its ellipticity, ib.—Frisson, X. 312 See Trigonometrical Survey.
- Figure-stone, XV. 84.
- Figure-weaving, XXI. 780, 785, 787.
- Figures, in geometry, X. 507—proportions of, 619.
- in rhetoric, XIX. 132, VII. 220.
- Figwort, order of plants, V. 202.
- Fiji islands, XVIII. 273. See Feejee.
- FILAMENT, IX. 576—in botany, V. 113, 126—filamentous tissue of the human body, II. 777, 786 See Fibre.
- FILANGIERI (Gaetano), political economist, IX. 576; I. 287; XXI. 682.
- (General), his expedition against Sicily, XII. 637
- Filaria, genus of entozoa, XXI. 981—in the domestic animals, 574, 578
- FILBERT, IX. 577; XVI. 395—in Kent, XIII. 67. See Hazel.
- FILIX, IX. 577—file-cutters, diseases of, XX. 98.
- File-fish, teeth of, XVI. 421.
- FILIAL PIETY, IX. 577—duties, XV. 568.
- FILINGS, IX. 578.
- FILICAJA (Vincenzo da), poet, IX. 578; XVIII. 112.

FIL—FIR

- Filices, or ferns, nat. order of plants, V. 216—organs of reproduction in, 143—embryogeny in, 156
- FILIGREE, IX. 579—work, of Sumatra, XX. 805
- FILIPPO D'ARGIRO (San), town in Sicily, IX. 579
- Filustata, genus of arachnides, III. 378.
- Filagrea. See Filigree.
- FILLER, IX. 579—in architecture, III. 509—in joinery, XII. 808
- Fillmore (Millard), president of the United States, XXI. 442, 796.
- FILTER, IX. 580
- FIM, IX. 583; III. 90; XII. 206, 215—in fossil fishes, 333—in the cetacea, XIV. 216.
- FINAL CAUSE, IX. 583; III. 540; XVII. 803.
- FINALE, Genoese port, IX. 583.
- FINANCES, IX. 583.
- Finah (Giovanni), on Arabian ballad-singing, IV. 396.
- FINCH (Heneage), earl of Nottingham, IX. 583
- (Sir John), V. 393
- tribe of birds, IX. 583; XVI. 761
- Fincham, on ship-building, XIX. 161, 163—on the seasoning of timber, 168—strength of timber, 172
- FINDBORN, river, IX. 583; XV. 576, 772
- FINE, in law, IX. 583.
- FINE ARTS, IX. 584—exhibition of works in the, 453. See Arts, Painting, Sculpture, &c.
- FINEERING. See Veneering.
- Finfoots, birds, XVI. 809
- FINGAL, king of Morven, IX. 584; XII. 464; XVII. 5, 6.
- in Tasmania, gold found at, XXI. 32.
- FINGAL'S CAVE, IX. 584; XV. 190; XX. 528
- Finger-alphabet, VII. 679
- Fingers, bones of, III. 38—joints of, 34—muscles, 38—motions, 40—opposition of the thumb to, 41—calculation by, II. 8—cases of supernumerary, XV. 503— and toes, a disease of turnips, II. 319; V. 78—effects of lime on, II. 319
- FINIAL, IX. 584; III. 509
- FINISTERE, or Finisterre, in France, IX. 584; V. 316
- Finlason (John), his tables of mortality and annuities, III. 204; XII. 401—on mortality, XV. 614.
- FINLAND, IX. 584—ceded to Russia, XIX. 484; XX. 659—poetry and mythology of, XIX. 701—education in, 532—crime, 525, n. 2—tables of mortality, XV. 645, 646, 647. See Finns.
- GULF of, IX. 585; IV. 402, 404
- Finlayson's harrow and grubber, II. 272.
- Finmark, XIII. 238—Laplanders of, 237.
- Finnan haddock, IX. 647, 769; XIII. 89
- Finns, VI. 864; IX. 588, XIII. 237; XIX. 522, XX. 864
- Finnish language, IX. 388, 390; XIII. 215—has many words in common with the American languages, II. 680, n.
- Finbury, borough of, XIII. 660.
- Finsel (Mr), on sugar-making, XX. 794, 795.
- Fiords, IX. 319—in Lapland, XIII. 235
- Finland, IX. 584—Scotland, XIX. 794.
- FIORENZUOLA, Italian town, IX. 585.
- FIR, IX. 585—pollen, V. 129; seed, 139, embryo, 143; cone, 139—propagation of, by seed, XVII. 767—trees, 756, 760, culture of, 770—distinction between firs and pines, XXI. 274.
- Balm of Gilead, V. 209.
- tribe of plants, V. 209.
- Fir-rape, order of plants, V. 198.
- Fir-timber, XXI. 274—Scotch fir, 275—spruce, ib.—sawwood in, ib.—defects of, ib.—its use in joinery, XII. 817—specific gravity of, 89—frigate built of, XVI. 101—mode of preserving, XX. 168—shrinkage in seasoning, ib.—strength of, 171, 172, 757, 758.
- FIRDUSI, Persian poet, IX. 585, XVII. 429, 483.

FIR—FIS

- FIRE IX. 586—natural fire at Baku, IV. 382; wild or Greek, IX. 586—domestic fires, XX. 353—great fire of London, V. 424, XIII. 659, in Rome, XIX. 361—of St Elmo, VIII. 588—security of buildings against, VII. 229 See Combustion, Flame, Heat.
- Insurance, XII. 416—offices, 417—duties paid by, in 1855, 418—its progressive increase, ib.—practice of, ib.
- of artillery, different kinds of, XI. 141.
- St ANTHONY'S, IX. 587, 329 See Erysipelas.
- Fire-annihilator, XIII. 438.
- FIRE-ARMS, IX. 587—effect on war of the great improvements in, XXI. 725. See Gunmaling.
- FIRE-BALLS, meteors, IX. 586; VIII. 587.
- Fire-bricks V. 345
- Fire-clay, XV. 142—analysis of, II. 391.
- FIRE-DAMP, IX. 587, V. 643, 671; XIV. 436—explosions in collieries from, VII. 124.
- FIRE-ENGINE, IX. 587; XII. 177—in London, XIII. 679—fire-engine companies, in New York, XVI. 231
- FIRE-ESCAPES, IX. 587; XIII. 437
- FIRE-FLIES, IX. 587, 169—in Jamaica, XII. 682
- Fire-opal, mineral, XV. 69.
- Fire-ordeal, XVI. 701
- Fire-places, XIX. 613. See Chimney, Furnace, Smoke.
- Fire-raising, or arson, III. 679; XIV. 427.
- Fire-stones, XX. 712
- FIRE-WORKS, IX. 587. See Pyrotechny
- FIRE-WORSHIPPERS, IX. 587; XI. 79, 92; XVII. 428
- Fueblende, XV. 122
- FURIN, a measure, IX. 587.
- FURLOR, a measure, IX. 587.
- FIRMAMENT, IX. 587.
- FIRMAN, IX. 587
- FIRMICUS (Maternus Julius), IX. 538
- Firmness, faculty of, XVII. 563
- Firola, genus of mollusks, XV. 377.
- Firolidae, family of mollusks, XV. 377.
- Firolides Lesauvri, XV. 378.
- FIRST-FRUIT, IX. 588.
- Firths, comparative amount of river and tidal water in, XVI. 82.
- Fisc, in civil law, IX. 588
- Fischer (L. H.), his work on insects, IX. 14, 24
- (T. B.), his work on insects, IX. 14.
- Fischerite, mineral, XV. 74
- FISH, IX. 588—acuteness of their hearing, II. 99—killed in Lapland by striking the ice, 100—as manure, 407—as an article of food, IX. 763—teeth of fishes, XVI. 430—ejected from volcanoes, III. 129—poisonous species, XIV. 439; IX. 763—rearing of, in ancient Egypt, VIII. 427—luminousness of, XIII. 457—electricity of, VIII. 530, XVII. 636, 671— in heraldry, XI. 331, 333—supply to the London market, IX. 649—crystal-line lenses of, XIV. 771—preserved in glycerine, X. 685—figures of, borne on arms, XI. 333—oil from, XVI. 493—fishes without teeth, 494—of Africa, II. 218—America, 714—New South Wales, 281—Canada, VI. 143—Madagascar, XIII. 800—Antrim, III. 285—Devonshire, VII. 763—Hungary, XII. 17—Jamaica, 682—India, XI. 456—Ireland, XII. 203—Java, 705—Sweden, XX. 882—number of fishes known, XVII. 631—distribution of, 634—food of, 635—fossil, 640, 115 et seq.—mode of fecundation, 683 See Ichthyology.
- FISHER (John), bishop, IX. 588; VIII. 700.
- fur-skinned animal, X. 347.
- FISHES, IX. 589—of Aberdeen, II. 33—America, V. 480—Antrim, III. 286—Argyllshire, 526—the Balch, IV. 404—Banffshire, 413—Brazil, V. 299—Berwickshire, IV. 680—Cathness, VI. 62—Canada, 143—Casplan Sea, 312—Ceylon, 395—Chile, 560—China, 586—Clare, 755—Cornwall, VII. 408—Donegal, VIII. 105—Dorsetshire, 112—Downshire, 123

FIS—FLA

Dublin, 215—England, 727—Firth of Forth, IX. 794, 795—France, X. 264—Holland, XI. 386—Ireland, XII. 522—Italy, 639—Japan, 690—Labrador, XIII. 140, 141—Lapland, 241—Lewis, 352—Malta, XIV. 115—Mayo, 371—Hebrides, XI. 278—New Brunswick, XVI. 163—New York, 220—Norway, 327—Newfoundland, 171; V. 482—Nova Scotia, XVI. 344—of the Orkney Islands, 721—Holland, XI. 583—of Peterhead, XVII. 484—Prince Edward's Island, XVIII. 518—Ross-shire, XIX. 427—Scotland, 804—Shetland, XX. 114—Sligo, 331—Sutherland, 842—Tuscany, XXI. 394—Vancouver's Island, 520—Waterford, 770—Wexford, 847—Wick, 857—Wicklow, 858—Yarmouth, 953. See Herring, Cod, Salmon, &c., Pearl and Whale Fishery

Fish River, Great, XVIII. 172, 175.

Fishing for crustacea, VII. 540

Fishertown, XV. 744.

FISHERY, PEARL, IX. 650. See Pearl-fisheries.

—WHALE, IX. 650. See Whale-fishery.

FISHGUARD, Welsh town, IX. 650

FISHING, IX. 650. See Angling, Fisheries.

—in carpentry, VI. 263.

Fishing-frog, XII. 311

Fishing-nets, XIX. 89 *et seq.*; IX. 609 *et seq.* See Nets.

Fishing-rod, III. 150

Fistulabia, section of insects, IX. 103

Fissipedes, subdivision of crustacea, VII. 542

FISSIROSTRES, family of birds, IX. 650, XVI. 757.

Fistrella, genus of mollusks, XV. 380

Fissurellidae, family of mollusks, XV. 380—fossil, XVII. 111.

Fissures in rocks, XV. 171, 174

FISTULA, IX. 650; XX. 833—of the withers of animals, XXI. 558.

Fistularia, genus of fishes, XII. 305—fossil, 344.

—zoophytes, XXI. 985

Fistulida, echinoderms, XXI. 983, 984

FITCH, a kind of vetch, IX. 650. See Vetch.

—or polecat, X. 348

FITCHY, in heraldry, IX. 650; XI. 329

Fits in the domestic animals, XXI. 574

Fitton (Dr), his encomium on Dr Wollaston, XXI. 901

Fittiri, African lake, II. 215, 229.

FITZ, IX. 650

Fitzgerald (Lient Gov), his reports on Western Australia, IV. 300.

—(Prof), on Bishop Butler, VI. 29 *et seq.*

—(Lord Thomas), his attack on Dublin, VIII. 218.

—(Vesey), V. 652.

Fitzharris, Irish adventurer, V. 481.

FITZHERBERT (Sir Anthony), IX. 650.

—his works on agriculture, II. 254, 255.

—(Mrs), V. 522.

FITZJAMES (James), IX. 650. See Berwick, Duke of.

Fitznigel (Richard), on the Exchequer, II. 7.

Fitzroy (Sir C. Augustus), governor of New South Wales, IV. 274.

—(Captain), on the canal across the Isthmus of Panama, II. 711, 712—on Patagonia, XVII. 835

FITZSTEPHEN (William), IX. 650.

Fiumara, outlet of the Tiber, XVII. 240

Fiume, in Austria, IX. 650

Fiumicino, outlet of the Tiber, XVII. 240

FIXED AIR, IX. 650; VI. 471. See Carbonic acid gas.

—stars, IV. 379. See Stars.

FIXITY, in chemistry, IX. 650.

FIXICILLAR (Placidus), astronomer, IX. 650.

Fizeau (M.), on the velocity of light, XVI. 550, 552.

Flabellina, fossil shells, XVII. 94

Flabellum, fossil corals, XVII. 97.

FLA—FLE

FLACCUS (Caius Valerius), Roman poet, IX. 651—Barnum's edition, V. 786

—(Valerius), XIX. 321.

—(Verrus), XVII. 519

Flacourtiaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 183.

FLAG, IX. 651; II. 142—naval signals by means of flags, XVI. 108; XXI. 94, XX. 24, 25—to strike the, to heave out, to hang out the white, IX. 651.

—OFFICERS, IX. 651; II. 142, XVI. 102—full and half pay of, 109, 113—prize-money, 114.

FLAGELLANTS, fanatics, IX. 651

Flagellations at Sparta, VII. 800.

FLAGEOLET, IX. 652, XV. 710.

FLAIL, IX. 652

FLAMBEAU, IX. 652

FLAMBOROUGH-HEAD, IX. 652

FLAME, IX. 652. IV. 791—of a candle, VI. 171—lines in the spectra of different flames, XVI. 592—electricity of, VIII. 567—Sir H. Davy's researches on, I. 969. See Fire, &c.

FLAMEN, IX. 652

FLAMINGO, IX. 652; XVI. 808

FLAMINIA VIA, IX. 652; XIX. 228, 308

FLAMINIUS (C.), IX. 652—Circus of, VI. 734—defeat at Thasymenus, 294; XI. 209; XIX. 310

—(T. QUINTUS), IX. 652; XIX. 312

Flamma (M. Calpurnius), VI. 238

FLAMSTEED (John), IX. 652—his improvements in practical astronomy, III. 808—on the pole star, II. 36—his catalogue of stars, IV. 80, 95—on the longitude, XIII. 686—his projection, X. 493—Newton's opposition to, IX. 674—his attacks on Newton, XVI. 210—Sharp's assistance to, XX. 92, 93—on wheels, XVIII. 753—on iron beams, XX. 177, 178

FLANCH, or Flange, IX. 654.

Flanches, in heraldry, XI. 330

FLANDERS, IX. 654—commerce of, VII. 187—manufacture of sal-ammoniac in, II. 721. See Flemish, Holland, Belgium, France

—(Guy), earl of, X. 14.

—Moss, in Perthshire, XVII. 458

Flandrians, or Flemings, sect, XIV. 501

Flange. See Flanch.

Flanking, in fortification, IX. 801.

FLANNAN ISLANDS, IX. 654.

FLANNEL, IX. 654

FLAT, in music, IX. 654, XV. 706, 707

Flat-fish, XII. 225, IX. 648, 764—fossil, XVII. 128.

Flaugergues, on the oscillation of waves, XII. 72

FLAVEL (John), IX. 654.

Flavian dynasty in Rome, XIX. 330—341.

FLAX, IX. 655; V. 187—culture of, II. 332; in Antium, III. 285; France, X. 247, 253, Belgium, IV. 625, Prussia, XVIII. 686—trade in Yorkshire, XIV. 288—manufacture in Montrose, XV. 624—breadth cultivated in Ireland, XII. 518—flax-spinning in Fifehire, IX. 545—bleaching of, IV. 768—preparation of, for making thread, XIII. 494—dyes worse than wool and silk, VIII. 274—watering of, 278—structure of, 1b—dyeing of, 1b—in rope-making, XIX. 401—spinning of, XX. 611—quantity imported, VIII. 734. See Hemp, Linen.

—cotton, IX. 656.

—New Zealand, V. 212, XI. 313; XVI. 233.

—order of plants, V. 187.

—purging, V. 187

FLAXMAN (John), IX. 657—on painting among the Greeks, XVII. 51—his character as a painter, 80; as a sculptor, XIX. 864—on sculpture, 853 *et seq.*

Flea, IX. 260—its agility, XX. 770—modes of killing, XXI. 550—fleas on the domestic animals, 579

FLHAM, IX. 658.

FLHECHE (La), French town, IX. 658; XX. 647.

FLIECHER (Esprit), IX. 658.

FLICKNER (Richard), IX. 659.

FLE—FLO

FLEECE, IX. 659—varieties of wool in a single, XXI. 905—yolk of, 1b—colour, 1b—weight, 906—South Down, 1b. See Wool.

—ORDER OF THE GOLDEN, IX. 659, XIII. 116

FLEET, IX. 659—ordinary division of, XXI. 719—evolution of, 720 *et seq.* See Navy.

—(Loch), bar at, XVI. 80.

—PRISON, IX. 660; XIII. 678.

FLEETWOOD, in Lancashire, IX. 660.

—(CHARLES), IX. 660

—(WILLIAM), IX. 660.

Flegrean fields, XX. 236

Fleming (Dr), on the fall of the leaf, V. 110—his History of British Animals, XVI. 738—on the geology of Perthshire, XVII. 458

—(Mr), on pine-apple pits, XI. 730

FLEMISH LANGUAGE, IX. 660—bibles, IV. 702—agriculture, II. 252.

—school of painting, IX. 660, III. 710; XVII. 74

Flemming, poetry of, XVIII. 118

FLENSBURG, Danish seaport, IX. 660

Fleschner (J.), on the rainbow, XVI. 526

FLESH, IX. 660—its structure, II. 821—as manure, 407—its nourishing qualities in different classes of animals, III. 179. See Muscle

FLETA, a treatise on English law, IX. 661

FLETCHER (Andrew), of Saltoun, IX. 661; XI. 178—the Darien project encouraged by, VII. 657

—(Dr), on theology, XXI. 192 *et seq.*

—(GILES and PHINEAS), poets, IX. 662.

—(JOHN), IX. 662, IV. 533—dramatic works of, VIII. 189

FLETHWOOD (William), IX. 662

Fleurant (M.), aeronaut, II. 177

FLEUR-DE-LIS, in heraldry, IX. 662; XI. 326, 335

FLEURY (André Hercule de), cardinal, IX. 662, X. 35.

—(CLAUDE), IX. 662.

FLEURUS, town in Belgium, IX. 663.

FLEXOR MUSCLES, IX. 663, III. 38, 39

Flexure, propositions relating to, VI. 251; of beams, I. 875

Fleyder on the art of flying, II. 167

Fhustiers, X. 303.

Flight and Robson (Messrs), their Apollonicon, XVI. 713

FLENDERS (Mathew), IX. 663, X. 295—his discoveries in New Holland, IV. 253, 254—on the coral reefs of New Holland, 269.

FLINT, IX. 663, XV. 69, 147—marine, 144—specific gravity of, XII. 88—in chalk, XV. 211—preparation of, for pottery, XVIII. 410—employed in building, XX. 712

—glass, IX. 663—manufacture of, X. 672; for telescopes, XX. 121.

—Welsh town, IX. 663

FLINTSHIRE, IX. 663—lead mines of, XV. 246—population and value of property, VIII. 754

Flinty slate, XV. 69.

FLIP, a kind of drink, IX. 664

Float, XII. 142

Float-ore, XV. 222.

Floating, means of, XIII. 439, 440.

—anchor, III. 118

—bodies, stability of, XX. 152.

—iron batteries, XX. 138.

—lights, XIII. 471, 482

FLODDEN FIELD, IX. 664—battle of, VIII. 114, 693; XIX. 786—"The Flowers of the Forest," a song occasioned by, VIII. 119—Selkirk men present at, XX. 40.

Floe, XVII. 584

Flogging, punishment of, XIV. 445—in the navy, XVI. 104.

Flood, IX. 665. See Deluge.

—(Mr), XII. 496, XI. 2—his motion on parliamentary reform, in 1790, V. 536

Floodgates, XIX. 221.

FLOOR, IX. 665—construction of, V. 747, 748; XII. 812—measurement of floor-

FLO—FLU

ing, V. 749—in the houses of Pompeii and Herculaneum, III. 472—modes of rendering them fire-proof, XIII. 438, 439, VII. 331

Floors, in ship-building, XX. 186, 194.

FLORA, IX. 665—circus of, VI. 734.

—in botany, IX. 665—of the British Isles, 774—of Orkney, XVI. 719.

—planet, IV. 91.

FLORALES LUDI, IX. 665.

Floral games, academy of, II. 61.

FLORENCE, IX. 665, XII. 649, *et seq.*, XXI. 396—academies at, II. 70—Acad della Crusca, VII. 536 (see Crusca)—libraries, XIII. 414—cathedral, III. 450—Dolomieu on the figured stones of, VIII. 95—glass, IV. 456—power of the Medici at, XIV. 447—school of painting, XVII. 62 *et seq.*—early printing, XVIII. 533—railway from, to Leghorn, XXI. 395—university, 492—varnish, VIII. 812

—old English gold coin, IX. 666.

Florentine academicians, the first to use a dense fluid instead of air in thermometers, I. 756

—marble, VI. 735

FLORES, island, IX. 666

—one of the Azores, IV. 336.

FLORIAN (J. Pierre Claris de), IX. 668

FLORIDA, IX. 668; XXI. 419—Indians of, II. 680—Florida Indian divers, VIII. 57—newspapers of, XVI. 195—debt of, XXI. 428—early settlers in, 432—purchased from Spain, 440.

Florideae, seaweeds, reproductive organs of, V. 148.

Florida, Italian algebrast, II. 484

FLOREN, IX. 668; XV. 441, 442 *et seq.*—in Germany, XV. 436

FLORINTIAN, Gnostic sect, IX. 668

FLORIS (Franz), Flemish painter, IX. 668

Florists' flowers, XI. 750.

FLORUS (Lucius Annaeus), IX. 668.

—(Gessius), XII. 772.

Flos ferri, XV. 92

Floss silk, XX. 279, 290.

Flotation, XII. 83.

Flotsam, IX. 668

Flounder, family of fishes, XII. 271; IX. 764

Flour, IV. 379—constituent parts of wheat flour, 1b—adulteration of, XIV. 441.

—(St), French town, IX. 669

Flour encourt on mortality, XV. 634.

FLOWER, IX. 669; V. 117—symmetry and morphology of, 117—odours of, 152—colours of, 151—florists' flowers, XI. 750—preserving of, IX. 669

Flower-garden, IX. 745—calendar, 758.

Flower-stalk, V. 118—bud, 121.

Flowering, periods of, V. 149.

Flowering-rush order of plants, V. 214.

Floyd (Dr), on the river Euphrates, IX. 376.

FLUDD (Robert), IX. 669—on animal magnetism, XX. 415.

Fluellite, mineral, XV. 93

Flues of chimneys, V. 734—of steam furnaces, XX. 589 *et seq.*

Fluidity, XI. 269—of air, XVIII. 28

FLUIDS, IX. 669; XII. 77—compressibility of, II. 102—of animal bodies, VII. 778—clarification of, VI. 755—propagation of heat through, 777, XI. 261—cohesion of, VII. 56, 464, XII. 90—pressure and equilibrium of, 78—experiments with two, 102—motion of, 71, 72, 103—experiments on the motion of, 111—influence of heat on the motion of, 145—resistance of, 159; I. 886, XIX. 192 *et seq.*; XX. 158—friction of, I. 886—oscillation of, XII. 162—viscosity of, I. 887—weight of, XIV. 417—expansion of, by heat, XI. 268—their conversion into vapour, 270, 271—boiling point of, 271—refractive power of, XVI. 558—dispersive powers of, 582—circular polarisation of, 680—colours of dispersed light in, 698—motion of the surface of, XIV. 386—how obstructed in moving along canals, XVIII. 62. See Capillary Action, Hydrodynamics.

FLU—FOL

Fluke-worm, XXI 974, 976—in sheep, 570
 Fluoboric acid, VII 671
 Fluocerne, mineral, XV 93
 Fluocente, mineral, XV 93
 Fluorescence, I 924
 Fluoric acid, VI 470.
 Fluorine, VI 470; XV 64—in plants, V 97, 98—in sea-water, XIX 585
 Fluor-spar, XV 93—optical properties of, XVI 676, 690, 698—in Derbyshire, VII 755—fluorine from, VI 470—crystallisation of, VII 561—its phosphorescence, XIII 457; VIII 598—in Devonshire, VIII 768.
 FLUSHING, town in Holland, IX 669; XXI 602—taken by the British, V 607.
 FLUTE, IX 669, XV 709
 —in architecture, III 509
 Flute-mouths, family of fishes, XII 304
 Flute-player, Vaucanson's mechanical, III 137
 FLUX, IX 669; IV 791.
 FLUXIONS, IX 670—discovery of, I 635—controversy regarding the discovery, ib. 636, XVI 206. See Calculus, Geometry (New).
 FLY, IX 748, 221—turnip-fly, 150—wheat-fly, 226—flesh-fly, 247—gad-fly, 245—forest, 256—horse, 231—stung, 245—natural and artificial, used in angling, III 149, 151, 153—Tsetse fly, in Africa, II 218. See Diptera.
 —in mechanics, IX 748.
 —shuttle, VII 441; X 509
 FLY-CATCHER, bird, IX 748; XVI 749.
 Fly-fishing, III 133, 153—rules for, 149
 Fly-wheels, XIV 412—in steam-engines, XX 589
 FLYING, IX 748—artificial, ib., II 166
 —Lemur, XIV 150.
 FLYING-FISH, IX 748, XII 264, 290
 —steam-ship, trials of screw-propellers in, XX 680.
 Fo, or Fohi, XV 761. See Fe
 FOAL, IX 748—treatment of foals, II 339; XI 637
 FOCHABERS, in Morayshire, IX 748
 FOCUS, IX 748, XXI 117—extinction of volcanic foci, 606—of burning-glasses, VI 1.
 Fodéré (M.), on the plague, XVII 750.
 FODRUS, IX 748—development of nerves in, II 816—bones of, 828—teeth, 831—dimensions and weight, III 2—vertebra, 5—cranial bones, 28; viz frontal, 15, ethmoid, 16; sphenoid, 18; occipital, 19, temporal, 21—lower jaw, 24—membranes, 72—anatomical peculiarities of, 73—development of, in the dog, XVII 685
 Fo, or Mist, IX 748; VII 768, XIV 654—strongly electric, 661—in Newfoundland, XVI 171.
 Fog-sickness, in cattle, XXI 566.
 FOGGIA, city of Naples, IX 748.
 FOGGO (J.), on the electricity of clouds, VIII 581.
 FOGO, island, IX 748; XXI 545
 Fohi. See Fe.
 Fohmann on the lymphatics, II 804.
 FOHR, or FORA, island, IX 748.
 FOIL, in fencing, IX 748, 503.
 —in jewellery, IX 748.
 FOISSAC (M.), on animal magnetism, XX 427, 428.
 Foists, or Foysts, kind of ship, XX 123.
 FOIX, town of France, IX 748—province, X 277.
 —(Earl of), VI 613; X 315, 30
 FO-KIEN, or Fu-kuang, in China, IX 749
 FOKSCHAM, or Fokscham, in Turkey, IX 748.
 FOLARD (Jean Charles de), IX 749
 FOLCLANDS, or Folklands, IX 749.
 FOLKLOTE, or Folklothe, IX 749.
 Folds, for sheep, II 848
 FOLDVAB, town in Hungary, IX 749.
 FOLENGO (Theophilus), IX 749—his Marcanonics, VIII 249
 FOLIATING of looking-glasses, IX 750.
 Foliations, in architecture, III 509—foliation in rocks, XV 154, 180.
 FOLIGNO, Italian town, IX 750.

FOL—FOO

FOLIO, IX 750
 FOLK's saga of Scandinavia, XIX 691.
 FOLKES (Martin), IX 750
 FOLKESTONE, or Folkstone, in Kent, IX 750—harbour at, XIII 66—population, 67—south-eastern railway at, ib
 FOLLICLE, in botany, IX 750; V 138.
 —in anatomy, II 833, 834
 FOMALHAUT, a star, IX 750; IV 79
 Fomentation, in veterinary science, XXI 555 and n 2
 Fomorians, XII 463.
 FONDI, town of Naples, IX 751
 —lake, XX 239.
 Fonseca, bay of, XV 663.
 FONT, IX 751—or fount of types, ib, 845. See Fount.
 Fontane (Augustus la), character of his novels, XIX 290
 —(JEAN DE LA), IX 751—his fables, 463—his poetry, XVIII 116
 —(M.), his account of the plans of Roman Catholic missionaries with dying children, XV 277
 FONTAINEBLEAU, French town, IX 752—forest of, X 240—palace of, ornamented by Primaticcio, XVIII 515
 FONTANES (P. F. Guyot des), French critic, IX 752.
 —turbine wheel, XII 171
 FONTANA (Felice), IX 752—on the poison of serpents, XIX 45, 70
 —(GREGORIO), IX 753—on the microscope, XVI 529.
 Fontanelle, in anatomy, III 16, 29
 FONTARABIA, IX 754. See Fuentarabia.
 FONTENAY, in France, IX 754
 FONTENELLE (Bernard le Bovier de), IX 754, I 156—maxim of, 23—compared with La Motte, 23, n 2—works of, 157, 159, n 2—aspired to be the philosopher of Parisian circles, 159—his character, 160
 FONTENOY, IX 755—battle of, V 460.
 FONTFRAULT, order of, IX 755
 FONTINALIA, Roman festival, IX 755.
 FOOD, IX 755—chemical composition and physical action of, ib—animal and vegetable substances used as, 758—preparation of, 765—preservation, 766—of the American aborigines, II 693—its relation to the teeth of animals, 774—young of animals produced when most abundant, III 182—most needed by the young, 180—instances of abstinence from, II 61; III 180—its effects on health, XIV 440—adulteration of, ib—how to ascertain the best kinds of, XVII 657—mode in which it forms tissues and organs, ib—digestibility of different kinds of, 660—consumption of, in London, XIII 664—increased supply necessary in high latitudes, XVIII 167, n 3—increase of, 343—its influence on life and health, XIX 610—different classes of, ib, 611—food museum, XXI 324. See Aliment, Cookery, Dietetics, Digestion, Fast, &c.
 —of animals, II 418, VI 522—circumstances which lessen the waste of, II 420—nutritive value of different kinds of, 419—of the crustacea, VII 539—of horses, XI 670
 —of plants, changes which take place in, during their growth, II 882—composition of soils as supplying, V 97
 FOOLS, feast of, IX 770—"mother of fools," order of, XIII 122.
 Fools'-parsley, plant, V 115.
 FOOR, human, IX 770—bones of, III 86—arches of, 37—muscles, 39.
 —of mamma, bones of, III 81—foot-rot, XXI 563.
 —of the horse, XI 672—its diseases, XXI 560, 561—in molluscs, IX 826 *et seq.*
 —lineal measure, IX 770—its length in different countries, XXI 804 *et seq.*
 —in prosody, IX 770.
 Foot-guards, XI 74
 Foot-pound, in mechanics, XIV 404.
 Foot-prints, in geology, XVII 129 *et seq.*
 Foota-toro, XX 60, 61.

FOO—FOR

FOOTE (Samuel), IX 770—his comedies, VIII 166
 Footings, in laying foundations, XX 721
 Footman, XIII 525.
 FORAGE, IX 771—crops, II 322.
 Foramen ovale, III 46, 112.
 Foraminifera, polytes, XXI 1007—fossil, ib.; XV 93
 FORBES (Dr), on the mortality of Penwith, XV 617
 —(DUNCAN), of Culloden, IX 771.
 —(EDWARD), Prof., IX 772—on marine zones of vegetation, V 229, 232, XVII 630, 636—his theory of the origin of the British flora, V 231; and fauna, XV 216—on specific centres of vegetation, V 223—on the natural history of the Isle of Man, XIV 242—his opinion as to the age of the igneous rocks near Edinburgh, XV 190, n—on the Purbeck beds, 208—on the distribution of fossil fishes, XVII 640—on the echnoderma, XXI 993, n 4—on the ophiurids, 995.
 —(James David), Principal, his dissertation on mathematical and physical science, I 799—experiments on the conductivity of iron, 952, n 4—on the polarisation of heat, 956, 957, and n 1; XI 267, XIII 454—on the glaciers of Norway, X 634, XVI 320—on the ablation of the ice of glaciers, 636—on the veined structure of glacier ice, ib, 639—his viscous theory of glaciers, 638, 639—on dirt-bands in glaciers, 637—on the Quans, as distinguished from the Laplanders, XIII 237—his visit to an encampment of Laplanders, 243—on the absorption of the sun's heat in passing through the atmosphere, XIV 637—on the temperature of the soil, 644—on steam, as absorptive of certain rays of the spectrum, 683—on the mountains and table-lands of Norway, XVI 320—on the waterfalls of Norway, 621—on the colours of the atmosphere, 691—of steam, 692—his account of Trondhjem, XXI 355.
 —(JOHN), divine, IX 775
 —(Sir John), on the round towers of Ireland, VIII 216—on Dublin, 227—on the mineral waters of Leuk, XV 38—on mesmerism, XX 437—on the deception practised by clairvoyants, 438
 —(Mr), on the cobra di capello, XIX 64.
 —(Mr), his estimate of the value of the woollen manufactures of the United Kingdom, XXI 918, 919
 —(WILLIAM), bishop of Edinburgh, IX 776
 —(Sir William), his Life of Dr Beattie, IV 531.
 Forbin (Count), his description of the fire of St Elmo, VIII 588
 FORCE, IX 777; IV 219; VIII 321—application of forces to solids, I 874—forces which retain the planets in their orbits, IV 97—which disturb the elliptic motion of the planets, 102—composition and resolution of forces, VI 254; VIII 334—estimation or reduction of, 340—accelerating and retarding, 347; XIV 403; XIX 436—inherent, VIII 330—deflecting, 338, 356; XIV 408, 408—central, VIII 358—moving distinguished from accelerating, 356—law of magnetic, XIV 4, 42—deviating forces, 403—reciprocating forces, 408—couples of, 404—forces of disturbance in geology, XV 166—centrifugal, XIV 409—vital forces, XVII 656—moment of a force, XIX 430—forces acting on a ship in motion, XX 167, 180—electro-motive force, XXI 94. See Dynamics, Strength of Materials.
 Forceilum (Egduo), his Latin dictionary, XVII 526
 FORCES, in surgery, IX 777.
 FORCER, in mechanics, IX 777.
 FORCHHEIM, in Bavaria, IX 777.
 Forcing-garden, XI 719
 Forcing-pump, XII 68, 176.

FOR—FOR

FORD (John), dramatist, IX 777.
 —(Mr), on the libraries of Madrid, XIII 409
 FORDINGBRIDGE, in Hampshire, IX 777.
 Fords, how rendered impassable in war, IX 810.
 FORDUN (John), IX 777.
 FORDYCE (David and James) IX 778.
 —(GEORGE), IX 779.
 Fore-arm, muscles of the, III 38
 FORE-LOCK, IX 779.
 FORECASTLE of a ship, IX 779, XX 125
 Foreign policy of the United States, XXI 439
 FOREIGNER, IX 779—law regarding copyright in, VII 361—immigration of, XIV 275. See Denizen, Alien.
 Forejudge, in law, IX 778.
 FORELAND, North and South, IX 779.
 FOREMAST, IX 779.
 Forensic medicine, XIV 425.
 Foreskin, III 70
 FOREST, IX 779, XX 210, n 1—influence of climate on the distribution of forests, II 672—of Bavaria, IV 516, 517—Austria, 313—France, ib., X 240, 249—of Brazil, V 294—of Canada, VI 141—England, VIII 717—of Hampshire, XI 203—Lancashire, XIII 177—Russian, XIX 519—Sweden, XX 861—royal forests, in Northamptonshire, XVI 297—of Vermont, XXI 550—charter of, VI 427, X 210—submarine, XV 216, IX 794; XVII 641—laws, IX 780, XX 208—plants, V 221.
 Forest-fires, IX 258.
 FORESTALLING, in law, IX 780—laws against, II 254, 258; VII 375.
 Forester (Mr), on the Norwegian church, XVI 380
 FOREAR, or Angushshire, IX 780—agricultural statistics, XIX 796, 797, 798—population, 799
 —town, IX 783
 FORFEITURE, IX 784; IV 186; VIII 777
 FORICULA, genus of insects, IX 784, 155.
 See Earwig
 FORGE, IX 784; XII 563—anchor-smith's, III 119—anvil-smith's, 288
 FORGERY, IX 784; XIV 427—on the bank of England, XV 474.
 Forget-me-not, plant, V 116, 124
 FORGING, in smithery, IX 785; XII 558, 563—of anchors, III 119
 FORIS, seaport of Naples, IX 785.
 FORISFAMILIATION, IX 785
 FORE, IX 785—table-fork, ib—frenching, II 274
 FORKEL (J. Nicholas), musician, IX 785
 FORLI, city of Italy, IX 785—legation, XVII 243.
 FORLOREN HOPE, IX 785
 FORM, in physics, IX 785—Aristotle's doctrines respecting, III 542—faculty of, XVII 563.
 —primitive, in crystallisation, VII 560—secondary, 552
 —various meanings of the word, VIII 9.
 FORMALITIES, in law, IX 788.
 FORMALITY, IX 786
 FORMAN (Andrew), archbishop, IX 786.
 FORMARTIN, II 32
 Formations, in geology, XVII 587, XXI 834. See Epoch, Period.
 FORMEDON, in law, IX 786
 FORMENTERA, island, IX 786.
 FORMULA, city of Lathum, IX 787.
 Formic acid, III 265; VI 510.
 FORMICA, genus of insects, IX 787, 194.
 See Ant.
 FORMOSA, Chinese island, IX 787; XIII 218.
 —African river, IV 653.
 FORMULA, or Formulary, IX 787.
 FORMULARY, IX 787.
 FORNACALIA, Roman festival, IX 787.
 FORNAX, a constellation, IX 787.
 FORNIX, in anatomy, IX 787.
 FOROS, gulf of, IV 742.
 FORRES, town in Morayshire, IX 787—Sveno's stone near, XV 577.

FOR—FOT

- Forest, his visit to New Guinea, in 1775, IV 262, 263
 FORTSKAL (Peter), IX 788
 FORTSTER (John Reinhold), naturalist, IX 788—his works on insects, 6—on aurora australis, IV 245—on birds of paradise, XVI 765
 — (Arnold), his work on insects, IX 23
 — (B. M.), his electric pile, XXI 619
 — (JOHN GEORGE ADAM), IX 789
 — (Mr), his rebellion, V 454, 455
 Forsyth (Rev Mr), first to use detonating powder for discharging fire-arms, XI 98
 FORT, IX 790 See Fortification.
 — ST DAVID, town in Hindustan, IX 792
 — vitrified, IX 790—of Dunagou, VI 26—of Dun-a-deer, II 38—in Inverness-shire, XII 439—Ross-shire, XIX 427
 FORT-AUGUSTUS, Fort-George, and Fort-William, in Inverness-shire, IX 792, XII 439, 440
 Fort-William, at Calcutta, VI 69.
 FORTALICE, IX 792
 FORTAVENTURA, island, IX 792; VI 167.
 FORTESCUE (Sir John), IX 792
 — family of, XI 327, n 1
 FORTH, river and firth, IX 793; XVII 456, 646; XIX 791; XX 702—Links of the, VI 749, XX 702—phenomenon in the tides of the firth, VI 749—improvements in the navigation of, XVI 75—reasons for the absence of a bar in, 81
 — and Clyde canal, XIII 177; XIX 808; XVI 55, VIII 286
 — in Wexford, XXI 846, 847.
 Fortier, his entomological work, IX 20.
 FORTIFICATION, IX 797—value of, in war, XXI 707.
 FORTIFIED ISLAND, IX 837.
 Fortin's balance, IV 384.
 FORTITUDE, IX 837.
 Fortore, river, XX 238
 Fortresses, armament of, IX 822—mode of attacking them with artillery, ib; III 691—as a means of defending England, XXI 701—their use in war, 707.
 FORTROSE, IX 838, XIX 427.
 FORTUNA, goddess, IX 838.
 — planet, IV 91.
 FORTUNATE ISLAND, IX 838; VI 162.
 Fortunato Fidele, his system of legal medicine, XIV 422—Roman, III 471; XIX 369, 360.
 Fortune (Mr), on the tea-plant in India, XXI 81—on the soil of the tea-lands in China, 84—on the colouring of tea, 87.
 FORUM, IX 838—Bacon's "idols" of the, I 572
 FOSCARI (Francesco), doge of Venice, IX 838.
 FOSCOLO (Ugo), IX 839.
 Foscolombe (Boyer de), his works on insects, IX 22.
 Foss Dyke canal, XVI 54.
 Foss-war, Roman road, IX 839
 FOSSARO, city in Piedmont, IX 839.
 FOSSARI, IX 840.
 FOSSE, or Foss, IX 839, 818, VI 827.
 FOSSIL, IX 840; XV 128—organic remains, XVII 687—in the Jura Mountains, IX 887—plants, V 232, XVII 640—fishes, XII 332; XVII 115 *et seq*, 640—serpents, 640—in Banffshire, IV 413—shells, XV 403. See Palaeontology.
 FOSSOMBRONE, Italian town, IX 840—silk of, XX 278, 281; XVII 243.
 Fossore, family of insects, IX 194.
 Foster (Captain Henry), on the figure of the earth as determined by the pendulum, IX 552, 573, 575—on magnetism, XIV 18.
 — (JOHN), essayist, IX 840—on Robert Hall as a preacher, XI 194.
 — (Mr), on the people of Fermanagh, IX 516; of Tipperary, XXI 288.
 Foster-brother, V 679.
 Fothergill's dry collodion process, in photography, XVII 550.

FOT—FOW

- FOTHERGILL (Dr John), IX 841
 — (Mr), on the insensibility of insects to pain, III 177.
 — (Richard), his rope machinery, XIX 407.
 FOTHERINGAY CASTLE, IX 842.
 Foucault (M.), his pendulum experiment, I 854, XVII 388—Hansen's theory of, I 827, 855—on the velocity of light in different media, 910; XVI 550.
 FOUCHÉ (Joseph), Duke of Otranto, IX 842; X 173 *et seq*
 — Parisian police under, XVIII 191.
 FOUTASSE, IX 842.
 Fougère (M.), his edition of Pascal's Pensées, XVII 328, 329—on the charge of scepticism brought against Pascal, 330
 FOUCHÈRES, in France, IX 842
 FOULA, or Fowla, island, IX 843; XX 113.
 FOULAIRS, IX 843, II 222; IX 352; XX 50, 51
 FOULIS (Robert and Andrew), printers, IX 843; X 653, XV 526; XVIII 539
 — (Sir David), V 894.
 FOULQUES, French family, IX 843.
 FOUNTAIN, IX 843; XIV 187
 Foundations, in building, V 730—on land, XX 721—in water, 722, 723.
 Founder, V. 756 acute, in horses, XXI 561
 FOUNDRY, or Foundry, IX 843—of small works, ib—of statues, ib—of cannon, 844, VI 177—of bells, IX 844—at Cossport, VII 424—in Derbyshire, 754 See Cannon, Casting, Furnace, Gun-making, Type-founding, Iron Manufacture, &c.
 — Letter, IX 844 See Type-founding.
 FOUNDLING HOSPITALS, IX 844—in London, VII 863; XIII 673—Dublin, VIII 224—mortality in, XIV 444.
 Foundations in Paris, XV 618.
 FOUNT, or Font, of types, IX 845; XVIII 539, n; XXI 402.
 FOUNTAIN, IX 845—tree, or til-tree, ib—burning fountains, X 409—fountains in Rome, XIX 368; Pompeii, XVIII 286, 288.
 FOUR BOROUGH'S COURT, IX 845.
 FOURCHAMBAULT, in France, IX 846.
 FOURCHE (Bayon la) river, IX 846
 — Grande and Petite, rivers in Canada, IX 846.
 FOURCROY (Antony Francis de), IX 846—account of his works, 848—his work on insects, 8—on bathing, IV 501—on voltaic electricity, XXI 626.
 Fourdrinner's paper-making machine, XVII 258—his paper-cutting machine, 259
 FOURIER (Charles), sociologist, IX 849—his system of communism, VII 209—his cosmical views, 210
 — (Joseph), 946—his early history, ib 947—his analytic form of the problem of the conduction of heat, 947—injury done to him by the jealousy of the mathematicians of the Institute, ib—his physical precision, ib—his compound circuits, XXI 651—assumptions of his analytical theory, I 947—necessity of the law of emanation, ib—his definition of conducting power, 948, and of "interior conductivity," ib—his Thème Analytique, ib—instances of problems solved by him, ib—application of his principles to the thermal condition of the earth, 949—on the proper heat of the globe, ib—on the temperature of space, 950, 951—his writings on pure mathematics, 951—his experiments and style, ib—death, ib.
 FOURMONT (Etienne), IX 849.
 Fournet (M.), his work on magnetic somnambulism, XX 424
 FOURNESS, or Furness, in Lancashire, IX 849; XIII 177.
 Fourneyron's water-wheel, XII 75, 169, I 889
 FOUTHOW-FOU, IX 849.
 FOWER, in Cornwall, IX 849.
 — Consol's pumping engines, XX 612

FOW—FRA

- Fowl, domestic, as food, IX 762—Egyptian mode of hatching, XVIII 815
 Fowler's steam draining apparatus, VIII 131*
 — (Mr), on heating hot-houses, XI 723
 — (William), VIII 180, n 1.
 Fowlerte, mineral, XV 82
 Fowling-piece, XX 213—charging the, 214
 FOX, IX 849; XII 43; XIV 164; XXI 548—varieties of, and value of their skins, X 349—fox-hunting, XII 35 *et seq*
 — (CHARLES JAMES), IX 849—on the balance of power, IV 892, V 526—the coalition joined by, 506—on the establishment of the Prince of Wales, 507—his India bills, 508, 528, XI 496—parliamentary conduct, V 509 *et seq*—run of his political fortunes, 513—elected member for Westminster, 514—on the Germanic league, 517—on the sinking fund, 518—on the commercial treaty with France, 521, 527—his denial of the Prince of Wales' connection with Mrs Fitzherbert, 523—on the right of the Prince of Wales to assume the regency, 531—on the slave-trade, 533, 540—on increasing the army, 536—on the Corporation and Test Acts, 536, 534—his quarrel with Burke, 537—on the relief of the Catholics, 538—on parliamentary reform, 543, 549—on the king's speech, in 1792, 545—on treating with the French Republic, 546—on the French war, 548, 552, 556, 578—on the expediency of peace with France, in 1800, 570—on the conduct of the war, &c., 578—on the piece of Amiens, 587—part taken by, in the trial of Warren Hastings, 520, 523, 534—Canning's attack on, VI 173—on the conduct of Prussia in annexing Hanover to her territory, X 141—his speeches, XVII 736—George III.'s refusal to admit him into the ministry, 742. See Pitt.
 — (GEORGE), IX 858; XV 758, XVIII 714 *et seq*.
 — (JOHN), martyrologist, IX 859
 — (Were), on electrical currents, XV 193
 Fox's dipping-needle deflector, XIV 87
 FOX-GLOVE, plant, IX 859 V. 202. See Digitalis.
 FOX-MOUND, IX 859, XI 794
 Fox-islands, II 465
 Fox-tail grass, V 215.
 — wedging, VI 263
 Foxdale, mines of, XIV 244
 FOXE (Captain Luke), his voyages, XVIII 169.
 Foy (General), X 191, 192—on the military character of the French and British, III 642, 667—on the British mode of attacking fortresses in Spain, IX 825.
 FOYLES, fall of, IX 859; XII 438.
 FOYLE, in Ireland, IX 859; XII 505; VIII 104; XXI 407, 408—its salmon-fisheries, IX 623, 625.
 — loch, XIII 680, 681, VIII 104—a base in the trigonometrical survey, XXI 332, 334
 FRACASTORIO (Hieronymus), IX 859—his poem "De Morbo Gallico," XX 817, n 3.
 FRACTION, IX 860—algebraic, II 492—continued, 537—vulgar fractions, III 597—decimal, 599, 602; VII 691; I 551—vanishing, IX 696
 FRACTURE, IX 860—in minerals, XV 55—surgical treatment of fractures, XX 826—in veterinary science, XXI 557.
 FRAISE, in fortification, IX 860, 799.
 FRAISE, IX 860—roving-fly—tube-spinning, VII 444
 Frame-breaking, acts against, V 612.
 Framing, in joinery, V 751; XII 810.
 FRAMLINGHAM, town in Suffolk, IX 860; XX 791.
 FRANCO, French coin, IX 860; X 284, XV 441, 443.
 FRANCAVILLA, town of Naples, IX 860.

FRA—FRA

- FRANCE, X 1; IX 399; VI 651 *et seq*—statistics in 1835, X 240—its progress in philosophy during the seventeenth century, I 49—Addison's censure of the French writers of his day, 55—sterility of invention in French metaphysicians between Descartes and Condillac, 172, n 3—disposition of the philosophers of the eighteenth century to push their theories to extremes, 180—prevalence of Atheism in Paris, 181—literature of the eighteenth century divided into two epochs, 277—writers on mental philosophy, 184—French and German schools of philosophy contrasted, 186, 187—unrivalled skill of the French in experimental physics, 957—achromatic telescopes, II 94—law of bankruptcy, IV 413—academies, II 64, 67, 69, 71—agriculture, 253; IV 313, VII 432, 433—wars with the Algerines, II 509 *et seq*—Algers taken, 573—manufacture of alum in, 641—West Indian colonies, 708—manufacture of sal-ammoniac in, 721, 722—collections of bon-mots or ana, 738—cultivation of anatomy, 757, 763—aqueducts, III 336—pointed architecture, 448—influence of the Italian school upon architecture, 458—army, 638—artillery, 686, 687—painters, 712—voyages of discovery to Australasia, IV 253—war with Austria, 304—comparative culture of Britain, Austria, and, 313—policy of Austria towards, 320—baking of bread, 380—beards and whiskers, 523, 529—management of bees, 587—Belgium under the rule of, 598—bibles, 701—mode of teaching the blind, 776—bleaching, 759—was with Britain, V 445, 447, 451, 459, 462, 483—conquest of Minorca, 463; and of Hanover, 464—league with America against Britain in 1778, 483—commercial treaty with Britain in 1786, 521; VII 190, 195, 455—Revolution, V 635, 539, 463; VII 649—revolutionary war with Britain, V 546 *et seq*—peace of Amiens, 585—87—expedition to St Domingo in 1801, 591, XI 256—war with Britain renewed in 1802, V 594—Peninsular war, 603 *et seq*—peace of 1814, 614—Napoleon's return from Elba, 618—battle of Waterloo 619 (see Waterloo)—policy of British participation in the revolutionary war considered, 620—revolution of 1830, 658—trade with Chile, VI 551—influence of the French civil wars on chivalry, 624—morality of the court in the sixteenth century, 625—church of, 713—colonies, VII 149; II 708—coal in, VII 126—27, XXI 60—mercantile policy, VII 193, 195—iron manufactures, 195—short credits, 198, 199—influence of socialist opinions in, 214—construction of floors, 331—law of copyright in, 359—corn trade, 403—condition of the agriculturists, 432—effects of the minute division of land, ib—cotton-manufacture, 459—condition at the period of the Crusades, 523—persecution of the Protestants, VIII 125—the drama, 143, 144, 146, 149, 167—duelling, 230—title of Duke, 234—dyeing, 274—the Economists, 374—invasion of Egypt, 488; V 564, X 791—invasion by Edward III, VIII 638, and by Henry V. 688—trade with England, 733—restrictions on British trade with, IX 436—fairs in, 468—mountains, 383—fan-making, 481—feudal law, 624—siege of Antwerp in 1832, 826—glass-making, X 659—tables of ranges for cannon, XI 149—hats, 242—contests with the English in Hindustan, 432, 433—historical writers, 548—invasions of Holland, 577, 578, 580—Holland incorporated with, 579—interest of money, XII 429, 431—insurance offices in, 413—invasions of Ireland, 494, 496, 499—Jews in, 779, 782, 783—iron ores of, 541—iron bridges in, 681 *et seq*—Jesuitism, 755—joinery, 805—expedition to Italy in 1849, 659—Italy under,

FRA—FRA

653—orders of knighthood, XIII 120—
manufacture of lace, 149—language,
213—Code Napoleon, 272, XV. 793—
law of libel, XIII 356—libraries, 406—
lighthouses, 464, 476—medical juris-
prudence, XIV 423, 424—lead mines of,
XV 242—value of the produce of its
mines, 248—eocene rocks, 213—miocene,
214—monarchy, 413—seigniorage on
coined money, 425—money, 434, 436,
XVI 387—silver as a standard, XV.
429—Bank of, 489, 490—education in,
818—law regulating education, 819—
first use of gas-lights in, X. 410—crown
of, XI 235—newspapers of, XVI 105,
published during the revolution, 198—
press law of 1852, 200—expedition to
Rome in 1849, XII 659—leprosy in,
XIII 340, 341—lottenes, 697—propor-
tion of insane in, XIV 536—school of
painting, XVII 75—paper-making, 261
—progress of philology in, 523—heights
of the principal mountains in, 642, 643
—limited liability in, 318—poetry,
XVIII 115—police of, 184—political
economists, 220, 231—invasion of Por-
tugal, 887—post-office, 420, 424—ocean
mails, 427—pottery and porcelain fac-
tories, 422, 433, 437, 438—precious metals
employed in currency, 465—currency
chiefly in gold, 473—Presbyterianism
in, 487—registration in, 841—railway
statistics, 787—the Reformation, 827—
roads, XIX. 229—romance, 266, 266—
wars with Russia, 492 *et seq.*—school of
sculpture in, 865—attention to sanitary
measures in, 603—war with Austria in
1859, 643—savings-banks, 672—navy,
XIII 136, 138, 138—dominion in Naples,
261, 264—production and manufacture
of silk in, 278—memorandum and som-
nambulism in, 418, 422—war with Swe-
den, 859—invasion of Switzerland, 886
—surgery in, 816 *et seq.*—masonry, 711
—beet-root sugar, 798—suicides in, 800
—co-operation with Britain in abolish-
ing slavery, 323—war with Spain in
1823, 476—effects of the reduction of
the duties on fish, sugar, and salt, XXI
72—old system of taxation in, 41—con-
sumption of tea in, 91—wars with United
States, 434, 438—colonies in United
States, 437—universities, 444, 481—
weights and measures, 805, 810—wines
and wine-making, 882, 890, 891—woollen
and worsted manufactures of, 920—
textile industry in, 780, 798—factory
legislation of, 791—maps of, X. Plates.
See France.

FRANCE, Isle of, X 285; XIV. 362.

FRANCHE Comté, X 285, 277

FRANCHISE, X 285, 738—in England,
XVII 293—Scotland, 294—Ireland, ib
Roman, XIX. 307.

FRANCIA (Dr), dictator of Paraguay, XVII.
269

FRANCLION (John), his work on insects,
IX. 8.

FRANCIS I, king of France, VI 615—reign
of, X. 80—duelling encouraged by,
VIII 230—his wars in Italy, XII 659—
Paris improved by, XVII 278—police
measures of, XVIII 184
—II, king of France, X. 82.
—II, king of the Two Sicilies, XX.
263, 264.
—II, emperor of Austria, IV. 304
—Joseph, emperor of Austria, IV.
308; XIX. 644
—(PHILIP), poet, X. 286.
—(Sir PHILIP), X. 285; V. 513, 520.
—(St), XV 408; X. 286

Franciscan library at Rome, XIII. 412.

FRANCISCANS, X. 286, 299; XIV. 497—in
Jerusalem, XII. 747.

Francisco (San), VI. 96—county of, 100—
river, XVII 603, 646.

Franck, his work on insects, IX. 17.

Franco (Matteo), VIII. 250.

FRANCOIS, birds, XVI 791.

FRANCONIA, X. 286; IV. 516, 517—chief
towns in, 518—invasion by Gustavus
Adolphus, XX. 860.

FRA—FRA

FRANKER, town in Holland, X. 286

FRANK, X. 287—laws of the Franks, VI
220—wars of the Romans with, VII 206
—Dubos on their entry into Gaul, VIII
227—language X. 287—their con-
quest of Gaul, 2; of Helvetia, XX. 883
—(Dr James), on the plague, XVII
750.
—(Dr Lewis), on the plague, XVII
748 *et seq.*

FRANK-ALMOIGNE, X. 287—pledge, ib

FRANKENBERG, town in Saxony, X. 287

FRANKENHAUSEN, town in Germany, X.
287.

Frankenheim (Dr), on capillary attraction,
XII 102

Frankeniaceae, nat order of plants, V 183

FRANKENSTEIN, in Silesia, X. 287

FRANKENTHAL, in Bavaria, X. 287.

FRANKFORT-ON-THE-MAINE, X. 287, 694—
fairs, IX. 468—coins, XV 441—meet-
ing of the vor-parliament at, X. 581—
Jews in, XII 783—weights and mea-
sures, XXI 811.
—ON-THE-OBER, X. 288—fall of rain
at, XVIII 682
—in Kentucky, X. 289; XIII 70.

FRANKINGENSE, X. 289, XII 366

Franking of letters, act for regulating, V
468; XVIII 405—abolished, 411, XXI
69—in France, XVIII 423

Frankish dialects, X. 587

FRANKLAND'S ISLANDS, X. 289.

FRANKLIN (Benjamin), X. 289—his theory
of electrical phenomena, I. 734—his
talents and acquirements, ib—his float-
ing anchor, III 118—his controversy
with Nollet, V. 368—his friendship with
J. Canton, VI. 201—his British ances-
tors, XVI 298—his discoveries in elec-
tricity, I. 734; VIII. 527—proved the
electrical character of lightning, I. 735;
VIII 582—on the magnetic effects of
electricity, 600—his electrical kite, 608,
XIV 660—his theory of the Leyden
jar, VIII 612—on musical glasses, XI
230—his magic square and circle, XIII
811—on population, XV. 601—ambas-
sador to France, X. 38—his epigram on
himself, IX 283—appointed postmaster-
general, XVIII 408—on the art of
swimming, XX. 879—anecdote of White-
field and, XXI 855—English ancestors
of, 740.
—Fort, temperature at, VI. 770
—Institute, their experiments on the
elastic force of steam, XII. 558—formu-
la representing the relation of the
pressure and temperature of steam,
565.
—(James), newspaper published by,
XVI. 193; X. 289, and n. 3
—(Sir JOHN), X. 294—on aurora bore-
alis, IV. 247, 249—on the temperature
of the arctic regions, VI. 770—his arctic
expeditions, X. 473, 474; XVIII 171,
172—expeditions sent in search of, 172
et seq.—discovery of the fate of, X. 298;
XVIII 175—last despatch received from,
XIV. 490—governor of Tasmania, XXI
32.
—(Lady), searching expeditions pro-
moted by, XVIII 173, 175.
—(THOMAS), X. 299

Franklinite, mineral, X. 108.

FRANSONI (M.), on the statistics of Swit-
zerland, XX. 888.

Franzen (F. Michael), Swedish poet, XIX.
699.

FRASCATI, Italian town, X. 299.

FRASER, on Arabia, III. 842, n.—on Persia,
XVII. 419 *et seq.*—on the Himalayas,
XI. 447, 448, 452.

FRASERBURGH, X. 299; II. 34.

Fratercula, genus of birds, XVI. 810.

Fraternal duty, XV. 569

FRATRICELLI, X. 299.

FRAUENBURG, in Prussia, X. 300.

FRAUHOFER (Joseph von), X. 300; I.
915—his discovery of the lines of the
spectrum, 915, 751; XVI 558—achro-
matic glasses improved by, I. 751, 915—
superiority of the flint-glass produced

FRA—FRE

under his inspection, 752 and n.—on
electrical light, VIII. 546—Dorpat tele-
scope made by, IV 150—on the spec-
trum, XIII. 452—his micrometers, XIV
758, 789—his microscopes, 777—his op-
tical discoveries, I. 752; XVI. 544, 580,
608, 610 *et seq.*—on the illuminating
power of the spectrum, XVI 590

Frannhofer and Utzschneider (Messrs),
their manufacture of telescopes, XXI.
121.

FRAUTSTADT, town in Posen, X. 300

FREA, or Frigga, wife of Odin, X. 300, 312
—Friday named from, 309.

Fredegonde, X. 4.

Fredrica, elector-palatine, V. 386

FREDERICIA, town in Denmark, X. 300

FREDERICK, X. 300.
—Barbarossa, XVII 197—his opera-
tions in Italy, XII 646—engaged in the
Crusades, VII. 523
—I, king of Prussia, XVIII. 650.
—II, the Great, X. 300—reign of,
XVIII 651—his army, III. 637—his im-
provements in artillery, 684—his con-
tempt for the doctrines of the gospel,
XII. 762 and n. 3—his monument at
Berlin, IV. 679—his opposition to the
plan of Joseph II. for the acquisition of
Bavaria, V. 616—Rauch's monument to
XVIII. 811—Voltaire's intercourse with,
XXI 658, 659—his military tactics, XX.
705, 707, 711 *et seq.*
—II, emperor of Germany, XX. 257,
263—sciences encouraged by, III. 798—
his invasion of Palestine, XVII 197—
his patronage of the university of Bol-
ogna, XXI 449
—IV, of Denmark, VII. 741.
—V, of Denmark, VII. 742
—VII, of Denmark, VII. 743, 744.
—Prince of Wales, his death in the
year 1761, V. 462.
—Prince of Almatara, XX. 263.
—I, elector of Brandenburg, XVIII
647
—II, elector of Brandenburg, XVIII
647.

FREDERICK-William, the Great Elector,
XVIII. 649—army improved by, III
637.
—I, II, III, IV, kings of Prussia,
XVIII 650, 655, 658
—town in Maryland, X. 302.

FREDERICKSBURG, in Zealand, X. 302.

FREDERICKSBURG, X. 303

FREDERICKSHALL, or Frederickshall, X. 303
—siege of, X. 886—assistance given by
Swedenborg at, 887.

FREDERICKSVORN, in Norway, XIII. 250

FREDERICKTOWN, X. 303; XVI. 163, 164.

FREDRO (Maximilian), X. 303.

FREE BENCH, X. 303.
—CHURCH, X. 303; V. 669; XVIII
494—in Edinburgh, VIII 898—college,
400—schools, XV 825; XIX. 802—sum
expended on missions, XV 272—settle-
ment at Otago, XVI. 235—union of the
Associate Union of Original Seceders
with, XVIII 602—proportion of adhe-
rents to, XIX 801—in Sutherland, XX.
843. See Disruption of the Established
Church.
—IMPERIAL CITIES, X. 303.
—Town, Sierra-Leone, X. 271.
—trade, VIII. 374—advantages of, VII.
195, 455, XVIII 230—its effect on our
diplomacy, VIII 40—customs-duties not
inconsistent with, XXI. 62—duties on
tea under, 90.
—will, XVII. 369—Erasmus on, XIII
734. See Liberty, Necessity.

FREEBOOTERS, X. 303; V. 707.

FREEDMAN, X. 303.

FREEDHOLD, X. 303—effects of dividing land
into small freeholds, VII. 432.

FREEMASONRY, X. 303; XIV. 386—Diony-
siacs of Ionia, III. 401.

Freemen, mode of making, at Alnwick, II.
603.

FREESTONE, X. 303—strength of, XX. 758,
759. See Sandstone.

Free-thinkers, VII. 701.

FRE—FRE

FREEWILL ISLANDS, X. 303.

FREIZING, X. 301; VII. 101, 103, 106—
Leslie's experiments on, I. 945—effect
of, on building stone, XX. 712—freezing
point, XXI. 222

Frégier (M.), his work on the police of
Paris, XVIII 185, n. 9.

Fregilus, genus of birds, XVI. 754, 771.

FREIBERG, in Saxony, X. 303—silver mines
of, XV 235—Wernerian School at, XXI
884.

FREIBURG, in Baden, X. 304.
—or Freyburg, or Friburg, in Switzer-
land, X. 304; XX. 852—university of,
XXI. 492.

Freieslebenite, mineral, XV. 120.

FREIGHT, X. 305; VI. 428

FREIND (John), X. 305; XIV. 402

FREINSEHEM (Johann), X. 305.

Freire (General), VI. 553.

FREISING, in Bavaria, X. 305.

FREJUS, French town, X. 305

French, their skulls, III. 29—their military
character, 642—intellectual character,
IV. 211, 212—contrasted with the Ger-
mans, VIII 167—historical writers, XI.
548—fur settlements, X. 346—their
gallantry, XX. 79, n.—rise of their
naval power, 131—their ships, ib, 133
—cultivation of seamanship, 2—their
improvements in sugar-making, 798
—French Canadians, VI. 144. See
France
—Academies, provincial academies, II.
64—Academy of Painting and Sculpture,
67—Royal Academy of Music, 68—aca-
demies of architecture, medals and
inscriptions, 69—French Academy, 71
—Academy of Sciences, II. 63—ex-
pedition sent by, to determine the figure
of the earth, IX. 548, 549; I. 772, 773;
V. 243, VII. 229—experiments on the
force of steam, XX. 558—formulas re-
presenting the result of these experi-
ments, 565.
—beans, IV. 526, IX. 760; XI. 738.
—berries, dyestuff, VIII. 294.
—colonies of the United States, XXI.
432—wars in, 434.
—Institute, XII. 392. See Institute
of France.
—language, XIII. 213—used in diplo-
macy, VIII. 41—Norman, 793—Bibles,
IV. 701

Frenche on magic squares, XIII. 810

FREER (John Hookham), X. 306.

Frere's system for the blind, IV. 782,
XVIII 554.

FRESCOBALDI (Grolamo), X. 306.

FRESCO-PAINTING, X. 306; XVII. 52, 60.

FRESHES, X. 306—effects of, XIX. 203,
220.

Fresh-water serpents, XIX. 58.

Freshwater, Isle of Wight, XXI. 862.

FRESNEL (Augustin-Jean), X. 306, I. 903
—his explanation of the exterior fringes
of shadows, 899; VI. 651—on the dif-
fraction of light, I. 903; improves on
Young's theory, ib—on transverse vibra-
tions, 904; applied to the theory of
light, ib—on the laws of reflection and
refraction, ib—his Rhomb, 905—his ex-
planation of the theory of double refraction,
ib—on the theory of crystals with
two axes, ib—reception given to his
theory of double refraction, 906—on
chromatics, VI. 643 *et seq.*—his system
of lighthouse illumination, I. 906; XIII.
471—on lenses, 472—his mechanical
lamp, 473—on magnetism, XIV. 42—
his optical discoveries, XVI. 543, 544,
545, 598, 607, 681 *et seq.*; I. 908, 909—
death and character, 607.
—(Leonor), I. 907; XIII. 471, 479;
X. 308

FRESNOY (Charles Alphonse du), X. 308.

FRET, or Fretle, architectural ornament,
X. 308.

—and Fretty, in heraldry, XI. 330.

Fréteau (M.), X. 43.

FREUDENSTADT, X. 308.

FREUDENTAL, X. 308.

FREY (Joachim), X. 308; VIII. 807, 808

FRE—FRO

Freyberg See Freiberg
 Freycinet (M.), on the variation of the needle, XIV. 54—his pendulum observations, IX. 573, 574.
 Freyer (C. F.), his works on insects, IX. 21, 24.
 Freytag, his novels, XIX. 293
 Friar, X. 308—observant, ib.—preaching, VIII. 99.
 Fricento, town of Naples, X. 312
 Friction, X. 309, XIV. 405—Coulomb on, VII. 462, 464; I. 873—of fluids, 886—index of, 887—heat from, XI. 275; XIV. 408—combustion from, 427—effect of, in substances employed in architecture, V. 354—electricity produced by, VIII. 535—effects in diminishing the velocity of water, XII. 71—stability of friction, XIV. 381, 382—work of, 405—moment of, 406—of pivots and collars, ib.—of teeth, 407—of cords and belts, ib.—friction-couplings, 408—unguents to counteract, 405, 408—of railway trains, I. 884, 885—friction-brakes, XX. 601.
 Friction-match, XIV. 352
 Friday, X. 309—origin of the name, 300; I. 458, n.; VI. 75
 Friederica, town in Jutland, X. 300
 Friedland, X. 309—battle of, 146, XIX. 498.
 Fridstol, X. 309.
 Friendly Islands, X. 309; XVIII. 276—SOCIETIES, X. 309
 Friends, Society of, X. 311. See Quakers—of the People, societies of, in 1792, V. 542, 545, VIII. 393
 Friendship, Aristotle on, III. 563—among the Cretans, VII. 495
 Frienshemus's account of the serpent that attacked Rogulus, XIX. 63.
 Fries (B. F.), his work on insects, IX. 15.
 Friesland, X. 311—east, 312, IV. 242—language, XIII. 211.
 Frieze, in architecture, X. 312; III. 509—Doric, 464, 476—Ionic, 465, 475—Corinthian, 467, 474—enrichments of Roman, 477.
 —coarse woollen cloth, X. 312.
 Friga, wife of Odin, X. 312, 300
 Frigate, X. 312; XVI. 96; XX. 135—the first built, 128—steam-frigates, 138, 640
 Frigate-bird, XVI. 314.
 Frigatocoon, X. 312.
 Frigento, town of Naples, X. 312; II. 732.
 Frigid zones, X. 488
 Frigorific saline powders, VII. 102, 104. See Congelation.
 Frilazin, X. 312.
 Fringe-myrtle, order of plants, V. 192.
 Fringes, in optics, XVI. 605, 621; XIV. 679; I. 899.
 Fringilla, genus of birds, XVI. 760.
 Frisch (J. Leonard), his work on insects, IX. 4—on birds, XVI. 736.
 FRISCHKE-HAFEN, X. 312; XVIII. 662.
 Frisi (Paul), X. 312
 Frisian language, X. 588.
 Frisi, X. 314, 312, 572
 Frisius (Gemma), XVI. 8, XIII. 688.
 Fritz, or FRITZ, X. 314.
 Frith (John), VII. 482.
 Frutillary, V. 212.
 Fritzsche on the opening and closing of flowers, V. 150, 151.
 Frobenius (Joannes), X. 314.
 Frobisher (Sir Martin), navigator, X. 314—his north-west voyages of discovery, 478, 624; XVIII. 168
 —STRAIT, X. 315; XI. 39; XVIII. 168 and n. 2.
 Frodsham, town in Cheshire, X. 315.
 Frog-bit order of plants, V. 210.
 Frogs, XIX. 75—fossil, XVII. 153—capillaries in the foot of, II. 797; XVII. 692—bones of, III. 88 *et seq.*—proper electricity of, I. 960—effect of light on the spawn of, XIII. 480—maelmalto frog, XVII. 634—as food, XIX. 76.
 —in Farmery, X. 317.
 Frog-spittle, IX. 170. See Froth-spit.

FRO—FUE

Froissart (Jean), X. 315—his "Chronicles," VI. 615 *et seq.*—his account of Gaston, earl of Foix, 613—an enthusiastic describer of the combats of knights, 617—instances of chivalry quoted from, 618, 619, 621—on hate, XI. 240
 Frolich (F.), his work on insects, IX. 16
 Frome, river and town, X. 315; VIII. 111
 Froment (M.), his microscopic writing, XIV. 802.
 Froment's electro-sorting machine, XXI. 644
 FROMISTA, Spanish town, X. 315
 Fromt, V. 76—of ferns, 143.
 Frontal, X. 316.
 —bone, in man, III. 15—suture of the, 27—in the mammalia, 77—in buds, 85
 —sinus, III. 30—varying size of, XVII. 567 and n.
 Frontinus (Sextus Julius), X. 316—on the Roman aqueducts, III. 333—on hydraulics, XII. 69
 Frontispiece, in architecture, X. 316; III. 510.
 Fronto (Marcus Cornelius), X. 316—discovery of his works by Mai, XVII. 212
 Frosinone, Italian town, X. 316—delegation of, XVII. 243
 Frost, X. 316—depth to which it penetrates into the earth, VII. 768; in the polar regions, XVIII. 178—why a scarcity of water from springs is occasioned by, 72. See Congelation, Freezing
 —HOAR, X. 316; VII. 765, 769, XIV. 653
 —(John), V. 667, XVI. 178
 —(Mi), his endeavours to make artificial cement, XX. 714
 Froth-spit, or cuckoo spit, X. 316; IX. 167.
 Froude (Mi), on English history, XI. 539
 Frowde (Philip), poet, X. 316
 Frozen Ocean, X. 316. See Polar Sea.
 Fruchtfei, academy of, II. 70.
 Frugardite, mineral, XV. 85.
 Fruit, in botany, V. 134, 191—physiology of, 160—transformations in, 139—fruits as articles of food, IX. 759—preservation of, 787—culture of hardy fruits, XI. 707; of small fruits, 717. See the different countries, under vegetable productions
 —garden, XI. 702—calendar, 758 *et seq.*
 Fruit-trees, X. 316—their propagation by seeds, XI. 702; by cuttings, 703; layers, ib.; grafting, ib. 704; budding, ib.—planting of, ib.—training of, 705, 706—protection of the blossom, 707.
 Fruiting-house, for pine-apples, XI. 733.
 FRUITACEOUS, X. 316.
 FRUMENTARI, Roman soldiers, X. 316.
 FRUMENTATIO, X. 317
 Frumentinus, Christianity introduced into Abyssinia by, II. 57.
 FRUSE, or Frog, in farriery, X. 317.
 FRUSTUM, in geometry, X. 317.
 FRUTEX, a shrub, X. 317.
 Fry (Dr), his alphabet for the blind, XVIII. 554
 —(Mrs). See Gurney, Elizabeth.
 Frying, IX. 766.
 Fryxell (Anders), XIX. 700.
 Fuga (Juan de), strait, X. 317.
 Fucacea, sub-order of algae, V. 217, 148.
 Fuchsia, flowering shrub, X. 317; V. 192; XI. 748—in Terra del Fuego, XVII. 629.
 Fuci, sea-weeds or algae, X. 317; V. 217, 229; XVII. 629.
 FUCUS LACUS, X. 317; XII. 638; XX. 238.
 Fucula, genus of mollusks, XV. 369.
 Fucus, ancient dye, X. 317.
 Fuegians, II. 677.
 FUEL, X. 317; XIV. 444—for furnaces, X. 380—composition of, XX. 352—dung of cattle used for, in Egypt, II. 721—for fusing iron-ores, XII. 542—of light-houses, XIII. 480—economy of, in

FUE—FUN

steam-vessels, XX. 647, 648—patent for steam-boilers, 653. See Coal, Coke, &c.
 FUENCALIENTE, Spanish town, X. 322
 FUENCARRAL, Spanish town, X. 322
 FUENLABRADA, in Spain, X. 322
 FUENMAYOR, Spanish city, X. 322
 FUENSALIDA, Spanish town, X. 322
 FUENSANTA, Spanish town, X. 322
 FUENTE-ALAMO, Spanish town, X. 322
 FUENTE-CANTOS, Spanish city, X. 322.
 FUENTE-DE-LEON, Spanish town, X. 322
 FUENTE-DEL-MAESTRE, Spanish town, X. 322
 FUENTE-DEL-SAUCCO, Spanish town, X. 322
 FUENTE-EL-FRESNO, Spanish town, X. 322
 FUENTE-LA-HIGUERA, Spanish city, X. 322
 FUENTE-OBREJUNA, Spanish town, X. 323.
 FUENTEPELAYO, Spanish town, X. 323.
 FUENTERABIA, Spanish city, X. 323
 FUENTES-DE-DON-BERMUDO, Spanish town, X. 323
 FUENTES-DE-ERRO, Spanish town, X. 323
 FUENTES-DE-LA-CAMPANA, Spanish town, X. 323
 FUENTES-DE-LEON, Spanish town, X. 323
 FUENTES-DE-ONORA, Spanish town, X. 323—battles of, V. 608; XXI. 824.
 FUEROS, X. 323.
 Fuerteventura, island, VI. 167.
 Fuessli (J. C.), his works on insects, IX. 10
 FUGALIA, X. 324; XVIII. 831.
 FUGLEMAN, X. 324.
 FUGUE, in music, X. 324; XV. 735.
 Fuhchan, Chinese town, opened to British commerce in 1842, VI. 597—exports and imports, 591
 Fulahs, IX. 352. See Foulahs.
 FULCRUM, in mechanics, X. 324, XX. 541
 FULDA, X. 324, XI. 362
 Fulgora, genus of insects, IX. 168; XIII. 458.
 FULHAM, in Middlesex, X. 324—Fulham ware, XVIII. 433—the Refuge, female prison at, 555.
 Fulham (Mrs), her method of ornamenting stuffs with gold figures, XIII. 459.
 Fulica, genus of birds, XVI. 807.
 Fuligula, genus of birds, XVI. 812.
 Fulke of Anjou, XIII. 113.
 FULLER (Rev. Andrew), X. 324—on the Antinomian doctrine regarding moral distinctions, XV. 543, n. 4
 —(Thomas), English divine, X. 325—on the Church of England and Puritanism, XVIII. 488—his notice of the ship Sovereign, XX. 128—on the qualities of the ships of different nations, 129—of his description of Surrey, 836
 FULLER'S EARTH, X. 327; XV. 83.
 —teasel, V. 196; XXI. 922.
 FULLING, X. 327—of wool, VIII. 275—of cloth, XXI. 921.
 Fulmar, bird, XVI. 812.
 Fulmonary tubes, or Fulgurites, VIII. 585; XIV. 662.
 FULMINATING compounds, or fulminates, X. 327; VI. 474—chloruret of azote, I. 952.
 FULMINATION, X. 327.
 Fulminic acid, VI. 474.
 FULMINE, X. 328.
 FULTA, in Hindustan, X. 327.
 FULTON (Robert), X. 327—his steamboats, I. 869, XX. 638
 Fulvius, siege of Ambracia by, II. 661.
 Fumaric officinals, plant, V. 114
 Fumarices, nat. order of plants, V. 182
 FUMIGATION, X. 328
 Fumitory order of plants, V. 182.
 FUMMULUS, X. 328.
 FUNCHAL, X. 328; XIII. 796, 798—dew point at, IV. 184
 FUNCTION, X. 328—animal functions, II. 774—discontinuous functions, in analysis, I. 807—Fourier on, 951—in fluxions, IX. 679; values of, 697.
 FUND, X. 328—sinking-fund, VIII. 752. See that article.
 FUNDAMENTAL BASS, X. 328. See Music
 FUNDY, town in Latium, X. 328; IX. 761.
 FUNDINO SYSTEM, X. 328—difficulties in 1799, V. 559, 562—national debt of the

FUN—FUS

United Kingdom, VIII. 752—article on, in this work, by Ricardo, XIX. 155
 See Debt, National
 Fundulus, genus of fishes, XII. 252
 FUNDY, Bay of, X. 343; XVI. 343—tide in, XVII. 581.
 FUNEN, island, X. 343; VII. 746
 FUNERAL RITES, X. 343—of the North American Indians, II. 681—of the ancients, V. 774, 795—coronach, VII. 412—funeral games, X. 344—oration, 345—in Egypt, VIII. 443, 449—escutcheons, XI. 340. See Burial, Tomb
 —ritual, or Egyptian book of the dead, VIII. 441, XVII. 263
 FUNFKIRCHEN, Hungarian city, X. 345
 FUNGI, nat. order of plants, X. 345, V. 217—reproductive organs of, 146—spawn of, 85—a frequent cause of disease in plants, 171, 172—poisonous species, XIV. 439, XVIII. 131—their connection with dry rot, VIII. 208
 FUNGIBLES, in Scots Law, X. 345.
 Fungicolas, family of insects, IX. 151
 Fungidae, polypes, XXI. 1005
 Fungus. See Fungi
 FUNICULAR, or rope machine, X. 315.
 Funiculi, in botany, V. 130, 137.
 Funnels, fileting, IX. 582
 Funza, river, IV. 808.
 FUR-TRADE, X. 345—Russian, II. 466; XIX. 551—Canadian, VI. 142—Hudson's Bay Company, XI. 791—imports of fur into the United Kingdom, VIII. 736; X. 347.
 FURCA, in antiquity, X. 352.
 FURCULA, in heraldry, X. 352.
 Furcocerca, genus of animalcules, III. 204.
 Furcula, a bone in birds, III. 86.
 FURNEPORT, town of Hindustan, X. 352.
 FURTIENSIS (Anlofno) X. 352—his table-talk, II. 738
 Furia infernalis, XVI. 324.
 FURIES, X. 352; IX. 374.
 FURLONG, X. 353
 FURLOUGH, X. 353.
 FURNACE, X. 353—for assaying, III. 763, 769—for brass-making, V. 277—air-furnace for casting cannon, VI. 182—revelatory furnace, 178—number of, in Great Britain, VIII. 726—for smelting lead, XIII. 298, 299—blast furnace, XII. 545, 546—cupola furnace, 545; hot-blast furnace, 547, 548, 549, 550—coining, VII. 87—glass-making, X. 661, 672, 674—plans for the prevention of smoke in, XX. 364—hot-house, XI. 720—smoke-consuming, 720—current of air in, XVIII. 80.
 FURNEAUX ISLANDS, X. 360.
 —(Tobias), his voyage of discovery, IV. 263.
 FURNES, town of Belgium, X. 360.
 Furniture, works on, XII. 806.
 —of guns, XI. 100.
 Furnival (Lord), in Ireland, XII. 472.
 Furnival's Inn, XII. 385.
 FURNUCKABAD, town in Hindustan, X. 361.
 Furs, animals producing, X. 347—preservation of, 349—manufacturing of, 350—carroted fur, 351—used in hat-making, XI. 240, 241—of the Aleutian Islands, II. 466—destruction of moths in, XXI. 549.
 —in heraldry, XI. 325.
 First (Julius), on the monosyllabism of the Semitic languages, XVII. 533.
 FURSTENWALDE, in Brandenburg, X. 361.
 FURTH, in Bavaria, X. 361
 FURTHCOMING, in Scots law, X. 361.
 Fuze. See Gorse.
 Fusaro, lake, XX. 239.
 FUSE, or Fuze, in artillery, X. 361; XI. 141, 142—Buxor's improvements on, III. 702.
 FUSER, in clock-work, X. 361—in watches, VII. 28
 FUSILI (Henry) X. 361—his definition of genius, 450—merits of his works, XVII. 78, 80—on Rembrandt, XIX. 6—on Sir T. Lawrence, XIII. 297—of minerals, XV. 63.
 Fusli, mountain XII. 688.

FUS—GAD

- Fusibility of metals, V. 482.
 FUSIBLE METAL, X. 362.
 FUSIL, X. 362.
 —in heraldry, X. 362; XI. 330.
 FUSILIERS, or Fusileers, X. 362.
 FUSIERS (Di), on electrical light, VIII. 548—on the transport of ponderable substances by lightning, 584.
 Fuslee era, VI. 676.
 Fuss (Mr), on the strength of materials, XX. 760.
 FUST, in architecture, X. 362.
 —(JOHN), X. 362, XVIII. 527, 528, 529—his types, XXI. 401.
 FUSTIAN, X. 363.
 —in criticism, X. 363.
 FUSTIC, dye-stuff, X. 363, VIII. 295, 318.
 FUSTIARUM, X. 363.
 Fusulina, fossil shells, XVII. 94, 93.
 Futteh Mohammed, VII. 599.
 FUTTEHGUR, town in Hindustan, X. 363.
 FUTTEHPUR, town in Hindustan, X. 363.
 FUTTERPORE, town in Hindustan, X. 363.
 FUTTOCKS, in a ship, X. 363.
 Future state, belief of North American Indians in, II. 681—not believed in by ancient nations, I. 462—never generally admitted among the ancient philosophers, ib.—Aristotle's disbelief of, ib.; Cicero's, 462, 463—conduct of the Athenians during a severe pestilence, a proof of their disbelief in, 460, 461—notions of the ancient pagans respecting, 459—formed no part of the Mosiac revelation, 473, 479—when the belief became prevalent among the Jews, 475, 476—faint indications of the doctrine in the books of the prophets, 474—passages in the books of Moses which have been supposed to relate to, 477—belief in, very general among the Greeks, IV. 216—how regarded in ancient Egypt, VIII. 439—the doctrine of, as a cause of the progress of Christianity, VI. 635, 636.
 —tense, X. 766.
 FUTWA, town in Hindustan, X. 363.
 FYNE, (Loch) in Ayrshire, X. 363; XIX. 795—its fisheries, III. 526—herring-fishing in, IX. 636, XII. 325.
 FYZABAD, town in Hindustan, X. 363.

G

- G, letter of the alphabet, X. 364—in abbreviations, II. 18.
 GABARA, in antiquity, X. 364.
 GABARDINE, a dress, X. 364.
 Gabbio Rosso, in Tuscany, XXI. 393.
 GABRY, French tax, X. 364, 251; XXI. 72.
 Gabia, mountains in Brazil, X. 440.
 —GRANDE, Spanish town, X. 364.
 GABII, city of Latium, X. 364.
 GABINTA LEX, X. 364.
 Gabrius (Aulus), VIII. 471.
 GABION, in fortification, X. 364.
 Gable of a house, X. 364, III. 510.
 GABLER (Jean Philippe), X. 364.
 GABRIEL SONITA, X. 365.
 —angel, X. 365.
 —de Zerbia, II. 756.
 GAD, X. 365.
 GADAMES, oasis in Sahara, X. 365, XXI. 353.
 GADARA, city of Palestine, X. 365.
 Gadd's patent ropes, XIX. 410.
 Gaddeden (John of), X. 816.
 Gaddi (T. and A.), painters, XVII. 62.
 Gadeti, Caledonian tribe, VI. 73; XIX. 742; XX. 41.
 GADES, X. 365. See Cadix.
 GADFLY, X. 205; IX. 245, 246—of the rein-deer, XIII. 236, 240.
 Gadulcus, genus of fishes, XII. 270.
 Gadidae, or Gadoids, family of fishes, XII. 268, 269.
 Gadolin of Abo, consequences of his introducing the term *specific heat* into science, I. 761.
 Gadolinite, mineral, XV. 90.
 Gadopsis, genus of fishes, XII. 273.

GAD—GAL

- GADOR, Spanish town, X. 365.
 Gadus, genus of fishes, XII. 270.
 Gaede (H. M.), his work on insects, IX. 12.
 GAELIC LANGUAGE, X. 365; XIII. 212; V. 374—bibles, IV. 704.
 GAERTNER (Joseph), X. 365—on the pollen of flowers, V. 154.
 GAETA, town of Naples, X. 366, XX. 240.
 —bay of, XV. 779, XX. 240.
 GAETOLIA, district of Africa, X. 366.
 GAFF, X. 366.
 Gaffoni (Franchino), on counterpoint in music, XV. 719.
 GAGE, X. 366.
 Gahnite, mineral, XV. 85, 87.
 Gaika, Kafir chief, XIII. 33.
 Gaikas, Kafir tribe, XIII. 33, 35.
 GAILLAC, in France, X. 366.
 Gaimard, on the mollusca, XV. 327—on birds of paradise, XVI. 766.
 GAIN, in architecture, X. 366.
 GAINAGE, X. 366.
 GAINSBOROUGH, in Lincoln, X. 366.
 —(THOMAS), English painter, X. 367; III. 713, XVII. 79.
 Gardner (D. Wm.), his microscope, XIV. 775.
 Gasford's edition of Suidas, XX. 801.
 Gatt, muscles employed in, III. 42.
 GAUROS, or CAUS, Roman jurist, X. 367—his Institutes, VI. 741, 744, 745, XVI. 258; XVII. 214.
 Gajrat, XI. 91.
 Gala-water, VIII. 408; X. 368.
 Galactite, mineral, XV. 75.
 GALACTODENDRON, milk-tree, X. 367; V. 206. See Cow Tree.
 GALACZ, or Galatz, in Moldavia, X. 367; XV. 312.
 GALEZUS, river, X. 367.
 Galago, genus of mammalia, XIV. 145.
 GALAPAGOS, islands, X. 367.
 GALABOZA, Spanish town, X. 368.
 GALASHIELS, Scotch town, X. 368; XX. 41.
 GALATA, suburb of Constantinople, X. 368; VII. 501.
 GALATIA, X. 368—coins of, XVI. 378.
 GALATIANS, Epistle to the, X. 368.
 Galaxias, genus of fishes, XII. 248.
 Galaxidae, family of fishes, XII. 248.
 GALAXY, or Milky Way, X. 369; IV. 86; I. 843. See Milky Way.
 GALBA, Roman family, X. 369.
 —(Sergius Sulpicius), Roman Emperor, X. 369—reign of, XIX. 338.
 —genus of insects, IX. 106.
 GALBANUM, X. 369.
 Galbant, governor of Hayti, XI. 256.
 Galbula, genus of birds, XVI. 774.
 GALDAR, Spanish town, X. 369.
 GALDO (Santa Maria de), in Spain, X. 369.
 Gale, order of plants, V. 207.
 Galeazzo of Mantua, VI. 618.
 Galecynus, fossil carnivorous animal, XVII. 171.
 Galeichthys, genus of fishes, XII. 261.
 Galeidae, family of fishes, XII. 322, 323.
 GALENUS (Claudius), or Galen, X. 370; XIV. 454; XX. 813—his anatomical knowledge, II. 752—character of his works, 754—on the nerves, 814—on the Egyptian method of cooling water, VII. 100—on insanity, XIV. 827—on bathing, IV. 501, 502, 504—on vision, XVI. 523; XX. 684.
 GALENA, city of Illinois, X. 369; XII. 362.
 —sulphuret of lead, X. 369; XIII. 298, 299; XV. 117, 248—silver in, VI. 498.
 GALENISTS, followers of Galen, X. 369; XIV. 454.
 —religious sect, X. 369.
 Galeocerdo, genus of fishes, XII. 324—fossil, 341; XVII. 118.
 Galeodes, genus of arachnides, III. 386.
 Galeopithecidae, family of mammalia, XIV. 150.
 Galeopithecus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 150—teeth of, XVI. 414, 452, 453.
 Galerites, fossil echinoides, XVII. 99, 100.
 Galeritidae, echinoderms, XXI. 991.

GAL—GAL

- Galerius, Roman emperor, XIX. 350.
 Galeruca, genus of insects, IX. 150.
 Galerucitae, tribe of insects, IX. 150.
 GALERUS, X. 370, II. 449.
 Galeus, genus of fishes, XII. 324—teeth of, XVI. 422.
 Galgacus, II. 247; V. 379; XIX. 340.
 Galgulus, genus of insects, IX. 164.
 Galiceae, nat. ord. of plants, V. 196.
 GALLANI (Ferdinando), political economist, X. 370—on free agency, I. 197, n. 2—on wealth, XVIII. 226, n.
 GALICIA, Spanish province, X. 373; XX. 493.
 —or Galizia, in Austria, X. 373, IV. 309, 312; XVIII. 153.
 Gallen (Joseph), on aeronautics, II. 169.
 Galileans, X. 374.
 CALILEE, X. 373, XVII. 182—sea of, 185.
 —the chief scene of our Saviour's ministry, XII. 758, 759.
 GALILEO GALILEI, X. 374; XII. 660; I. 799—first to maintain the law of continuity in reasoning on motion, 258, 592—Hume's comparison between him and Lord Bacon, 585—on the acceleration of falling bodies, 592, II. 72—estimate of his genius, I. 593—his discoveries confirmatory of the Copernican system, 607—brought before the Inquisition, his sentence, 608—his telescope, 606; II. 87; XVI. 528; XXI. 117, 118—his astronomical discoveries, I. 607, III. 800—on the lever, I. 651—on gravitation, 674—on musical strings, II. 110—on the sun's spots, IV. 25, 26, 29—his discoveries in pneumatics, 449, I. 592; XVIII. 24—Descartes failed to appreciate the merits of, VI. 278—on the pendulum, I. 693, VII. 3—on projectiles, XI. 103, 107; I. 592—on hydrodynamics, XII. 70—probable inventor of the microscope, XVI. 529—on mechanics, I. 591—invention of the sector claimed by, XX. 30—on the law of transverse strain, 761.
 Galinier (M.), on the geology of Abyssinia, II. 55.
 Galitzin, XII. 476.
 GALL, or bile, X. 382. See Bile.
 —or gall-nut, X. 382, V. 174—its use in dyeing, VIII. 281, 277, 293—oak-bark a substitute for, in dyeing, 304, n. 3—other substitutes for, 305, 306—in making ink, XII. 382—insects producing galls, IX. 172.
 —(FRANCIS JOSEPH), founder of phrenology, X. 382—on phrenology, XVII. 556, 557 et seq., 678—objections to his system, 674—his connection with Spurzheim, XX. 619.
 —(James), his alphabet and printing for the blind, IV. 776; XVIII. 584.
 —OF GLASS, X. 382.
 —(St.) in Switzerland, X. 384; XX. 882.
 Gall-bladder, III. 62.
 GALLAND (Antoine), X. 385.
 GALLAS, Abyssinian tribe, X. 385; II. 56, 222.
 Gallo (Dr), his discovery of the planet Neptune, IV. 93, I. 850—on the inner ring of Saturn, IV. 92.
 Galles, XX. 123.
 Gallego, Spanish river, X. 385.
 GALLEGOS (San Felices de los), Spanish town, X. 385.
 —(Galgians), X. 372.
 —painter, XVII. 75.
 GALLERON, large ship, X. 385; XX. 123.
 GALLIBOT, small galley, X. 385.
 Galleria, genus of insects, IX. 218.
 GALLERY, in fortification, X. 385.
 —in the Fine Arts, X. 385—National Gallery, London, XIII. 674; in Edinburgh, VIII. 397.
 GALLEY, X. 385; XX. 117, 119, 123.
 Gallies, as a punishment, XVIII. 575.
 GALLI, priests of Cybele, X. 385; VII. 422.
 GALLIA, or Gaul, X. 385, I. See Gaul.
 GALICIC ACID, X. 386; VIII. 281; VI. 515; XIII. 306—in oak, XX. 166, 169.

GAL—GAM

- Gallic alphabet, II. Plate.
 Gallichthys, genus of fishes, XII. 297.
 GALLICISM, X. 386—in Gibbon's style, 615.
 Gallicolae, tribe of insects, IX. 192.
 GALLIENUS (P. Licinius), emperor of Rome, X. 386—his massacre of the Byzantines, VI. 48—reign of, XIX. 348.
 Gallini on the love of dancing, VII. 644.
 Gallinaceous birds, XVI. 784, XVII. 633.
 —their habits as to pairing, III. 181.
 Gallinsecta, family of insects, IX. 171.
 Gallimula, genus of birds, X. 804.
 Gallimules, birds, XVI. 807.
 Gallico, last Roman commander in Britain, V. 380.
 GALLIPOLI, town in Naples, X. 386, XX. 242.
 —in European Turkey, X. 386.
 Gallo-Græcia, X. 386.
 Gallocanta, Spanish lake, III. 393.
 GALLOIS (Jean), French author, X. 386—his opposition to the new geometrical analysis, I. 650.
 —(M. de), his non works, XII. 541.
 GALLON, measure, X. 386, XXI. 808, 799 et seq.—standard gallon, 802, 804.
 GALLOON, a kind of lace, X. 386.
 GALLOWAY, X. 386; XIII. 98—hoise, XI. 656, XIII. 100—cattle, II. 841, XIII. 100.
 —(Elijah), his feathering paddle-wheel, XX. 656—his steam-boiler, 616.
 —(THOMAS), X. 387—his article in this work on the figure of the earth, IX. 547, n.—on the solar motion, IV. 87, I. 846.
 —Mull of, X. 386.
 —New, X. 386; XIII. 100.
 Gallows. See Gibbet.
 GALLS, X. 387—of Aleppo, II. 463. See Gall.
 Galluppi on syllogisms, XIII. 624, n.
 GALLUS (C. Cornelius), Roman poet, X. 387.
 —(Caesar), VII. 304.
 —(Cestias), prefect of Syria, XII. 773.
 —Roman emperor, XIX. 348.
 —genus of birds, XVI. 788.
 Galmei, mineral, XV. 100.
 GALSTON, in Ayrshire, X. 387.
 GALT (John), Scottish novelist, X. 387—character of his novels, XIX. 282—his Life of West, XXI. 836.
 Galtee mountains, XXI. 285.
 Galton iron bridge, XII. 584, 586.
 —(Mr), African traveller, II. 211.
 GALVANI (Alcino, or Lompi), X. 387; I. 959—contrasted with Volta, 958—his first experiments on the nervous system and electricity, 959—progress of his views on animal electricity, 960—his great merit, ib.
 Galvanic battery, XXI. 90, 610 et seq. See Voltaic Electricity.
 GALVANISM, X. 388—Fabbri on the chemical origin of, I. 964—discovery of, I. 739, 958; VIII. 530; XXI. 609—Volta on, I. 963—Sir H. Davy's chemical discoveries by means of, VII. 638, 669—animalcules supposed to have been produced by, III. 212—Oken on, XVI. 500—general phenomena of, XXI. 621—on living animals, 623—its effects after death, 624.
 GALVANIZED IRON, X. 388.
 Galvano-plastic painting, XVIII. 554.
 Galvanography, XVIII. 554.
 Galvanoglyphy, XVIII. 544.
 Galvanometer, I. 976, XXI. 99—marine, 97, 110—mirror, 99, n. 109.
 Galvanoscope, gold-leaf, XXI. 643.
 GALVESTON, in Texas, X. 388.
 GALVIZ, Spanish town, X. 388.
 GALWAY, Irish county, X. 388—fisheries of, IX. 627, 634—agr. stat., XII. 610, 617—town, X. 361.
 GAMA (Vasco da), X. 393, 470, 712; XVIII. 382, 163—his squadron, XX. 124.
 GAMALIEL, X. 388.
 Gamarrs (General), IV. 836.
 Gamassus, genus of arachnides, III. 388.
 Gambart (Jean), astronomer, I. 868—his comet, ib.
 Gambasio, a blind sculptor, IV. 781.

GAN—GAR

GAMBEER, X. 393; V. 196; VI. 332
 GAMBLA, river, X. 393, II. 214, XVII. 649, XX. 51—temperature of the valley of, 50.
 Gambler's islands, II. 694, XVIII. 282.
 GAMBLING, or Gaming, X. 394—in China, VI. 567—bills for gambling debts, IX. 445.
 GAMBOGE, X. 395, V. 186—in Cambodia, VI. 113.
 — order of plants, V. 186
 GAME-LAWS, X. 395—qualification for killing game, XX. 210
 GAMELLA, marriage presents, X. 397
 GAMELION, Athenian month, X. 397
 GAMES, public, in antiquity, X. 397—Egyptian, VIII. 441, 448—funeral, X. 344—of the amphitheatre, II. 729, 731—of the circus, VI. 731, 734
 GAMMAI, trout fed on, XII. 242
 Gammell (Ernest), action against, for salmon fishing, IX. 601.
 GAMMONING, sea term, X. 399.
 GAMMUT, in music, X. 399—Chinese, VI. 581.
 GAMONEDA, mountains in Spain, X. 399.
 GAMME, church of, IV. 413
 GANDESA, Spanish town, X. 399
 GANDHARBA, X. 399
 GANDIA (Huerta de), district and city of Spain, X. 399, 400
 Ganesa, Indian astronomer, II. 487
 Ganganelh (Pope) See Clement XIV.
 Gang-robbery, in India, XI. 521, 522
 Gangas, birds, XVI. 791
 GANGES, river, X. 400, 401, III. 735, XI. 449, 450; XVII. 606, 646—resort of pilgrims to, IV. 613—inundations of, 648, XVII. 606—navigation of, IV. 651—aqueduct of, III. 336—mud deposited by, XV. 140, XII. 621; XVII. 588—delta of, ib.—sources of, X. 634; XVII. 601—slope and velocity of, ib.—gangeche dolphin, XVI. 445—physical characteristics of, 87 See Sunderbunds
 Ganga, or ganglions, XVII. 609 *et seq.*—lymphatic, II. 805—nervous, III. 1—in the lower animals, III. 176—invertebrata, 185—in mollusks, XV. 345 *et seq.*—ganglionic cells, XVII. 650—insects, IX. 43, 55—globules of, II. 811—ganglions in the domestic animals, XXI. 559.
 GANGOOTRI, X. 401, 400, XI. 469.
 GANGPOOR, in Hindustan, X. 401
 Gangrene, XVII. 690—surgical treatment of, XX. 826
 Ganits (Bija), Hindu treatise on algebra, II. 487.
 GANJAM, town in Hindustan, X. 401.
 GANNAT, town in France, X. 401.
 GANNERY (M.), his escapement, VII. 13.
 GANNET, bird, X. 401; III. 181; XVI. 814.
 GANOPHALA, fossil reptiles, XVII. 138
 Ganodus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII. 119.
 Ganoid, order of fishes, XII. 217, 316, 317—fossil, 332, 333, XVII. 119
 Ganshaw, in Georgia, VIII. 634
 GANTLET, or Gauntlet, X. 401
 GANTYMEDS, in mythology, X. 401.
 GAOL, X. 401. See Prisons
 — DELIVERY, X. 401.
 GAONS, Jewish doctors, X. 401.
 GAR, town in France, X. 402
 Gapers, shells, XV. 350
 Gars (Lough), XIX. 420; XX. 329.
 GARACHICO, in Tenerife, X. 402
 Garama, IX. 530
 GARAMANTES, Libyan race, X. 402; IX. 530.
 GARANCEUX, VIII. 318 and *n.*
 Garancine, VIII. 318 and *n.*
 Garay (Blasco de), his steam-vessel, XX. 636.
 GARBE, in heraldry, X. 402; XI. 333
 Garcia (Don Jose H.), on fortification, IX. 836.
 GARCILASO DE LA VEGA, Spanish poet, X. 402, XVIII. 113
 GARD, in France, X. 403, 277.
 GARDA (Lago di), X. 404; XII. 637; XIII. 644.
 GARDANT, in heraldry, X. 404; XII. 332.
 GARDELEGEN, town in Prussian Saxony, X. 404.

GAR—GAS

Garden (Dr), of Charlestown, on the *Gymnotus electricus*, VIII. 575.
 — (Dr), on the siren, XIX. 85
 — fruit, XI. 697, 702—kitchen, 697—forcing, 719—flower, 745—calendar, 758—walks in, 747—floating gardens in Mexico, XIV. 722—of the crystal palace, Sydenham, XX. 892—town garden, III. 494—at Kew, XIII. 75—hanging gardens at Babylon, IV. 841. See Horticulture.
 — seeds, II. 337.
 Gardener's calendar, XI. 758.
 — turnip cutter, II. 284.
 GARDENING, X. 404—Landscape, XVII. 771—Chinese ornamental, VI. 593—in Egypt, VIII. 428, 431. See Horticulture
 Gardie (La), general, XX. 848.
 GARDINER, in the State of Maine, X. 404
 — (Colonel James), X. 404, XI. 178
 — (Stephen), Bishop of Winchester, X. 404; VIII. 706, 708 *et seq.*
 — (Wilham), on the botany of Forfarshire, IX. 781
 Gardner's Tables of Logarithms, XIII. 555
 Gardner (Mr), on phreno-mesmerism, XX. 440
 Gargano (Monte), XX. 236
 Garget, in domestic animals, XXI. 571.
 Garibaldi, his victory at Volturmo, in 1860, XXI. 670
 Gar-fish, XII. 264
 Garigliano, river, XII. 638; XX. 237.
 Garloch, II. 32
 Garlick, culture of, XI. 741.
 Garlton Hills, XI. 177
 Garner (Mr), on the boring of shell-fish, XV. 353.
 Garnerin (Mons), his descent in a parachute, II. 179.
 GARNET, X. 405; XV. 84, XVII. 623—its crystallisation, VII. 562—rock, XV. 135—specific gravity of, XII. 88—lenses of, XIV. 768—doublets of, 774.
 — part of the tackle of a ship, X. 405
 Garnett (Richard), his contributions to Celtic philology, XVII. 530.
 Garner (Marquis), on agriculture, XVIII. 236—on price, 243—on indirect taxes, XXI. 67.
 GAROFALO (Benvenuto), painter, X. 405.
 GARONNE, river, X. 405, 240, 632; XIII. 696; XVII. 647.
 — (Haute), department of France, X. 405
 Gaiouste's burning mirror, VI. 10.
 Garraway's coffee-house, XXI. 89.
 Garrean on the absorption of plants, V. 108—on the exhalation of leaves, 104—on the heat of Arum while flowering, 148
 Garrett's horse-hoe, II. 275.
 GARRICK (David), X. 406; XVI. 283; XXI. 174, 175—the stage improved by, VIII. 166— anecdote of him and Fielding, IX. 540, *n.* 3—his intimacy with Dr Johnson, XII. 796; with Goldsmith, X. 708—excellence of his reading, XXI. 172.
 GARRISON, X. 407—artillery, III. 693
 — (W. Lloyd), emancipationist, II. 43.
 GARROTE, X. 407.
 Garrots, birds, XVI. 816.
 GARROVILLAS, Spanish town, X. 407.
 GARROW HILLS, in Hindustan, X. 407.
 Garrulus, genus of birds, XVI. 764.
 Garry, river, XVII. 455.
 Garryaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 208.
 GARSTANG, in Lancashire, X. 407.
 GARTER, order of the, X. 407; XI. 340—institution of, XIII. 117; VI. 622
 — principal king-at-arms, X. 408; XI. 820.
 — in heraldry, X. 408
 GARTH (Sir Samuel), X. 408—example of wit from, XXI. 895.
 GARYE (Christian), X. 408
 Gas, X. 408—term first used by Helmont, XI. 808—method of determining the relative density of gases, I. 727—trans-

GAS—GAS

mission of sound through, II. 104—expansion by heat, I. 335; XI. 268—coefficient of expansion of, I. 957 and *n.* 4
 —Gay Lussac on, X. 442—Dalton's researches on, I. 934 (see Dalton)—laws of mixed gases, 935—specific heat of gases, 953—effects of electricity on, VIII. 597—diffusion of, 26—condensation of, XI. 272—diffusion of heat through, 262; VI. 783—experiments with two gases, XII. 102—collection of waste gases of blast furnaces, 552—specific gravities of, VI. 448; XII. 89—atomic volume of, VI. 449—some of them reducible to liquids, XI. 272; I. 982; XX. 563—illuminating power of, X. 428—coal gas, 409 *et seq.*, XIX. 615—used as fuel, X. 322—law of Mariotte and Boyle on the compressibility of, I. 958—exhalation of, by leaves, V. 104—effects of, on leaves, 106; on plants, XVIII. 135—Dr Henry on, XI. 316—refractive powers of gases, XVI. 558—in lighthouses, XIII. 480—general relations of gases, XX. 563—solidification of, ib.
 Gas-coal, VII. 118.
 GAS-LIGHT, X. 409—in lighthouses, XIII. 480—in Edinburgh, VIII. 406—Glasgow, X. 650—New York, XVI. 281—London, XIII. 665
 Gas-meter, X. 422—wet, ib.—dry, 423.
 Gascoigne (Alphonse), his work on insects, IX. 23
 — French province, X. 434
 Gascoigne (Mr), inventor of the micro-meter, XIV. 742
 Gascon (John), his adventure against Algiers, II. 569.
 GASCONY, French province, X. 434, 277.
 Gaseous poisons, XIV. 435; XVIII. 135—gaseous elements in the crust of the globe, XVII. 618
 — steam, XX. 570.
 GASKET, X. 408.
 Gasometers, X. 418, 420.
 Gaspar Soares, lion-works at, V. 299.
 Gasparis (M. de), asteroids discovered by, I. 859.
 GASSE, in Lower Canada, X. 434.
 GASSENDI (Pierre Gassend), X. 434—contrast between him and Descartes, I. 70—his diligent study of Bacon, ib.—his partiality for Epicurean physics, 71—his argument against Descartes, ib.—his claim to the discovery of the doctrine concerning the origin of our knowledge, 72—his advantage over Descartes in renouncing the doctrine of innate ideas, 73—his merits as a philosopher and writer, ib.—his doctrine of ideas, 109—his orthodoxy as a Roman Catholic, 248—his followers, 107, 108—his astronomical labours, 611; III. 801—meteoric stone seen by, XIV. 630
 Gassiot (M.), African traveller, II. 211.
 — (Mr), chemical decomposition by means of the pile, obtained by, XXI. 619—his water-battery, ib. 620—on stratification in electrical discharges, 630—sounds from electric currents observed by, 631—his process of converting daguerreotype plates into engraved plates, 636.
 Gassner's exorcismal cures, XX. 417
 Gastrochisma, genus of fishes, XII. 298, 299.
 Gasteronemus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 245.
 Gasteropolecus, genus of fishes, XII. 246.
 Gasterophilus, gad-fly, XXI. 509.
 Gasteropoda, class of mollusks, XV. 303, 322, 223—fossil, XVII. 108—extinct genera of, 115
 — monodica, XV. 309.
 — diodica, XV. 375.
 Gasterosteus, genus of fishes, XII. 210, 281.
 Gasterotokeus, genus of fishes, XII. 315
 Gaston, earl of Foix, VI. 613; XIII. 18.
 Gastornis, genus of fossil birds, XVII. 155.
 Gastrana, fossil mollusks, XVII. 108.
 GASTRO JUNCUS, X. 438; II. 782; VI. 523; XVII. 659.

GAS—GAY

Gastritis, in cattle, XXI. 567
 Gastrobranchus, genus of fishes, XII. 178
 — its respiratory organs, III. 113.
 Gastrochena, genus of mollusks, XV. 350
 — fossil, XVII. 108.
 Gastrochomidae, family of mollusks, XV. 350.
 GASTROTOMY, in surgery, X. 438
 Gastrus, genus of insects, IX. 246.
 GATA, towns in Spain, X. 438, 439
 — (Cabo de), headland, X. 439.
 — (Rio de), in Spain, X. 439.
 — (Sierra de), in Spain, X. 439.
 GATAKER (Thomas), X. 439.
 GATEHOUSE, in Kirkcudbright, X. 439
 GATES (Horatio), American general, X. 439.
 GATEHEAD, in Durham, X. 439.
 GATH, in Palestine, X. 439, XIII. 182, 514.
 Gatrone, town, IX. 530.
 GATSHINA, X. 440
 Gatterer (Prof.), on denary numerals, III. 579
 Gattoni (Abbate), his Æolian harp, XIV. 709
 Gaubil, his work on insects, IX. 10.
 GAUCIN, Spanish town, X. 440.
 GAUDEN (John), X. 440
 GAUDENS (St), in France, X. 440, 405
 Gaudichaud on the physiology of plants, V. 102
 Gaugain's gas and vapour battery, XVI. 618.
 GAUGE, or GAUGE, X. 440—in gas-making, 422—in railways; see Gauge
 GAUGING, X. 440; XIV. 624—in brick building, V. 733.
 GAUL, X. 440, I. 385—Druids in, VIII. 184—Greek colony at Marseilles, ib.—coinage of, XVI. 361—Cæsar's campaigns in, XIX. 324—Calligula's expedition to, 385
 Gauls, V. 373—their belief in the immortality of the soul, VI. 636, 637—their invasion of Germany, X. 574—Rome taken and burnt by, XIX. 302.
 Gault, in geology, XV. 110.
 Gauthier on the skin, II. 894
 Gaunt (John of), V. 685; XIII. 178, VIII. 685
 Gauntlet, X. 401.
 GAUß (Karl Friedrich), X. 440; I. 993, 995—his method of computing secular inequalities, 811—his researches on terrestrial magnetism, 993; XIV. 17—his new magnetical instruments, I. 993—his magnetical observations at Göttingen, 994—on the manner of inscribing a polygon in a circle, II. 561; I. 701, 993—his correction of Laplace's theory of capillary attraction, XII. 100—his mathematical theory of terrestrial magnetism, I. 994—his theorems concerning attractions, ib.—his great merit, 995—on the general theory of quadratic factors or impossible roots, 712—on equations, IX. 308—on the planets Pallas and Vesta, IV. 68, 69—on comets, VII. 168, 181—on the micrometer, XIV. 744—on probability, XVIII. 634, 635.
 Gautama, V. 724.
 Gauthley (M.), on iron bridges, XII. 575, 579—on the strength of stones, XX. 717, 718, 759.
 GAUZE, X. 440—wire-cloth, ib.—manufacture of silk gauze at Paisley, XVII. 89—weaving of, XXI. 780.
 GAUZEL-KIND, X. 441; V. 386; XVIII. 516.
 GAVESTON (Pierro), VIII. 681.
 GAVIA, mountains in Brazil, X. 440.
 GAVIA-GRANDE, Spanish town, X. 440.
 Gaviails, reptiles, XIX. 23.
 Gaviols, XIX. 23—teeth of, XVI. 447.
 GAVIAO, Portuguese town, X. 441.
 GAVOTTA, dance-tune, X. 441.
 GAWWAGUR, fortress in Hindustan, X. 441.
 Gawler (Colonel), governor of South Australia, IV. 294.
 Gawnagh (Lough), VI. 347.
 Gay (Claudio), his work on Chile, IX. 24.

GAY—GEL

- GAY (John), poet, X. 441—moral tendency of his *Beggars' Opera*, VIII 165—death of, XVIII 332
—(Rev. Mr.), his dissertation on virtue, I. 170—suggested to Hartley the idea of association, 380
GAY-LUSSAC (Nicolas François), X. 442; I. 930, 940—his balloon ascents, II. 181—183, I. 939—his portable barometer, IV. 466—on assaying, III. 771—on the expansion of the gases by heat, I. 935—on electricity, VIII. 580—on the electricity of the torpedo, 573—his law of volumes in gases uniting chemically, I. 938—on capillary attraction, XII. 92, 94, 95, 98—his miscellaneous experiments, I. 940—his analysis of cast-iron, VI. 179—on evaporation, IX. 409—on gases, XX. 562, 563—on the elastic force of gas produced by the ignition of gunpowder, XI. 109
GAYAH, town in Hindustan, X. 442.
GAYAL, in zoology, XIV. 215
GAYATRI, a verse of the Vedas, X. 442.
GAYLUSSE, mineral, XV. 98
GAZA, in Palestine, X. 443; XVII. 182, 514—taken by Alexander, XIII. 767
GAZZELLE, X. 443, XIV. 210, VIII. 432
GAZZETTE, X. 443—London Gazette, XVI. 182—de France, 196
GAZTEUGACHE, Spanish island, X. 444.
Gean tree, XI. 712.
Geary (Admiral), V. 494.
Gebel-es-Sislah, in Egypt, VIII. 503.
Gebel-et-Teyr, in Egypt, VIII. 504.
Gebhardt (J. G.), his work on insects, IX. 18
Gebler (Francis), his work on insects, IX. 15.
Geocarcinus, genus of crustacea, VII. 541
Gecko, reptile, XIX. 35
Geckotidae, reptiles, XIX. 35.
Ged, the common pike, XII. 254
—(WILLIAM), inventor of stereotyping, X. 444, XVIII. 519
GEDDES (Alex.), X. 444—on the Scottish language, VIII. 797—on Tyndale's Bible, XXI. 400.
Gedrosia, march of Alexander the Great through, XIII. 771.
GELONG, in South Australia, X. 445; IV. 288, 290 *et seq.*
Geor (Charles de), Baron, his work on insects, IX. 4—his classification of insects, 5—on ants, XII. 261
Georard, Prince of Orange assassinated by, XI. 671
Gez language, II. 57.
GIEFLE, town in Sweden, X. 445, XX. 804.
GRIENNA, X. 445.
Gihin (J. B.), his catalogue of insects, IX. 23.
Gihlenite, mineral, XV. 73
Gijor, Swedish author, XIX. 700.
Ginsler (Frederick), on anonymous books, IV. 711.
Girkosstein, mineral, XV. 96
GELA, in Sicily, X. 445; XX. 899—taken by the Carthaginians, VI. 282
Gelaean era, VI. 674.
GELASTUS, name of two popes, X. 445
GELATINE, or Jelly, X. 445; IX. 787, XVII. 654—its qualities as a nutriment, VIII. 19—abounds in some fishes, III. 95—its use in photography, XVII. 549.
GELDERLAND, or Guelderland, X. 446, XI. 79—climate, 582.
Gelee (Claude). See Claude Lorraine.
Gellious' hive, XII. 295.
GELL (Sir William), X. 446—his work on Pompeii, XVIII. 238.
GELBERT (C. Furchtegott), German author, X. 446.
—(M.), on capillary attraction, XII. 90.
Gellibrand (Henry), on logarithms, XIII. 554, 555—on the compass, XVI. 5
GELLUS (Aulus), X. 446; XVII. 519
GELNEAUBEN, town of Niesse-Cassel, X. 446.
GELON, tyrant of Syracuse, X. 446—his defeat of the Carthaginians, VI. 281—reign of, XX. 899.

GEM—GEN

- GEM, X. 446; XV. 87; XVII. 623—mode of cementing, VI. 368—crystallization of, VII. 555, 562, 563—counterfeit, VIII. 113—in Germany, X. 584—lenses of, XIV. 765 *et seq.*—microscopic cavities in, 806—magnetism of 27—cutting and polishing, XIII. 231 See Diamond, Pearl, Ruby, Sapphire, &c., and the Geographical articles.
GEMARA, second part of the Talmud, X. 447; XXI. 15, 16
Geminus of Rhodes, X. 501.
GEMINI (the Twins), constellation, X. 447, IV. 12, 80.
Geminus on geography, X. 467.
GEMISTRUS, or Georgius Pletho, X. 447.
Gemmation, mode of reproduction, in mollusks, XV. 831—333
—in plants, V. 68
GEMINIANI (Francesco), violinist, X. 447
Gemminger (M.), his work on insects, IX. 23
GEMONIA SCALE, X. 447.
Gempylus, genus of fishes, XII. 296
GENALGUACI, Spanish town, X. 447.
GENDARMERIE, X. 448, 272
GENDER, in grammar, X. 448, 747, 789
Gené (Giuseppe), his works on insects, IX. 17
GENEALOGY, X. 448.
GENERAL, X. 448
—ASSEMBLY of the Church of Scotland, X. 448, III. 775, XVIII. 493—discontinued by James I. V. 384
—of the Free Church, XVIII. 405
GENERALISIMO, X. 448—qualifications of, XXI. 698, 699
Generalization, XIV. 590
GENERATING LINE, in geometry, X. 448
Generation of animals—of vertebrata, II. 773—mammalia, 774—animalcules, III. 199—ants, 264—bees, IV. 581, 584—insects, IX. 74—mollusks, XV. 831 *et seq.*—batrachian reptiles, XIX. 75, ophidian, 50—zoophytes, XXI. 973 *et seq.*—points of resemblance and difference in reproduction of plants and animals, III. 170—hybrids generally barren, 174, 175—equivocal generation, 175—species said to be produced from vegetable seeds, 200, 204—succession of blind children in families, IV. 777—castration, VI. 329. See Fecondation, Reproduction.
—(organs of), in man, III. 3—
anatomy of, 68—their muscles, 39—in brutes, 113—crustacea, VII. 539.
GENERATOR, in music, X. 448
Genesee river, falls of, XVI. 214.
—harbour, XVI. 214—flats, 215.
GENESIS, book of, X. 448; I. 449 *et seq.*, XVII. 400.
—in geometry, X. 448
GENESIS (Josephus), X. 448.
Genet, one of the mammalia, XIV. 166.
GENETHIACI, X. 448.
Genetta, genus of mammalia, XIV. 166.
GENEVA, X. 449; XX. 882—Sir James Mackintosh on the independence of, IV. 391—Bible, 702, XIII. 127—library at, 424—mean temperature of, XX. 889—population and mortality, XV. 621, 622—stop, in watches, VII. 28—coins, XV. 441—political troubles in the year 1782, VIII. 240—suicides in, XX. 800
—LAKE OF, X. 449; XIX. 633; XX. 888—its temperature at different depths, VII. 777—variation of its level, XX. 889—chart in, XII. 241—salmon trout of, 243
—or Gin, X. 449, 629; VIII. 51
—town in Ontario, X. 449.
GENEVIÈVE (Sainte), patron saint of Paris, X. 449
—library of, XIII. 408.
—(St), town in Missouri, XV. 281.
GENÈVRE, Mont, X. 450
Genga (Bernardin), his surgical anatomy, II. 766.
GENGHIS-KHAN, Tartar chief, X. 451; III. 745; XI. 478—Bukhara laid waste by, V. 789—his invasion of China, VI. 559, 561; III. 745.
Genieys on hydraulics, XII. 140
GENII, X. 450—of Mohammedans, XV. 302.
GENIL, river of Spain, X. 450
GENITIVE CASE, in grammar, X. 450, 748
GENIUS, tutelary spirit, X. 450—Greek and Roman belief respecting geni, III. 310 See Daemon
—in literature, X. 450—its relation to insanity, III. 321
—of a language, XIII. 188.
GENLIS (Comtesse de), X. 451
Gennaro (San) See Januarius (St)
Gennes (M. de), his mechanical power-loom, XXI. 787
Gennesareth, Lake of, XVII. 185—land of, 186
Gennet, order of the, XIII. 120
GENOA (Duchy of), X. 451; XIX. 640—city of, X. 452—Academy of Sciences at, II. 63—commerce of, VII. 186—its colonies on the Black Sea in the thirteenth century, IV. 745—seized by Napoleon, X. 186, n. 2—coins, XV. 441, 442—early navigation of, XVI. 2—insurrection at, in 1849, XII. 658—manufactures of, XIX. 634—vessels trading with, in 1850—64, 635—weights and measures of, XXI. 805, 811—university of, 492.
—Gulf of, X. 454
—township in New York, X. 454.
GENOVERS (Anthony), X. 454, I. 202.
GENS, in Roman antiquity, X. 455
GENSERIC, king of the Vandals, X. 455, 577—sack of Rome by, XIX. 303
GENTIAN, plants, X. 456; V. 114, 200, XI. 748.
Gentianaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 200
GENTILE, X. 456—relation of the Gentiles to the Mosaic law, I. 467
GENTILESCHI (Giotto), painter, X. 456
GENTILIS (Albericus), X. 456—his merits as the precursor of Grotius, I. 25, 26, and n. 1—an apologist for Machiavelli, 233.
GENTLEMAN, X. 456; VII. 205
—USHER of the Black Rod, X. 456—gentlemen ushers of the privy chamber, XI. 775.
Gentleman's Magazine, VI. 350
Gentlemen-at-arms, X. 456; XI. 775
GENTLEMEN-PENSIONERS, X. 456, XI. 776.
Gentiles, larvae of flies, used for bait, III. 155.
GENTOOS, X. 457; XI. 474.
Gente on the balance of power, IV. 387, 388, 390
Genucius, Roman tribune, XIX. 300.
Genuineness of the Scriptures, XIX. 829.
GENUS, X. 457.
—in music, X. 457.
—in natural history, X. 457—definition of, V. 175—sub-genus, 175—distribution of genera of plants over the globe, 222—uncertain limits of genera, XVI. 736.
GEOCENTRIC, in astronomy, X. 457.
Geocorse, family of insects, IX. 161.
Geocrinus, fossil echinoderms, XVII. 98
Geodes, in lithology, XV. 132, n. 1
GEODESY, X. 457—figure of the earth from, IX. 560.
Geoffroy, his work on insects, IX. 6—on pollen, IV. 672—a bad authority on ants, III. 261
—OF MONMOUTH, X. 457—his account of Stonehenge, XX. 703—William of Newburgh's opinion of his history, XXI. 868.
—SAINT-HILAIRE (Elienne), X. 457.
Geognosy, XV. 129
GEOGRAPHY, X. 459—history of geographical discovery, ib.—mathematical, 470—physical, XVII. 569—political, ib.—descriptive, ib.—geographical academies of Venice and Lisbon, II. 62—D'Anville's improvements of, III. 289—mode of teaching it to the blind, IV. 777—improved by the Crusades, VII. 534—Edrisi's work on, VIII. 412—geographical distribution of plants, V. 219, 222; XVII. 624—of animals, III. 174;

GEN—GEO

GEO—GEO

- II. 712; XVII. 630—of birds, 633—of insects, IX. 63—reptiles, XVII. 634—serpents, XIX. 50, 51—fishes, XII. 829; XVII. 634—illustrations of, from coins and medals, XVI. 351—benefits it derives from palaeontology, XVII. 91—knowledge of, among the Persians, 430—its relations to philology, 526, 527—Strabo's, XX. 744 See Earth, Physical Geography, and names of countries, towns, rivers, &c.
Geokromite, mineral, XV. 119
GEOLOGY, X. 496; XV. 127, XVII. 570, 586—internal structure of the earth, I. 791—the principle on which the Mosaic account of the Creation is to be interpreted in reference to geology, 455—cases of subsidence in the earth's surface, II. 51—geology of Mount Etna, 192—America, 770—Alps, 626—Andes, III. 129—Assam, 683—England, VIII. 716—Egypt, 423—its connection with the origin of soil, II. 389, with archaeology, III. 419—emergence of islands from the ocean, near the Azores, IV. 336—Falls of Niagara, VI. 135—internal heat of the earth, 768—scriptural date of the Creation, 677—final conflagration, VII. 241—the Deluge, 722—erratic blocks, 723—scratches on rocks, ib.—Dolomieu on, VIII. 95, 96—geological relations of insects, IX. 72—the earth's figure proves its former fluidity, 575—elevation of Norway, XVI. 310, n.—geological distribution of gold, XV. 231—of the Himalayas, XI. 443—of the state of New York, XVI. 214—first appearance of man on the earth, XI. 540; XVII. 641—value of palaeontology to, 91—table of strata, and order of appearance of animal life on the earth, 92—of Scotland, XIX. 790—geological theory of volcanoes, XXI. 606—See Palaeontology, Fossil, and the geographical articles in general.
—Museum of, in London, XIII. 674; XXI. 323
GEOMANCY, X. 496
Geomelania, genus of mollusks, XV. 375.
GEOMETRIC PROGRESSION, X. 563; XVIII. 639
Geometrical proportion, II. 501—magnitude, X. 506.
GEOMETRY, X. 497—history of, ib.—plane, 507—of solids, 532—the genius of the Greeks beautifully displayed in, I. 551, 696, 697—contributions to, by Euclid, Archimedes, and Apollonius, 551—geometrical analysis, ib.—works of Regiomontanus, ib.—introduction of trigonometry and decimal fractions, ib.—Werner, Benedetto, Maurolycus, and Cavalieri, 552—exhaustions of the ancients, ib., 553—idea of quantities infinitely great and small introduced by Kepler, 554—generation of solids, ib.—Kepler's view of the composition of circles, ib.—observations on lines and areas, ib.—purpose served by the doctrine of quantities infinitely small in size and infinitely great in number, 555—the cycloid, ib.—results of the application of algebra to, 560—Descartes' Geometria, ib.—Fermat's method of drawing tangents to curves, 561—geometrical and algebraic method of treating quantity, ib.—high value set on the geometrical construction of problems by the Greeks, 609—attempts to ascertain relation of diameter to circumference, ib.—incommensurability of the circle, 700—best elementary works on, ib., n. 2—elementary plane geometry rests on the combined properties of the straight line and the circle, ib.—instruments required in solving the common problems, 701—lines and curves of the second order, ib.—improvement made in trigonometry during the last century, ib.—Descartes' discoveries, 710—application of algebra to, VI. 278; II. 486—Dr Beddoes on the nature of evidence, in V. 566—characters of abbreviations in,

GEO—GEO

VI. 418—intimate connection of dynamics with, VIII 358—applications of the fluxional calculus to, IX. 744—Egyptian knowledge of, VIII 442—its use in joinery, XII 805—its connection with geography, X. 467. See Angle, Circle, Trigonometry, &c.

GEOMETRY (analytical), X. 542; I. 807

—(New), state of the sciences when Newton arose, I. 634—problem of the quadrature of the circle solved by, ib.—Wallis's arithmetic of infinites, ib.—discovery of fluxions by Newton, 635, IX. 672—Newton the first, and Leibnitz the second, inventor of the new infinitesimal analysis, I. 636—controversy relative to the discovery, 637 *et seq.*—its vast importance, 640, 641—steps by which the mathematical sciences were prepared for the new analysis, 641—this analysis first appeared in the method of exhaustions, ib.—advanced a step in Cavalieri's method of indivisibles, ib.—Descartes' application of algebra to the geometry of curves, ib.—Cavalieri's method improved and extended by Torricelli, Roberval, &c., ib.—lastly appeared Newton and Leibnitz, who made their discoveries separately, 642—rejection of the higher powers of the differentials by Leibnitz liable to objection, ib.—the two problems into which the analysis, thus constituted, is divided, ib., 644—manner in which Newton proceeded, 642—the fluxionary and differential calculus two modifications of one general method, 643—the introduction of the analysis greatly enlarged the domain of the mathematical sciences, ib.—problems of maxima and minima to which it was extended, ib.—is peculiarly adapted to physical researches, 644—problem of integration, ib., 645—new analysis first published by Leibnitz, 646—writers by whom it was explained and improved, 647, 648—its firm establishment in Europe, 648—English mathematicians fell behind the French in the integrations of differential or fluxional equations, 649—opponents of the new method, ib.—contributions to the science by Cotes, Taylor, Bradley, MacLaurin, &c., 692, 714, 715—contributions of Italians to the higher calculus, 715—Euler's method of determining particular integrals, ib.—extension of the modern calculus by that of partial differences, ib.—application of it by Euler and D'Alembert, 716—calculus of variations, ib.—distinction between differentials and variations, ib.—integration of differential equations, ib.—modifications of the theory of infinitesimal calculus, ib.—the method of prime and ultimate ratios preferred by Newton, 717—improved by Robins and Landen, ib.—method of derivative functions, ib.—works on prime and ultimate ratios, 718, n. 1. See Calculus, Fluxions, Newton, Descartes, &c.

Geomys, genus of mammalia, XIV 185

Geophilus, genus of myriapoda, XV. 750—of birds, XVI 794

GEORGE I., X. 563—his reign, V. 452—death, 457—navy, XVI 93

—II., X. 563—his conduct at the battle of Oudenarde, V. 451—his reign, 457—death, 464—Sir R. Walpole's excise-scheme, in the reign of, 457; XXI. 692—his gift to the British Museum, XIII 889—navy, XVI 93

—III., X. 563—his reign, V. 464—first illness, 469—opposition to Mr Fox's India bill, 510—attempted assassination by Margaret Nicholson, 521—illness in 1788, 530—recovery in 1789, 538—insulted by the mob in 1795, 587—his anti-catholic feelings, and opposition to Lord Howick's bill, 600—illness in 1810, 611—Duke of York vested with the custody of his person, 623—his death, 624—character, 626; XVII 736—corn acts of 1773, 1791, 1804, 1814, VII. 380,

GEO—GER

381—subsequent history of the corn laws in his reign, 382—act regarding the coinage, 76—remodelling of the mint, 80—navy, XVI. 94—prosecutions of the press under, 185—state of the navy in his reign, XIX. 133—equestrian statue of, at Windsor, XXI 888

GEORGE IV., X. 563—his establishment as Prince of Wales, V. 507—his pecuniary embarrassment in 1787, 522—discussions on his right to the regency, 534, XVII 786—his debts, V. 556—appointed regent, 611—accession to the throne, 624—history of his reign, 626—conduct of his consort, 612, his hatred of her, 628—his dislike to the Catholic question, 654—his death and character, 657—corn laws in his reign, VII. 382—his visit to Ireland, XII 501; to Edinburgh, VIII 393—his gift to the nation of the library of George III., XIII 890—navy in the reign of, XX 133

—(KNIGHTS OF ST), X. 563; XI. 340.

LAKE, in state of New York, X. 564; XVI 214.

—(ST), island, X. 563; IV. 603

—(ST), of Cappadocia, X. 563, XIII 117

—(ST), cross of, X. 563.

—(ST), religious orders of, X. 564.

—(SB), one of the Azores, IV. 336

—(SB), of Madras, XIII 802.

—the Olympian, XI. 23.

George's (St), Chapel, Windsor, XXI 881.

—(SB), Hall, Liverpool, XIII 521

—(SB), Sound, IV. 299

Georget (M), his experiments on animal magnetism, XX. 427

GEORGETOWN, in British Guiana, X. 564, XI. 83—in Columbia, X. 564—in South Carolina, ib.—in Grenada, XI. 58

GEORGIA, North American state, X. 564; XXI 419—newspapers of, XVI. 195—rate of interest in, XII 432—colonization of, XXI 433—debts of, 428—its opposition to the union, 441—wines of, 888— in Asia, X. 566; VI. 341, 342—alphabet of, II. 615—language, XIII 215, 216—conquered by Alp Arslan, II. 604—people of, IX. 346—annexed to Russia, XIX. 485

GULF OF, X. 569

Georgian islands, XVIII 280.

—versions of the Bible, IV. 701.

Georgic, in poetry, X. 569—Virgil's Georgics, XXI 595.

GEORGIUM SIDUS, X. 569, III 807. See Uranus.

Georychus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 183.

Geotenus, fossil cuttle-fish, XVII 114

Geotrupes, genus of insects, IX. 121

GERA, city of Reuss, X. 569.

GERACE, town in Naples, X. 569.

GERANIACEAE, nat. order of plants, V. 187

GERANIUM, genus of plants, X. 569; V. 187; XII 758.

GERARD (Alexander), X. 569—on beauty, IV. 538, 540

—(Dr), traveller among the Himalayas, XI. 447, 450

—(FRANÇOIS), X. 570.

—(Marshal), his expedition against Antwerp, X. 208; IX. 826—president of the council, X. 210

GERARDE (John), herbalist, X. 570.

Gerardus Niger, IX. 523

Gerber (Francis), his work on anatomy, II. 770.

Gerbert, his alleged introduction of the Arabic notation into Europe, I. 556; IX. 581.

Gerbillon's geographical discoveries in Asia, III. 754.

Gerbillus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 182.

Gerdesius on rare books, IV. 708.

GEREZ (Serra de), mountain chain, X. 570.

GERGAL, Spanish town, X. 570

Gergonne, his investigation of a problem of Apollonius, III. 302.

Gerhard (B), his work on insects, IX. 23

—(Paul), poetry of, XVIII 118.

—his definitions of theology, XXI. 181—on theology, 185 *et seq.*

GER—GER

Genzim, XVII. 183—temple of, IV. 695.

Germ. See Germans.

Germa, in Fezzan, IX. 530

GERMAIN-D'IN-LAYE (St), X. 570

GERMAINE (Lord George), V. 498.

GERMAN, in genealogy, X. 570.

—empire, VIII 638

—language, IX. 392, 393; XIII 210

—its value in philosophical nomenclature, I. 311—academy for its improvement, II. 70—improved by Adelung, 138—German Bibles, IV. 701—Low and High German, X. 587.

—Ocean, XVI 298

—philosophy contrasted with that of France, I. 186, 187—the impropriety of certain German philosophical terms, 219, 220—ethical systems, 428 See Kant, &c.

—(SAN), in Porto Rico, X. 570.

—SILVER, X. 570

—stove, XX. 739

—theologians, their opinions of Jesus Christ, XII 762

Germanic Union, XII 363.

GERMANICUS (Cesar), X. 570, 575; II. 423, XIX 334.

Germans (ancient), VI. 220, X. 572—origin of chivalry among, VI. 602—their appreciation of the female sex, 606—Roman wars with the, VII 304, XIX 319, 334, 338 *et seq.*—slavery among, XX. 320

—(modern), X. 587—their intellectual character, IV. 212—character of the Austrians, 318—their notions respecting the personality of Homer, XI. 590, 597—their title of Graaf, VII. 466—defensive systems of fortification, IX. 835

—(St), in Cornwall, X. 571

GERMANTOWN, in Philadelphia, X. 571, XVII 508

GERMANY, X. 572; IX. 400—history of, X. 572—Anabaptists in, II. 742—swarms of ants, III. 285—agriculture, II. 253—pointed architecture, III. 447, 448—influence of the Italian school of architecture, 453—army of the Germanic confederation, 652—Germanic league, V. 517—bookselling in, 31—conculnage in, VII. 229—copyright, 359—cotton manufacture, 460—its state in the time of the Crusades, 529—drama, VIII 167—shipping employed in trade with England, 741—early engraving in, 800—empire of, 653—classical learning, IX. 326—fairs, 468—French invasions of, X. 101, 161—French trade with, 259—glass-making in, 664—persecution of the Jews in, XII. 778, 782—libraries, XIII 417—medical jurisprudence, XIV 422, 423—miocene rocks of, XV. 214—lead mines, 242—money, 436; XVI 389—monarchy, XV. 413—mythology, 760—results of education in, 618—insurance offices in, XII. 413—study of metaphysics, XIV. 610—literature, X. 693; XI. 348—newspapers of, XVI. 200; statistics of, for 1849, 201—historical writers of, XI. 540—birds, XVI. 730—school of painting, XVII. 74, 76—puppet-making, 261—revival of classical learning in, 522—scholarship in, 524—new phase of philology in, ib.—its philology compared with that of England, 525—heights of mountains in, 643—poetry of, XVIII. 118—pottery, 438—Presbyterianism in, 486—the Reformation in, 821 *et seq.*—civil war of 1525, ib.—railway statistics, 787—romance, XIX. 264, 290—Roman invasion of, 333—school of sculpture in, 865—roads, 229—magnetic somnambulism, XX. 442—wars of Gustavus Adolphus in, 840—masonry, 711—beet-root sugar, 798—theologians, XXI. 183—weights and measures, 311—wool imported from, 907—wines of, 885—maps of, X. Platea. See German, Germans.

Germer (E. F), his work on insects, IX. 15.

GERMER, in botany, X. 594.

GER—GIA

GERMINATION, X. 594, V. 162, XI. 691—changes that take place during, II. 382, V. 165; VI. 518, 519

Germis, production and discharge of, XVII 682—fecundation of, 683.

Geron, genus of insects, IX. 233.

GERONA, Spanish city, X. 594

GERONTES, X. 591

Geries, genus of fishes, XII. 288.

GERRHA, Arabian city, X. 595

Gerris, genus of insects, IX. 164.

Gers, in France, X. 595.

Gersdorffite, mineral, XV. 116.

GERSON (Jean Chailier de), X. 595—doctrines of, I. 326—his claims to the authorship of the Imitation of Christ, XIII 61.

Geisten (Prof), on dew, VII. 766

GERUND, in Latin Grammar, X. 596.

GERUSIA, Spartan Assembly, X. 596, 594; XX. 502.

GERVAISE of Tilbury, historian, X. 596

Gervillia, genus of mollusks, XV. 348—fossil, XVII 106

Geryoniadae, zoophytes, XXI. 1000

GESSENIUS (F. H. Wilhelm), X. 596—his Thesaurus, XVII. 526—on the language of Scripture, XIX. 834.

GESNER (Conrad), naturalist, X. 596, XIV. 461—on animals, 124—on ornithology, IX. 2—on ornithology, XVI. 725

Gesneraceae, nat. order of plants, V. 200

Gessler (Hermann), XX. 884, XXI. 146.

GESSENER (Solomon), painter and poet, X. 598—his poetry, XVIII. 119

Gestation, period of, IV. 492, n. 1—in the lower animals, III. 182.

Gesture, III. 40—language of, VII. 677.

Geta, XIX. 346.

GETÆ, X. 598; VII. 615.

GETHEIMANN, X. 598

GETX, French town, X. 598.

GEYSER, X. 598; XII. 201, 202—simple mode of imitating the phenomena of, XVII. 602

GEZ, IX. 173

GIADAMES, X. 598, 365.

Ghadr, river in Oude, XVII. 15.

Ghaleb, a sheriff of Mecca, III. 350, 364.

GHARA, in Hindustan, X. 598, XX. 813.

Gharian, in Tihpol, XXI. 352, 353.

GHAUTS, X. 598; XI. 449 *et seq.*; XVII. 508—height of, 644

—WESTERN, X. 599.

Ghawázee, Egyptian dancing girls, VIII. 448.

GHAZERPORE, town in Hindustan, X. 599.

Ghebeis, or fire-worshippers, VI. 341. See Guebres.

Ghenghis Khan. See Genghis.

GHEE, kind of butter, X. 600.

GHEBEL, town of Belgium, X. 600.

Ghench. See Kenech.

GHENT, X. 600—university of, IV. 620; XXI. 402—schools at, IV. 621—library of, 622—pacification of, XI. 569.

Ghergong, in Assam, III. 763.

GHERIAN, fortress in Hindustan, X. 602.

Ghetaldus (Marinus), geometer, X. 604.

GHINELIN faction, X. 602. See Guelphs.

GHIRBERTI (Lorenzo), sculptor, X. 602; XVII. 61; XIX. 860.

GHIJAN, Persian province, X. 602.

GHIRLANDARO, X. 603. See Corrad.

GHIJINI, in Afghanistan, X. 603; II. 208—empire of, III. 744, XI. 478.

Gholab Singh, VI. 309.

GHOOR, or Ghour, in Afghanistan, X. 603.

GHOORCAHS, GHOORKHAS, or GORKHAS, X. 717; XVI. 144, 147, 148—their aid to the British in the Sepoy insurrection of 1857, 314.

GHOST, X. 603. See Apparitions.

Ghost-moth, IX. 211.

GHUZZI. See Ghizni.

GHUZZ, Memlook tribe, VIII. 487.

GHANNONE (Pietro), X. 603.

GIANT, X. 604—battle of giants, XX. 885.—mountains, XIX. 171.

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY, X. 605; III. 284; XII. 504—rock composing the, XV. 133, n. 1, 190.

GIAOUR, X. 606.

GIA—GIL

- GIACENO, town of Italy, X. 606
 Gabb and Dean (Messrs), their steam-engine for draining the Haalem Meer, XI. 173.
 GIBBET, X. 606.
 GIBSON (Edward), X. 606; XX. 840—his estimate of the talents of Crousaz, and account of his own studies in 1755, I. 106, n. 4—tendency to indecency in his writings, 154—on the works of St Ambrose, II. 664—converted to Popery by Bossuet's writings, V. 60—on the secondary causes of the propagation of Christianity, VI. 635, Lord Hailes' answer to, VII. 685, 686—his account of Daphne, 684—his merits as a historian, XI. 548—his library, XIII. 424—his house at Lausanne, 250—character of V. Law by, 296—on the destruction of the Alexandrian library, 381, n. 8—on Mohammedanism, XV. 300 *et seq.*—on Simeon Stylites, 407—on Giannone's history, X. 604—his notice of Neckar, XVI. 127—his History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, XI. 54—his enthusiasm for history, XII. 2—on Ossian, XVII. 5—on the state of the Jews under Antoninus Pius, 195—on monopolists, 318—Dr Robertson's correspondence with, XIX. 232—Whitaker's Review of his Roman History, XXI. 851
 GIBSONS (Grinling), wood-carver, X. 617.—or long-armed apes, XIV. 138.
 GIBBOUS, X. 618.
 Gibbs (James), his style of architecture, III. 455.
 GIBSON, in Palestine, X. 618
 GIBLIES, XX. 904
 GIBRALEON, Spanish town, X. 618.
 GIBRALTAR X. 618—taken by the British in 1704, V. 448—siege of, by the French and Spaniards, in 1705, XIII. 302—siege of, in 1780, III. 518; V. 493, 501; VIII. 638—weights and measures, XXI. 811—expenditure upon, VII. 147.
 —(BAY OF), X. 620
 —(STRAITS OF), X. 620—currents in, IX. 409; XIV. 470, XV. 673
 GIBSON (Edmund, D.D.), X. 620
 —(Milner), his resolution regarding the newspaper stamp-duty, XVI. 190.
 Gibson's clock-crusher, II. 273.
 GIBSON, son of Josiah, X. 621.
 GIGN, town of France, X. 621.
 Giesecké on aurora borealis, IV. 249.
 GIESSEN, German city, X. 621—university of, XXI. 492
 GIFFORD (William), X. 621—his censure of Drummond of Hawthornden, VIII. 191—his edition of Massinger's works, XIV. 845—his translation of Persius compared with Drummond's, VIII. 194—Juvenal translated by, XIII. 30
 GIRT, in English law, X. 622—New Year's, *ib.*
 Gig-horse, XI. 660.
 Gigantolite, mineral, XV. 89.
 GIGG, or Jig, X. 622.
 GIGLIO, island, X. 622
 GIGUELA, Spanish river, X. 622.
 GIRON, Spanish town, X. 622; IV. 156.
 Gilán, Persian province, XVII. 421, 423—silk produced in, 424.
 GIL (San), or St Giles, town of New Granada, X. 622.
 —(VICENTE), Portuguese dramatist, X. 622.
 GILA, river in New Mexico, X. 623; XIV. 720.
 —genus of fishes, XII. 257.
 Gilbert (Davies), on the pendulum, XXI. 800.
 —(Sir HUMPHREY), X. 624; XVI. 172—his discourse on the north-west passage, XVIII. 164.
 —on induction in moral philosophy, XV. 538.
 —(Messrs), their dipping-needle, XIV. 82.
 —(Dr WILLIAM), X. 623—the founder of the science of electricity, VIII. 523; I. 660—on magnetism, 670, 741, XIV. 8, 63; XX. 415.

GIL—GIR

- GILBERTINES, religious order, X. 624.
 Gilbertus Anglicanus, XX. 816.
 Gilboa, XVII. 183
 Gilchrist (Alexander), his Life of Etty, IX. 368
 GILD, or Guild, X. 624 See Guild.
 GILDAS, British historian, X. 624
 Gilder and Carver, V. 755
 GILDING, X. 624; V. 755—of porcelain, XVIII. 444—by electricity, XXI. 637
 GILDEAD, X. 627; XVII. 181—balm of, IV. 400.
 GILENA, Spanish town, X. 627.
 Giles (St), in Edinburgh, VIII. 398.
 Gilgal, III. 439.
 GILGIT, in Central Asia, X. 627
 GILL (John), X. 627—on divinity, XXI. 196.
 —a measure, X. 627; XXI. 805, 808.
 —apparatus in spinning, XX. 511
 —(Lough), XX. 329.
 Gillespie's Hospital, in Edinburgh, VIII. 402.
 Gilet's chaff-cutter, II. 284
 GILLIES (John), historian, X. 627—on the Argonauts, III. 524
 Gilliesiaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 213
 Gills, of fishes, II. 772; XII. 214—temporary, of tadpoles, III. 113—of mollusks, XV. 344
 GILOLO, one of the Spice islands, X. 627.
 GILPIN (Bernard), divine, X. 628.
 Gilse. See Grilse
 Gisland Spa, VII. 578—waters of, XV. 317
 Gilt-head, fish, XII. 286.
 GIMBALS, X. 629.
 Gimmerthal (B. G.), his works on insects, IX. 23
 GIN, X. 629, 449; IX. 760—manufacture of, VIII. 51; in Holland, XI. 583—juniper berries used for flavouring, XIII. 19—*in mechanics*, X. 629.
 Ginkel (General), his Irish campaign, V. 443, XII. 490; XXI. 840, 841
 GINETA (Le), Spanish town, X. 629.
 GINGEDA, in the Carnatic, X. 629
 GINGELY oil, XVI. 495, XIII. 169
 GINGER, X. 629, V. 211—adulterations of ground ginger, IX. 769
 —order of plants, V. 211.
 GINGERBREAD, X. 629.
 Gingham, places where manufactured, VII. 449
 Ginglymostoma, genus of fishes, XII. 323
 GINGUENÉ (Pierre Louis), X. 629—on Machiaveli, XIII. 778, 779, 781.
 Ginkgo tree, XVII. 765.
 GINSBERG, X. 630; V. 195; III. 394; VI. 585
 GINZO DE LIMLA (Santa Marina), Spanish town, X. 630.
 Gisherite, mineral, XV. 92
 GIOIA (Flavio), X. 630, 470; II. 647, XIV. 2; XVI. 3; XX. 240
 Giordani, his work on insects, IX. 22.
 GIORDANO (Luca), painter, X. 630, XVII. 73.
 GIORGIONE, or Giorgio Barbarelli, X. 630; III. 710; XVII. 70; XXI. 290
 Giorno (S.), his work on insects, IX. 8
 GIORNOVICH (Giovanni Maria), musician, X. 631.
 GIOTTO, X. 631; XVII. 61, 70.
 Giovanni de Bologna, sculptor, XIX. 863.
 GIOVENAZZO, town of Naples, X. 631.
 GIOVIO (Paolo) See Jovius (Paulus)
 GIPPS (Sir George), governor of New South Wales, IV. 278.
 GIREZIS, X. 631. See Gyppies.
 GIRAFFE, X. 631, XIV. 209, 204, II. 217, XVII. 632—dentation of, XVI. 406—fossil, XVII. 633—erectile arrangement in its tongue, III. 100. See Camelopard.
 GIRAUD (Lillo Gregorio), X. 631.
 GIRALDUS CAMBRENSIS, X. 631; IV. 475
 Girard (Albert), X. 504—his discoveries in algebra, I. 519, 708; II. 485—his character, I. 708—on hydrodynamics, XII. 73, 140, 146—his restoration of the lost books of Euclid, XVIII. 380
 —College, Philadelphia, XVII. 509.

GIR—GLA

- Girard's lamp, XIII. 171.
 GIRDER, X. 631; V. 749; VII. 328; XII. 586—trussed girders, 599—bowstring girders, 602—tubular girders, 606—building up a girder, VI. 261—girder rails, XVIII. 758—strength of, XX. 197, 781
 GIRDLE, X. 631
 —of Hope, order of, XIII. 121.
 GIRGEE in Upper Egypt, X. 631; VIII. 505
 GIRENTI, in Sicily, X. 632, II. 421, XX. 245, 255
 GIRONDE, in France, X. 632.
 GIRONDISTES, X. 632, 71 *et seq.*—their destruction, 83
 GIRONIS (St), in France, X. 632.
 GIEVAN, in Ayrshire, X. 632
 GISCO, VI. 290, 291.
 Gismondine, mineral, XV. 77
 GISONS, town in France, X. 632
 Gisquet, Parisian police under, XVIII. 188, 189
 Gisl (J.), his work on insects, IX. 21.
 GITONA, genus of insects, IX. 257
 GITTIH, X. 632
 GIUGLIANO, town in Naples, X. 633
 GIULIANO (San), town in Sicily, X. 633
 GIULIO ROMANO, painter, X. 633, XVII. 69.
 GIURGOVO, in Wallachia, X. 633.
 GIVEX, town in France, X. 633
 GIVONS, town in France, X. 633
 Givry, qualities of the stone of, XX. 717, 718, 759.
 Gizeh, or El-Geczeh, VIII. 499—pyramids of, III. 436; VIII. 500
 Gizzard of birds, III. 109—of insects, IX. 51.
 Glacial deposits, XV. 215.
 GLACIER, X. 633—origin of, VI. 780—of the Alps, II. 625—of Norway, XVI. 320, 625—not found among the Andes, III. 130—of the Pyrenees, XVIII. 700—influence of, on rocks, XV. 139—in Britain, during the pleistocene period, 215—icebergs formed by, XII. 196—abrading and transporting power of, XVII. 603. See Moiranes.
 Glaciers, their action as geological agents first understood by Playfair, I. 803, n.—number in Switzerland, XX. 888—Count Rumford on a curious phenomenon in those of Chamouni, XXI. 231.
 GLACIS, in fortification, X. 640; IX. 819.
 GLADBACH, in Rhenish Prussia, X. 640
 GLADIATORS, X. 640, II. 730—insurrection of Roman, XIX. 322—statue of the Dying Gladiator, VIII. Plate.
 GLADOVA, or Kladova, in Servia, X. 641; VII. 653
 Gladstone (W. E.), as a philologist, XVII. 525
 Glaisher (Mr), on terrestrial radiation, XIV. 645—his hygrometrical tables, 653—on snow-crystals, 659—annual temperature, 672—his thermometers, XXI. 221.
 Glammis castle, XIII. 2—Glammis sandstone, XX. 711.
 GLAMORGANSHIRE, X. 641—population and value of property, VIII. 754.
 GLAMOUR, X. 642.
 GLANCE-COAL, X. 642; XV. 123.
 GLAND, X. 642, IX. 758—structure and classification of glands, II. 832—lymphatic, 805—mucous, 836—lacrimal, III. 45—salivary, 49—pineal, 54—Peyroian, 61—prostate, 70—Cowper's, *ib.*—mammary, 72—poison-glands of serpents, 113; XIX. 44—blood-glands, XVII. 660—of plants, V. 75
 Glanders, disease in horses, XXI. 673
 GLANDFORD BRIDGE, town in Lincoln, X. 642.
 Glandina, fossil mollusks, XVII. 111.
 Glandular cells, XVII. 650.
 Glanibanta, Roman station, VIII. 267.
 GLANVILL (Joseph), X. 642—his Scypsis Scientifica, I. 42, n. 3—his illustrations of Descartes's doctrine, 63.
 Glanville (Ranulph), his work De Legibus &c. Anglia, XX. 314.

GLA—GLE

- Glaphyra, VI. 223.
 Glareola, genus of birds, XVI. 808
 GLARUS, or Glaris, in Switzerland, X. 643; XX. 882—fossil fishes in schists of, XII. 354, 355; XVII. 640—schists of, belonging to the eocene tertiary period, 128.
 Glaserite, mineral, XV. 99
 GLASGOW, X. 645—alum works near, II. 637, 640—quantity of vapour in the air at, IV. 183—canal to Johnstone, 333—and Ayr Railway, *ib.*—Glasgow, Dumbfries, and Carlisle Railway, *ib.*—cotton manufactures, VII. 446, 449 *et seq.*—cotton-mills, 451—turkey-red dye-works, VIII. 292—iron manufactures of, XII. 639—population of, XIII. 176; XIX. 800—embroidery of muslins in, XIV. 285—projected supply of water from Loch Katrine for, XII. 141—Dr Chalmers' labours in, VI. 404—university library, XIII. 403—mortality, XV. 613—stone wharves at, XVI. 79—post-office statistics, XVIII. 416—societies in, XX. 368—rule for estimating horsepower in steam-engines, 602—university, XXI. 476 See Clyde
 GLASLYN, in North Wales, X. 657.
 Glasnevin, VIII. 214.
 GLASS, X. 657—achromatic glasses, II. 86—anaclastic, 743—its vast utility to science, III. 198—annealing of, 218—burning-glasses, VI. 1; XI. 275—alleged discovery of the manner of making it, IV. 643—trade of Birmingham, 732—use of brass in colouring, V. 277—cement for broken, VI. 368—etching on, VIII. 813—specific gravity of, XII. 88—its utility and beauty, XIV. 273—musical glasses, XI. 230—use of gold, in staining, X. 702—transmission of heat through, I. 954—ancient allusions to, XVI. 521—colours of decomposed, 600—films of decomposed glass, 603—polarising structure in heated, I. 912—in regular dilatation of, 958—manufactured by the Phoenicians, XX. 906—glass trade of Sunderland, 808. See Barometer, Glazing, Lens, Mirror.
 —houses, XI. 755, 756.
 —(Mr), his opinions concerning the primitive church, XII. 371 and n
 Glass-blowers, diseases of, XIV. 443
 Glass-manufactures of England, VIII. 732—*Ireland*, XII. 621—*France*, X. 256—of Bohemia, IV. 310, 314—at Birmingham, 732—of Newcastle, XVI. 167—Prussia, XVIII. 689—glass-blower's bellows, IV. 792—water-pressure blow-pipe, *ib.*—glass-cutting, X. 673, 674—early practised at Sidon, XX. 269. See Glass.
 GLASSITES, religious sect, X. 675—places of worship in Scotland, XIX. 801.
 GLASTONBURY, in Somersetshire, X. 675—foreign cloth-makers settled at, XXI. 915
 GLATZ, Prussian city, X. 675.
 GLAUBER (John Rodolph), X. 675.
 Glauber-salt, XV. 97; X. 675.
 Glauberite, XV. 96; XVI. 658.
 GLAUCHAU, town of Saxony, X. 676.
 Glauconite, mineral, XV. 71.
 GLAUCOMA, X. 676
 Glaucoma, genus of mollusks, XV. 350.
 Glaucothane, mineral, XV. 86.
 Glauconia, genus of insects, IX. 210—of birds, XVI. 768.
 Glaucomia, genus of fishes, XII. 276
 GLAUCUS, X. 676—genus of mollusks, XV. 370.
 Glaukodote, mineral, XV. 115.
 Glazier, V. 756—glazier's vice, X. 670—diamond, 671; VIII. 5—his work, in a building, V. 756.
 GLAZING of earthenware, X. 676, XVIII. 442—of windows, X. 660—of gunpowder, XI. 155—of cloth, by calendaring, VI. 91.
 GLAZE, X. 676.
 Gleditch on shoals of ants in Germany, III. 265.
 Gleditschia, genus of trees, XVII. 763.

GLE—GLU

GLEE, in music, X. 676
 Gleet, nasal, in animals, XXI. 571
 GLEIG (George), Bishop of Brechin, X. 676
 —on Prof. Robison, XIX. 240
 GREEN (J. W. Ludwig), German poet, X. 677
 GLEIWITZ, Prussian town, X. 677
 GLENCOE, X. 677—massacre of, V. 443, 444; XXI. 7.
 Glencorse reservoir, III. 338.
 GLENDALAGE, or Glendalough, X. 677; XXI. 558, 559.
 GLENDOWER (Owen), X. 677; VIII. 687
 Glengel (Lord). See Grant (Charles).
 Glengall (Lord), his evidence on salmon fishing, IX. 619
 Glengariff sandstones, XV. 200
 Glengarry, XII. 438
 Glenmore, XII. 438; XIX. 794
 Glème (Mr.), on gunnery, XI. 121
 Glenn (Mr.), his description of florists' flowers, XI. 751, 752, 753.
 Glentromites, fossil echinoderms, XVII. 98.
 Glenroy, XII. 438.
 Glentilt, IV. 175; XVII. 457.
 GLIN, town in Limerick, X. 677
 Glines, order of mammalia, XIV. 177, 135
 Gilsorex, teeth of, XVI. 451.
 GISSON (Francis), physician, X. 677—his anatomical researches, II. 762—on the nerves, 814
 GLOBE, X. 678 See Earth.
 Globe-animal, III. 199.
 Globe-fishes See Diodontidae.
 Globes, artificial, X. 678—terrestrial, 435—celestial, ib.—description and use of, in geography, ib.—solution of problems by, 486, 487—for the use of the blind, IV. 777
 —sections of, their use in masonry, XX. 728
 Globicephalus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 225
 Globigerina, fossils, XVII. 93
 Globulariaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 202
 Globules, of the blood, II. 779—quantity increased by the use of preparations of iron, XV. 39, n.—of the ganglia, II. 811
 Globuline, II. 780
 Globulodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 337.
 GLOGAU, Prussian city, X. 678.
 Gloma, genus of insects, IX. 235.
 Glomach waterfall, XIX. 426.
 Glomeria, genus of myriapoda, XV. 748
 GLOMOM, Norwegian river, X. 678; XVI. 321.
 Glories, or halos, colours of, VI. 648
 Glory of God, XXI. 192.
 GLOSS, X. 678.
 GLOSSARY, X. 678—of architectural terms, III. 507
 Glossop, in Derbyshire, X. 678.
 Glossophaga, genus of mammalia, XIV. 149.
 Glottalite, mineral, XV. 77.
 Glottis, in man, III. 50, 51; XVII. 678—in animals, III. 101.
 Glottidium, in mollusks, XV. 355.
 GLOUCESTER, X. 678—siege of, in 1643, V. 403.
 —in Massachusetts, U. S., XIV. 341
 —Robert of, his rhyming Chronicle, XVIII. 120
 GLOUCESTERSHIRE, X. 679—cheese, VII. 625—population and value of property, VIII. 754—large oak in, XXI. 274
 Glove, X. 682—glove trade of England, VIII. 731—of France, X. 256—in the time of Shakespeare, XX. 76—exports of, XIII. 811.
 GLOVER (Richard), X. 682—his poetry, XVIII. 124.
 GLOW-WORM, X. 683; IX. 107; XIII. 458
 GLOWOW, Russian town, X. 683.
 Glucina, VI. 488; XV. 65.
 Glucium, VI. 488.
 GLUCK (Christopher Willibald von), X. 683—his imitative music, XV. 787.
 GLUCKSBADT, town of Denmark, X. 683
 GLUM, X. 684—Indian—Jeffery's marine, ib.; XX. 190—liquid, X. 684—obtained from skins, II. 834—its use in joinery, V. 753; XII. 811.

GLU—GOB

Glumelia, in botany, V. 125.
 Glumes of grasses, V. 125
 Glumifera, sub-class of plants, V. 215.
 Gluteus, a muscle, III. 92.
 Glutin, II. 381.
 GLUTEN (vegetable), X. 684; VIII. 19, IX. 657—in bread, IV. 379
 Glutinous hag, fish, XII. 227
 Gluts, in the market, XVIII. 259
 GLUTTON, X. 684; XIV. 156—in Norway, XVI. 824—Laplant, XIII. 235
 Glycas (Michael), historian, X. 684
 Glycera, genus of annelides, XI. 299, 291.
 GLYCERINE, X. 684; VI. 510, II. 381; XVI. 492
 Glycmeris, genus of mollusks, XV. 350—fossil, XVII. 108.
 Glycoine, VI. 512
 Glypheia, fossil lobsters, XVII. 102
 Glyphis, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 341.
 Glyphisodon, genus of fishes, XII. 265
 GLYPTICS, X. 685; VIII. 813
 Glypticus, fossil echinoidae, XVII. 100
 Glyptcephalus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 338
 Glyptocrinus, fossil echinoderms, XVII. 98
 Glyptodon, XVII. 174, 639—teeth of, XVI. 441.
 Glyptolepis, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 336; XVII. 123
 Glyptosteus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 336
 GMELIN (Johann Friedrich), naturalist, X. 685—his edition of the Systema Naturae, III. 183; IX. 4; portion on ornithology, XVI. 729.
 —(JOHANN GEORG), X. 686
 —(SAMUEL GOTTLIEB), X. 686
 —(Eberhard), advocate of animal magnetism, XX. 442
 Gmelinite, mineral, XV. 76.
 Gmund, town in Wurtemberg, X. 686
 Gmunden, in Upper Austria, X. 686
 Gnat, IX. 224
 Gnathium, genus of insects, IX. 136
 Gnathodon, genus of mollusks, XV. 350
 Gnatha. See Egnatha
 Gnawers, in zoology, XIV. 177. See Rodentia.
 Gneiss, XV. 154—soils from, II. 390—its distribution in Scotland, XIX. 792—in Sutherland, XX. 841
 GNESEN, Prussian town, X. 686.
 Gnetaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 210.
 Gnomia, genus of insects, IX. 145.
 GNOME, X. 686.
 GNOMON, X. 686, 464, VII. 772, 777.
 Gnomones, VII. 772
 Gnoristia, genus of insects, IX. 223
 Gnosstus, in Crete, X. 686, VII. 41
 Gnostics, I. 507—meaning of the name, ib. n.—their opinions of a hierarchy of angels, III. 311. See Gnosticism.
 GNOSTICISM, X. 686, IX. 421, XVII. 232.
 GNU, X. 689; XIV. 211.
 GOA, X. 689—attack of, III. 675—library at, XIII. 431—weights and measures, XXI. 811
 Goagrazes, V. 279, 280.
 GOALPARAH, town in Hindustan, X. 690.
 Goands, in Hindustan, XI. 95.
 GOAT, X. 690; XIV. 211; II. 354—of America, 713—milk of, XV. 11—flesh, IX. 762—of India, XI. 455—of Angora, III. 166—Cashmere, VI. 809; XI. 455; XXI. 906—Rocky Mountain, XIV. 211; XXI. 906—Palestine, XVII. 191—leather from the skins of, XIII. 805—number and distribution of, XVII. 632—Tibet, XXI. 247.
 —ISLAND, X. 690; VI. 135.
 Goatfell, VI. 27.
 Goatsuckers, birds, XVI. 758.
 GOATLIN tapestry, X. 690—manufactory of, VI. 271; X. 255; XXI. 20
 Gobar, province of Honssa, XI. 777.
 Gobi, in Central Asia, X. 690; III. 732; XV. 495; XVII. 614.
 Gobliida, or Goblioids, family of fishes, XII. 305, 306—fossil, 344.
 Gobius, genus of fishes, XII. 306—fossil, 344.

GOB—GOH

Gobies, fishes, XII. 305
 Gobioses, genus of fishes, XII. 305, 307
 Goble (George), clairvoyant, XX. 438—his imposture detected, 439.
 Goch, in Rhenish Prussia, X. 690
 Gobio, genus of fishes, XII. 257—fossil, 346.
 GON, X. 690—Descartes' argument for the existence of, I. 59—Clarke and Newton's reasonings, 140 and n. 2, 141, VI. 757—our idea of, associated with those of infinite space, and endless duration, I. 141—impossibility of finding proper language to describe the nature and attributes of, 147—three different manifestations of, 486—glory of God, meaning of the phrase, 518—Scriptures explain what he is relatively to us, not what he is absolutely in himself, ib.—Epicurean doctrines respecting, III. 189, n.; IX. 273—views of the Athenians respecting, IV. 211, 216—of Plato, XVII. 803, 806, 810, 812, 813—blasphemy against, IV. 754—being and attributes of, XIV. 619, XV. 556, 557—his nature the basis of moral rectitude, 556—his revelations of himself the criterion of moral rectitude, 557—duty to, 570, 571—love to, 562—notation of, in Hegel's system, XI. 283—how represented in hieroglyphics, 380—Kant on the existence of, XIII. 49—Socrates on the evidence of his existence and attributes derived from final causes, XX. 403—doctrine concerning, XXI. 184—concept of, ib.—existence of, 185—names, 188—attributes, 189—unity, 192—works of, 195—reverence due to, ib. See Atheism, Theology, Trinitry.
 Gods, pagan, I. 437—character of, 458, 459; XIV. 621—worship offered to, I. 459—were often deified men, 513—river-gods, XIX. 180 See Mythology.
 GODALMING, in Surrey, X. 690; XX. 836
 Godard, earl of Athlone, XI. 323, n. 3.
 —(J. B.), his works on insects, IX. 15.
 GODAVERY, Indian river, X. 690, 598, 599; XI. 450; XVII. 647; XVIII. 800
 Godofrey, See Gothofred.
 Godolph (Lord), his brief administration, V. 649.
 —in Canada, VI. 138
 GODFATHERS and GODMOTHERS, X. 690.
 GODFREY of Bouillon, X. 690—raised to the throne of Jerusalem, VII. 525, XII. 734, XVII. 196
 —murder of, V. 427.
 GODMANCHESTER, in Huntingdon, X. 691
 GODOLPHIN (Sydney), earl of Godolphin, X. 691; V. 445
 Godoy (Don Manuel de), X. 149; XX. 472; XIII. 11.
 GODWIN (Earl), VIII. 662
 —(FRANCIS), X. 691.
 —(MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT), X. 692.
 —(WILLIAM), X. 691—his novels, XIX. 278
 Godwits, birds, XVI. 803
 Goedart (John), his work on insects, IX. 8
 GOES, or Ter-goes, town in Holland, X. 693
 —(Pedro de), V. 280.
 GOTTRE (John Wolfgang von), X. 693—his plays, VIII. 167—his claims to be the discoverer of the vertebral theory of the skull, XVI. 601, 602—his friendship with Lavater, XIII. 251, 252—poetry of, XVIII. 119—novels, XIX. 293.
 Goetz, missionary, III. 753.
 Goetze on entozoa, XXI. 974, 977, 978.
 Gog, X. 701—and Magog, ib.
 GOGORAH, river in Hindustan, X. 701; XVII. 647.
 Gogo, seaport in Hindustan, X. 701.
 GOGUET (Antoine-Yves), X. 701—on the origin of writing, II. 806—on castes, VI. 814—on the advantages of coined money, XV. 418.
 Gohar, VII. 477.
 Gohud, town in Hindustan, X. 701.

GOH—GOM

GOTTRE, X. 701—common on the delta of the Oronoco, XXI. 536—in Westmoreland, 842 See Cretins
 GOIZUETA, Spanish town, X. 701
 Gokumite, mineral, X. 85.
 GOLCONDA, X. 701, VIII. 1—diamonds no longer found at, XI. 458
 GOLD, X. 701; XV. 66, 113—sources from which chiefly obtained, 230—in chemistry, VI. 499—its ductility, 443, 482, VIII. 229; X. 702—assaying of, III. 772—carat, VI. 229—its value in the early part of last century, VII. 378—relative proportion of silver to, 78—amount coined at the royal mint, 95—recoining in 1774, 79, in 1842, 81—routine of coinage at the mint, 84—supply of, in early ages, 77, 188—effect of its increase on productive industry, 188—decrease in the supply of, 191, made up by the gold discoveries of 1843 and 1851, ib.—specific gravity of, III. 88—gold coins of Britain, XV. 438, 439, of different countries, 441, 442—debasement of, XIV. 428—its poisonous qualities, 434—distribution of, XV. 231; XVII. 621—preparation of, XV. 233—why more valuable than silver, XVIII. 241—how used in gilding porcelain, 444—printing in, 557—cohesion of, XX. 756—on Tasmania, XXI. 82 See Precious Metals, Gold-mines
 —diggings in New South Wales, IV. 276, 277, in California, VI. 97, in New Zealand, XVI. 235
 —COAST, X. 704, II. 227; XI. 88, 89.
 GOLD-BEATING, X. 702—shell gold—size—thread—wire, ib.
 Gold-fish, XII. 255.
 Gold-leaf, X. 702, 703, 625—in gold lacemaking, XIII. 145.
 Gold-mines, XV. 230, 113—of America, II. 705; XV. 232—Assam, 764—Australia, IV. 275, 276, 277, 278, XV. 232—Bambouk, IX. 408—Bolivia, 824—Brazil, V. 283, 282, 288—Bogota, IV. 809—Burmah, V. 779—Bukhara, 758—California, VI. 97, 98; XV. 232—Chile, VI. 548, 550—Carolina, 246—Europe, IX. 387—Hindustan, XI. 457—Honduras, 613—Hungary, IV. 318; XII. 17—Ireland, 506—Japan, 689—Mexico, XIV. 715—Ural Mountains, XV. 231—United States, 232—Peru, XVII. 471—Russia, XIX. 542, 543—Sumatra, 804—Tibet, XXI. 247—Venezuela, 536—Virginia, 598 See Gold, Gold-diggings, Precious Metals
 Gold-of-pleasure, plant, II. 335—oil of, XVI. 495.
 Gold-powder for bronzing, V. 677.
 GOLDAPP, in East Prussia, X. 704.
 GOLDAPP, in Switzerland, X. 704
 GOLDBERG, Prussian town, X. 704
 GOLDEN FLEECE, X. 704, III. 524—order of the, X. 704; IX. 659; XIII. 116.
 —NUMBER, X. 704; VI. 81, 84.
 Goldfinch, XVI. 761.
 Goldfuss (F.), his work on insects, IX. 24.
 —(Prof.), on a fossil reptile, XVII. 123.
 GOLDFONI (Carlo), X. 704—his comedies, VIII. 148.
 GOLDSMITH, X. 705.
 —(OLIVER), X. 705—his comedies, VIII. 166—his birthplace, XIII. 684—his poetry, XVIII. 124—Vicar of Wakefield, XIX. 275—his defective reading, XXI. 172.
 GOLEGA, town in Portugal, X. 709.
 Goletta, XII. 365
 GOLF, Scotch game, X. 709—golf-balls manufactured at St Andrews, III. 136.
 GOLGOTHA, X. 709.
 Goliathides, family of insects, IX. 127.
 Goliathus, genus of insects, IX. 127.
 GOLUS (James), X. 709—a portion of the works of Apollonius recovered by, III. 301
 GOLLNOW, Prussian town, X. 709.
 GOLNITZ, in Hungary, X. 709.
 Golownin, on Japan, XII. 688, 692 et seq.
 Gomarus (Dr), XI. 573.

GOM—GOO

Gomarists, III. 617; X. 573.
GOMEROON, Persian seaport, X. 709; V. 764.
Gomer, descendants of, VIII. 45; VI. 365.
GOMERA, one of the Canaries, X. 710; VI. 167.
Gomez (General), XX. 480.
GOMOR, town in Hungary, X. 710.
GOMORRAH, X. 710, III. 761; XVII. 187.
Gompertz on the value of life contingencies, III. 223, XII. 401.
Gomphocerus, genus of insects, IX. 180.
Gomphosus, genus of fishes, XII. 267.
Gomul river, II. 202.
GONDAR, in Abyssinia, X. 710, II. 58—Bruce's residence at, V. 690.
Gondl. See Retz (Cardinal de).
GONDOLA, X. 710—use of, in Venice, XXI. 538.
Gonda, XI. 466.
GONG, X. 710, XV. 713, 709—Japanese, XII. 706.
Gong-metal, VI. 497, 586.
GONGORA y ARGOTE (Luis de), X. 710—his poetry, XVIII. 115.
Gonia, genus of insects, IX. 243.
Goniattes, fossil mollusks, XVII. 112.
Gonidia, in lichens, V. 146.
Goniodontidae, family of fishes, XII. 263.
Goniognathus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 345.
GONIOMETER, X. 710; XV. 50, I. 972.
Goniometry, the name under which Euler's arithmetic of series is cultivated in Germany, I. 713.
Goniopholis, fossil reptiles, XVII. 152.
Gonium, genus of animalcules, III. 201.
GONNEM (F. Von), mesmerist, XX. 438.
GONGONG APEE, X. 710, IV. 409.
Gonoplax angulata, VII. 541.
Gonoiichthyidae, family of fishes, XII. 264.
Gonorhynchus, genus of fishes, XII. 255.
Gonostoma, genus of fishes, XII. 247.
Gonsalvo (Ludovico), his memoirs of Loyola, XII. 749.
Gontian, X. 4.
Gonzago, Brazilian poet, V. 298.
Gonzalvo, voyage of, IV. 262.
Good, XV. 557; XX. 398—the chief, or summum bonum, III. 560, XV. 573.
—FRIDAY, X. 710; I. 502.
—HOPE (CAPE OF), X. 711; II. 227—first doubled by Vasco da Gama, 393, XX. 124—observatory at, III. 818, IV. 90—ant-hills at, III. 263—insurance offices in, XII. 413—disturbances at, in 1825, V. 641—astronomical observations at, III. 118; V. 60, I. 802—discovery of, VII. 188, X. 393—taken by the British, 104—variation of the needle at, XIV. 52—height of waves off, XVII. 582—plants of, V. 222, 228, 229—heat of the sun at, XIV. 637; of the surface of the soil, 644—formation of clouds at, 635—fall of rain, 658—wines of, XXI. 887, 889—weights and measures, 810—wool from, 913.
—(John Mason), on the origin of the name of Macaonic poetry, VIII. 249, n. 3—on the African rat, XVI. 449—his life of Dr. Geddes, X. 445.
Goodemace, nat. order of plants, V. 197.
Goodfellow (B.), his steam-engine machinery, XX. 605, 606—his engines, 610—fine-bollers, 617.
Goodlake (Thomas), on the greyhound, XI. 772.
GOODWIN SANDS, X. 716; XIII. 65.
—(Mr.), Greco-Egyptian work on magic, edited by, VIII. 443, n. 1.
—(Mr.), his manufacture of sal-ammoniac, II. 721.
—(Mr.), on the diseases of the horse, XI. 664.
Googe (Barnaby), his work on husbandry, II. 256.
GOOLLE, in Yorkshire, X. 716.
GOOMSUR, town in Hindustan, X. 716.
GOOMT, river of Hindustan, X. 716; XVII. 15.
Goor, XX. 798, 796.
GOORGAON, town in Hindustan, X. 716.

GOO—GOS

Goosander, bird, XVI. 819.
GOOSE, X. 716, XVI. 816—great numbers of geese in Mecklenburg, XIV. 419—its flesh, IX. 762—grease, XVI. 493—quills from, XVII. 899—goose-liver pies, XX. 747.
Goose-skin, in anatomy, II. 834.
GOOSEBERRY, X. 716; V. 194—culture of, XI. 718—fruit of, V. 138—as food, IX. 759.
—order of plants, V. 194.
Goosefoot order of plants, V. 203.
Gopher wood, III. 608.
GOPPINGEN, in Wurtemberg, X. 716.
GORCAH, X. 717. See Ghooicah.
GORCUM, town in Holland, X. 717.
GORDIAN KNOT, X. 717; XIII. 767.
GORDIANUS (M. A. Africanus), Roman emperor, X. 717, XIX. 348.
—(M. ANTONIUS), Pius, Roman emperor, X. 717; XIX. 348.
GORDIUM, in Asia Minor, X. 717; XIII. 767.
Gordius, genus of annelides, XI. 302, 307.
GORDON (Robert, Rev. Dr.), X. 717.
—(THOMAS), X. 717—his translation of Tacitus, XXI. 5.
—(Adam), VI. 606.
—(Col. Hon. A.), on artillery, III. 686.
—(Dr. John), his system of anatomy, II. 767—on the veins, 794—on the lymphatics, 804, 805—on lymphatic glands, 805—on the nerves, 806—on the skin, 834—his opposition to Spurzheim's views, XX. 519.
—(Lord George), his notes, V. 401.
—(Prof.), of Erfurt, on electricity, VIII. 626.
—(Mr.), on the Greek revolution, XI. 27, 29, 31.
Gordon's Hospital, Aberdeen, II. 30.
GORE, in heraldry, X. 717.
—(G.), his experiments in voltaic electricity, XXI. 631.
—(Miss), her novels, XIX. 283.
GOREL, island, X. 717—trade of, XX. 49—geology, 50.
Goirey, in Wexford, XXI. 846, 847.
Gorfons, birds, XVI. 811.
GORGU, in architecture, X. 717.
—in fortification, X. 717.
GORGON, in heraldry, X. 717.
Gorgei, dictator of Hungary, XII. 24, 25—his attack on Buda, XVII. 480.
GORGERT, X. 717.
Gorgias of Leontini, IV. 205.
Gorgonidae, polyps, XXI. 1004.
GORGONS, in mythology, X. 717.
Gorham case, XI. 351.
Goring (Dr.), on microscopes, XIV. 763 et seq.—his solar camera microscope, 791, 792—on the illumination of microscopic objects, 796, 799—on test-objects, 802.
GORITZ, in Illyria, X. 718.
GORLITZ, Prussian town, X. 718.
Goro, XVII. 241.
Gorresio (G.), his translation of the Ramayana, XVII. 529.
Goise, II. 829—suitable forage for milch cows, VII. 632; XIII. 86—covers of, XII. 37—as a hedge, XVII. 760—as a protection to young trees, XXI. 273.
GORT, town in Galway, X. 718.
GORTHO, modern name of Cornith, X. 718, VII. 367, 368.
Gorton locomotive station, XVIII. 775.
Gortschakoff (Prince), XIX. 500.
GORTYNA, in Crete, X. 718—coins of, XVI. 373.
GORUCKPORE, town in Hindustan, X. 718.
Gory (L.), his works on insects, IX. 18.
Goshawk, XI. 248.
GOSHIER, in Egypt, X. 718; XVIII. 819.
GOSKI (J. B.), his work on insects, IX. 23.
GOSLAR, town in Hanover, X. 718.
GOSLARIE, mineral, XV. 98.
Gospatrie, XIX. 747.
GOSPEL, X. 718—introduction of, I. 480—though springing out of the Mosaic, is in itself a new religion, 481—points which distinguish it from the Mosaic dispensation, ib.—contrast between the

GOS—GOU

two, ib. 482—sacraments under, 482—worship, 481—its spirituality, ib.—universality, 484—unity, 486—supplies principles to regulate the conduct, but no precise code of laws, 484—admits all to an equality of privileges, 486, 489—chief causes of opposition to, 506. See Bible, Apocrypha.
GOSPORT, in Hampshire, X. 718, XVIII. 379—aurora borealis seen at, IV. 243.
GOSSAMER, X. 718.
Gossan, mineral, XV. 222.
Gosse (P. H.), his opinions regarding fossils, XVII. 124—his arrangement of the actinoids, XXI. 1004, n. 2.
Gosselin (M.), on the Periphus of Hanno, II. 219; X. 461—on a supposed error of Ptolemy, 467—on geography, 465, 467, 473.
Gossir, X. 718.
Gossypium, cotton plant, V. 184, VII. 425.
Gotaland, or Gotland, division of Sweden, XX. 864.
GOTAMA BUDDHA, X. 719; VI. 397.
GOTHA, in Germany, X. 725, 593; XIX. 681—library at, XIII. 433.
—river and canal in Sweden, X. 725; XXI. 832.
GOTHAM, in Nottinghamshire, X. 725; XVI. 340.
GOTHARD (St.), X. 725, II. 623, XX. 867; XXI. 495.
Gothaite, mineral, XV. 108.
GOTHENBURG, in Sweden, X. 725, 729, XX. 884.
Gothic architecture, III. 445, 449, 456, 479, 517—more scientific than Grecian or Roman, 402—arches, 409—spires, 410—roof, XIX. 373—Wien not successful in, XXI. 936.
—LANGUAGE, X. 725; IX. 392, XVII. 581, 589—alphabet, II. 615—Bibles, IV. 701; XIX. 840—its structure derived from that of the Greek, XIII. 210—Loid's prayer in, X. 729—race in Europe, IX. 388. See Gothis.
—school, in Swedish literature, XIX. 700.
GOTHOFRED (Dems), X. 726.
—(James), his edition of, and commentary on, the Theodosian code, VI. 741, 744.
GOTHS, X. 726, V. 374; IX. 368; VI. 364—agriculture under the, II. 251—defeated by Constantine, VII. 302—their wars with the Romans, 309 et seq.—their conquest of Rome, X. 577; XIX. 363, of Italy, XII. 640—state of Italian art under them, XVII. 60—their kingdom in Spain, XX. 459, 460—their invasions of the Roman empire, XIX. 348 et seq. See Gothic.
GOTTENBURG, X. 729. See Gothenburg.
GUTTINGEN, in Hanover, X. 729—library of, XIII. 420—magnetic conference at, XIV. 18—magnetical observations at, I. 994—university of, XXI. 492.
GOTTLAND, island in the Baltic, X. 729.
GOTTSCHE, XIX. 717.
Gouda, town in Holland, X. 730.
Goudok, three-stringed violin, X. 730.
Gougane Barna, lake, VII. 371.
Gough (Lord), his defeat of the Mahattas, V. 689; XI. 168; of the Sikhs, V. 670; XVIII. 698—his victory at Gujerat, XI. 91—engagement at Chillianwalla, VI. 554; XVIII. 693.
Goujon, sculptor, XIX. 865.
Gould's extract, IX. 467.
Goulburn (Mr.), his act for the suppression of the Catholic Association in Ireland, V. 642.
Gould (Dr.), of Boston, on the preservation of foot-prints, XVII. 130.
—(John), his works on birds, XVI. 732, 824, n. 826.
—(Mr.), on ants, III. 261, 264.
Gould's steam apparatus for ventilation, XXI. 841.
Gouma, bird, XVI. 194.
Gourd, V. 193—culture of, XI. 736.
—order of plants, V. 192.
Gourdon, in France, X. 730.

GOU—GRA

Gournay (Jean-Claude-Marie Vincent de), VIII. 874—on political economy, XVII. 220.
GOUROCK, X. 730.
Goury (Mr. Jules), his illustration of Moorish remains in Granada, III. 503.
Gousix, ancient harp, X. 730.
Gout, X. 730—Barthez on, IV. 481.
Govea (Andrew), V. 715, 716.
GOVERNMENT, X. 731—modern improvements in, I. 24—Aristotle on, III. 568—governments of Asia, 750, Athens, IV. 213; Anstraha, 283; England, VIII. 756, ancient Egypt, 440, Denmark, VII. 749; France, X. 277; Greece, XI. 18; of the United States, XXI. 428; feebleness of existing, 437—(see other countries)—Buchanan's works on, V. 718—passive obedience, 719—always spends what it is able to extract from the people, VII. 140—tendency of colonial possessions to produce or prolong misrule, 146—evils of an undue expenditure by, 199—cases in which revolt against is justifiable, I. 544—manufacturing by, XIV. 290—as a basis of law, XIII. 256—offences of the press with respect to, 364—Paley on, XVII. 200—Plato on, 810. See Aristocracy, Democracy, Economists, Monarchy, &c.
Governors, in mechanics, XIV. 410—in regulating gas-lights, X. 421—in steam-engines, XX. 695—marine, 653.
GOWER (John), X. 739, VI. 434, XVIII. 120, 121.
—or GWTR, peninsula, X. 740.
Gowhaty, III. 763, 764.
Gowland (Mr.), his escapement, VII. 13.
Gowne, Carse of, VI. 276. See Carse.
Gowne's conspiracy in Scotland, XIX. 789.
—Lord Hailes' work on, VII. 635.
GOYANNA, town in Brazil, X. 740.
GOZAR, town in Brazil, X. 740.
GOYNECHE (General), IV. 832.
GOTT, river in Debysheue, X. 740.
GOZO, island, X. 740; XIV. 116.
GOZZI (Gaspardo and Carlo), X. 740, 741.
Graaf (Regnier de), his anatomical researches, II. 702.
Grahb (Captain), his researches in Greenland, XI. 39, 41.
GRABE (John Ernest), X. 741.
GRABOW, in Germany, X. 741.
GRACCHUS (Caus), X. 741, XIX. 313—Caius rebuilt by, VI. 303.
—(Sempronius), VI. 297.
—(Therulus), X. 741; XIX. 313.
GRACE, days of, X. 741; IX. 428.
—title, XXI. 291.
—in theology, controversy of Malebranche regarding, I. 74—Warburton on the doctrine of, XXI. 835—means of, 219.
—use of the word in the University of Cambridge, XXI. 462.
GRACES, in mythology, X. 741.
—the covenant of Charles I. with the Irish, XII. 480.
GRACIAS, in Honduras, XI. 613.
GRACIOSA, one of the Azores, X. 741; IV. 386.
—one of the Canaries, VI. 167.
Grackle, bird, XVI. 754—bare-necked, 751—paradise, 754—piping, 748.
Gracula, genus of birds, XVI. 754.
Gradients of railways, XVIII. 769, 794, 795—their influence on speed, 793.
Gradino, in architecture, III. 510.
GRADISKA, Turkish town, X. 741; XXI. 371.
GRADUATION, of mathematical instruments, X. 741—of hygrometers, XII. 186—of thermometers, XXI. 223, 224.
—in the arts, X. 742.
GRACIA MAGNA, X. 742.
GRACCO-Roman theory on the site of Troy, XXI. 868.
Græcus (Magnus), his claims to the invention of gunpowder, XI. 150.
GRÆVINS (John George), X. 742; V. 786.
GRAFFING, X. 743—by approach, II. 41—propagation by, XI. 694, 703; V. 167,

GRA—GRA

- XVII. 767—propagation of fruit-trees by, XI. 703.
 Grafton (Mr), on the deposit in gas reports, X. 414.
 — (Richard), printer, XVIII. 537.
 GRAHAM (George), X. 743—his optical instruments, III. 808—inventor of the mercurial compensation pendulum, VII. 7; and of the horizontal escapement, 33—his discovery of the daily variation of the needle, XIV. 4—on the length of the pendulum, XXI. 799.
 — (James), marquis of Montrose, X. 743. See Montrose.
 — (Sir James), letters opened at the post-office by, XVIII. 412.
 — (John), of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee, X. 743—his military transactions in Scotland, V. 438—his advice to James II., 430—his proceedings in Scotland in favour of James II., 440—slain at Killiecrankie, 441.
 — (Prof.), his analysis of gunpowder, XI. 156—his chemical investigations, VI. 460—his law of the diffusion of gases, I. 935.
 — (Sir Robert), XIX. 758.
 — (Thomas), Lord Lynedoch, X. 743; V. 608.
 Graham's Dike, III. 281.
 — Island, temporary appearance of, XXI. 607.
 — Town, X. 744, 714.
 GRAHAME (James), author of *The Sabbath*, X. 743.
 GRAHAM ALPS, II. 628.
 Grain coast, II. 227; XI. 89.
 — crops, II. 306—harvesting of, 313—when fit for reaping, 314—stacking of, 1b—comparative productiveness of different countries in, XVIII. 333—in Scotland, XIX. 796, 797; Ireland, XII. 514, 515 *et seq.*
 — Isle of, proposed dockyard at, VIII. 78.
 — weight, X. 744.
 GRAINGER (James), X. 744.
 — (Richard), his improvement of Newcastle, XVI. 189.
 GRAINS OF PARADISE, X. 744—of gunpowder, XI. 156.
 Grallaria, genus of birds, XVI. 753.
 Grallatores, order of birds, XVI. 794; XVII. 654.
 Grallina, genus of birds, XVI. 752.
 Gramineæ, nat. order of plants, V. 215.
 Graminivorous animals, season of parturition of, III. 182.
 Grammalogue, XX. 676, 678.
 GRAMMAR, X. 744—Universal, 1b—Bacon's profound reflections on, I. 34—of the ancient Egyptian language, XI. 412—Greek, Latin, and Hebrew grammars, XVII. 528—characters of abbreviations in, VI. 419—Sanskrit, XVII. 527, 529—Horne Tooke on, XXI. 307.
 Grammateia, mineral, XV. 80.
 Gramme, French measure of weight, X. 284.
 Grammistes, genus of fishes, XII. 275.
 GRAMMONT, town of Belgium, X. 793.
 — bucanier, V. 712.
 — (Court), X. 793; XI. 199.
 — lace, XIII. 143.
 Grammysia, fossil mollusks, XVII. 105, 108.
 GRAMPYANS, X. 793; XIX. 793—geology of, XVII. 456.
 Grampound, disfranchisement of, V. 632.
 GRAMPUS, X. 793; XV. 226—dentition of, XVI. 445.
 GRAN, Hungarian city, X. 793.
 GRAN CANARIA, X. 793; VI. 166.
 GRANADA, in Spain, X. 793—Moorish remains in, III. 503—the Alhambra at, II. 577—Moorish kingdom of, XX. 461, 463, 465—university of, XXI. 492.
 — (New), in South America, X. 795.
 — Bolivar's campaign in, IV. 818—metallic produce of, XV. 248.
 — town of Central America, X. 798.
 — (FRAY LUIS DE), friar, X. 798.
 GRANADILLA, a fruit, V. 198.

GRA—GRA

- GRANARD, town in Longford, X. 798.
 GRANARY, X. 798.
 GRAND CANAL, in Ireland, X. 799, XIII. 83, 92, 93.
 — Duchies, in Europe, IX. 397.
 — ISLAND, in Niagara river, X. 799.
 — RAPIDS, town in Michigan, X. 799.
 — RIVER, in Michigan, X. 799.
 — SERJEANTRY, ancient tenure, X. 799.
 — Trunk Canal, V. 368, XX. 530.
 Grande-terre, in Guadeloupe, XI. 72.
 — (Rio), XIX. 175.
 GRANDEE, X. 799.
 Grandi (Abate), on the origin of modern copies of the Pandects, VI. 747.
 Grandpalpi, insects, IX. 96.
 GRANDOLLA, town in Portugal, X. 799.
 GRANGE, X. 799.
 — (Bouillon la), on the saltiness of the Mediterranean, XIV. 470.
 — (La) See Lagrange.
 GRANGEMOUTH, in Stirling, X. 799; XX. 704.
 GRANGER (James), biographer, X. 799.
 GRANICUS, river in Asia Minor, X. 800—battle of, XIII. 706.
 Granilla, VII. 50.
 GRANITE, X. 800; XV. 136, 138—classification of granitic rocks, 156, position and form of, 184—age and consolidation of, 186—joints in, 164—veins, 186—decomposition of, II. 890—soils from, 390—specific gravity of, XII. 88—graphic granite, IV. 413—of Aberdeenshire, II. 33; Argyshire, III. 526; Banffshire, IV. 412; Egypt, III. 438; of Peterhead, XVII. 484—formations of, 587—as a building-stone, 619, XX. 711—granite works in Aberdeen, II. 31—facility with which it was wrought by the Egyptians, XX. 710—causes of its decay, 712—its resistance to crushing, 718.
 GRANJA (La), de Torrehermosa, Spanish town, X. 800, 212.
 GRANOLLERS, Spanish town, X. 800.
 Grant (Charles), Lord Glenelg, his corn-bill, V. 651—his resolutions respecting the corn trade, VII. 382—his India bill of 1833, XI. 528—his rules for intercourse with the Kafirs, XIII. 34.
 — (Sir Thomas), distilled water for steamships introduced by, XX. 24.
 — (Mr), his life-preserver, in shipwreck, XIII. 439.
 — (Madame), XXI. 12 and *n*.
 — (Prof.), on zoophytes, XXI. 990, *n*. 6, 999, 1000, 1008.
 GRANTHAM, town in Lincolnshire, X. 800; XIII. 492.
 Granton Pier, IX. 795.
 GRANULATION of metals, X. 800—of gunpowder, XI. 155.
 Granulite, rock, XV. 137.
 Granville, bishop of Arras, XI. 563.
 GRANVILLE, French seaport, XI. 1.
 GRAY, Spanish seaport, XI. 1.
 GRAPE, XI. 1; IX. 759—of New South Wales, IV. 280—in Egypt, VIII. 431. See Wine-making.
 — vine, V. 187—culture and varieties of, XI. 707, 758—of the United States, XXI. 425, 888—dwarf vine of the Ionian Islands, XII. 445.
 — disease, X. 246, *n*. 247; XXI. 835, 837—in the Canaries, VI. 164. See Oidium.
 — in veterinary science, XXI. 579.
 GRAPE-SHOT, XI. 1, 142.
 Grape-sugar, II. 380, V. 320; VIII. 47, IX. 756.
 Graphipterus, genus of insects, IX. 53.
 GRAPHITE, XI. 1; VI. 471; XV. 123.
 GRAPHOMETER, XI. 1.
 GRAPEFUL, or Grappling, XI. 1; III. 118.
 Graptolopsis, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 335; XVII. 125.
 Graptolites, fossils, XVII. 95.
 Graptolithæ, XVII. 95.
 GRASMEERE, village and lake in Westmoreland, XI. 1; XXI. 842, 843.
 GRASS, XI. 1, V. 215—culture of grasses,

GRA—GRA

- II. 322—kinds best adapted for water-meadows, XII. 613—grasses peculiar to Cape Verde Islands, XXI. 544.
 Grass lands, produce of, in England, VII. 724.
 — walks, XI. 747.
 GRASSE (La), French town, XI. 1.
 — (Count de), defeated by Rodney, V. 500—his hospitable treatment in England, 501, *n*.
 Grasser (Jacob), VII. 730.
 GRASSHOPPERS, XI. 1, IX. 180—their cohabitation with ants, III. 264.
 Grassias, XI. 91, 92, 466, XIV. 120.
 Grassner (F.), his works on insects, IX. 24.
 Grateloupia, fossil mollusks, XVII. 108.
 Grates, for furnaces, X. 354—for houses, XIX. 614—prevention of smoke in, XX. 353—cause of the different feeling produced by the heat of a stove and a grate, 738.
 GRATIANUS (Augustus), XI. 1, VII. 310.
 — Benedictine monk, XI. 2—his *Decretum*, VI. 189, XXI. 449.
 Grating, in furnaces, X. 354.
 GRATIUS (Falsicus), Roman poet, XI. 2; XII. 32.
 GRATIAN (Henry), XI. 2; XII. 496—his motion on the incapacity of George III., V. 533—his opposition to the union of Ireland with Britain, 572—his motions for Catholic emancipation, 624, 625.
 GRATZ, in Austria, XI. 4—university of, XXI. 492.
 Grauculus, genus of birds, XVI. 745.
 GRAUDENS, Prussian town, XI. 4.
 GRAUNT (John), XI. 4; XII. 394, 396—on bills of mortality, XV. 600.
 GRAVE (accent), XI. 5, III. 75.
 — (tomb), XI. 5, V. 773—space occupied by, XIX. 620—time that should elapse before graves be reopened, 620.
 Gravel (urnary)—Magendie's theory of, VIII. 24—in the domestic animals, XXI. 570—surgical treatment of, XX. 830. See Calculus, Lithotomy.
 — used in masonry, XX. 711.
 Gravel-walks, XI. 747.
 GRAVELINES, French town, XI. 5.
 Gravenhorst (J. L. C.), his entomological works, IX. 13.
 Graver, VIII. 802, 803.
 Graves (The), wines of, XXI. 883.
 GRAVESANDE (William Jacob), XI. 5—his air-pump, XVIII. 36.
 GRAVESEND, town in Kent, XI. 5—population, XIII. 67.
 Gravesende (Mr), on the resistance of fluids, XII. 159.
 GRAVIDA (Giovanni Vincenzo), XI. 5.
 — city of Naples, XI. 6.
 Graving-dock, VIII. 76.
 GRAVITATION, XI. 6—Newton's discovery of, I. 670; IV. 220; III. 803; XVI. 206—the cause of acceleration of falling bodies, II. 72—its action in the planetary system, III. 809; IV. 97—Hooke on, 220; I. 675. See Dynamics, Gravity.
 — theory of the motion of glaciers, X. 637.
 Gravity (centre of). See Centre of Gravity.
 — escapements, VII. 11.
 — numbered among the virtues by the Italians, II. 741.
 — (SPECIFIC), XI. 6, XII. 84—tables of, 88.
 GRAY, French town, XI. 6.
 — (Dr J. E.), his zoological catalogues of the British Museum, XII. 328; IX. 19—on the chitonids, XV. 379—on the genus *crepidula*, 381—his catalogues of the mollusca, 327—his arrangement of the lampreys, XII. 229—on polypes, XXI. 1003, 1004.
 — (G. R.), his entomological writings, IX. 19—his works on birds, XVI. 828.
 — (John), his improvement of steam-engine valves, XX. 685, 686.
 — (Lady Jane). See Grey.
 — (M. le), on photography, XVII. 549.

GRA—GRE

- Gray (Mr), on zoophytes, XXI. 987, 992.
 — (Mrs), her work on the mollusca, XV. 327.
 — (Mrs Hamilton), on Etrurian cities and buildings, IX. 361, III. 499, *n*.
 — (Stephen), on electricity, I. 660, 733; VIII. 524, 565—on the microscope, XIV. 768, 775.
 — (THOMAS), poet, XI. 7—his estimate of the merits of Rousseau's *Emile*, I. 184—fond of alliteration, II. 593—poetry of, XVIII. 125.
 — colour, dyeing of, VIII. 313—varieties of, XV. 59.
 Gray's Inn, XII. 384; XIII. 672.
 Grayling, XII. 244—its flesh, IX. 763—angling for, III. 158, 149, *n*.
 GRAYWACKE, XI. 8. See Greywacke.
 GRAZALEMA, Spanish town, XI. 8.
 Grazing, II. 324—of cattle and sheep, 325.—farms, in Jamaica, XII. 680.
 Grease, a disease in horses, XXI. 579.
 Great, various meanings of the word, VIII. 9.
 — SALT LAKE, XI. 8; XXI. 498—city of the, XIX. 588.
 — Western Railway, telegraphs on, XXI. 112.
 Greathed (Henry), his lifeboat, XIII. 445.
 Greathed (Col.), XVI. 312.
 Greathprinet type, XXI. 401.
 GREAVTS, armour, XI. 8.
 — (JOHN), XI. 8—on Roman money, XV. 433.
 Grebes, birds, XVI. 809.
 GRECE, XI. 9; IX. 403—history of, XI. 543—works on the architectural remains of, III. 456—Greek structures, 460, 461—were the Roman laws of the twelve tables derived from? VI. 738, 739, 740—Persian invasion of, IV. 198—agriculture of, II. 249—commerce of, VII. 185—mines, 188—coins, 67—civilisation and colonisation of, from Egypt, VIII. 459, XVII. 787—emigration from, 650—medicine in, XIV. 451, 452, 455—origin of classic philology in, XVII. 518, during the decline of the Roman empire, 520—height of mountains in, 642, 643—old sceptical school of, XIX. 706, new, 707—suicide in, XX. 799—ancient wines of, XXI. 832. See Chronological Table, VI. 677 *et seq.*
 — also Greeks, Attica, Athens, &c.
 — (modern), lives of, III. 296—conduct of France towards, in 1827, X. 194—revolutions in, XI. 22, 31—missions established in, XV. 271—historical writers, VI. 519—weight's and measures, XXI. 511—woollen manufactures of, 913—university in, 492—map of, XI. Plate.
 Greek architecture, III. 440, 460, 466 *et seq.*—remains of, 456, 460 *et seq.*—partly borrowed from Asia, 400—its introduction and progress in Britain, 456—Doric, 463—Ionic, 465—Corinthian, 466—mouldings and ornaments of, 467—beauty of, IV. 549—baths, 505—theatres, III. 442—temples, 461—supposed knowledge of the arch by the Greeks, 401—abacus, II. 6.
 — CHURCH, XI. 33; VI. 713—mysticism in, XV. 755—extent of its dominion in Europe, IX. 394—ordination in, XVI. 708—in Ionian islands, XII. 446—funeral rites of, X. 344—its claim to the guardianship of the holy places, XIX. 500—in Russia, 526, 527—in Syria, XX. 908.
 — FIRE, XI. 37; IX. 586; XI. 151.
 — language, IX. 390; XIII. 210—grammars and lexicons, XVII. 526—its influence in Rome, XIX. 313—introduced and publicly taught in England, VIII. 796—no tensives, VIII. 751—moods and tenses, 765, 766 *n*, 769—ablative case, II. 42—accents, 75—study of, at Oxford, XXI. 457—bibles, IV. 698; XIX. 589—editions of the classics, IV. 710—Erasmus and Sir Thomas Smith on its pronunciation, IX. 322—modern languages of Greece, XI. 22.

GRE—GRE

Greeks (ancient), their acclamations, II 78—abortion among, 44—adoption, 149—punishment of adultery, 166—algebra unknown to the early Greeks, 482—their manner of writing, 611—alphabet, 612—knowledge of anatomy, 748 *et seq*—religion, IV 216—their perfection in the fine arts, III 706—statues, 707–709—theatres, 442, 463; VIII 135—commerce in the Black Sea, IV 745—numerals, III 575, VI 419—mode of calculation, II 5, III 577—army, 624—astronomy, 787—their care to preserve the balance of power, IV 389—baths, 505—bells, 628—beards, 527—may have derived many of their metaphysical speculations from India, V 271—their beer, 318—brickmaking among the, 342—burials, 774—burning of the dead, 795—their knowledge of burning-glasses, VI 3—calendar, 76, 79, 665—camps, 122—caps, 205—their knowledge of anaesthetics, 632—cock-fighting, VII 50—colonies, 135—dancing, 645—dials, 773—divorces, VIII 67—drama, 134*, 136, 138—their skill in drawing, 170—dyeing, 273—their connection with Egypt, 458; and rule there, 467—influence of local circumstances on their character and government, II 11, 12—exposing of children by, IX 457—festivals, 494—funeral rites, X 343—gnomon supposed to be invented by, 464—geometers, 487—gymnasia and gymnastic exercises, XI 168—their games, X 397—racing, *ib*—horsemanship, XI 673, 673—historical writers, 548—hymns, XII 188—their rates of interest, 426—law, XIII 257—libraries, 382—school of painting, XVII 46, 49, 81, 82—poetry, XVIII 98—monarchy, XV 412—mourning, 667—mysteries, 758—mythology, 786, IV 216—education, XV 807—coins, XVI 351, 353, 354, 356, 360, VII 67; XV 423 and *n* 1—oaths, XVI 398—pantheism, XVII 231—vases, XVIII 431—pneumogeniture among, 515—sculpture, XIX 850 *et seq*—sanitary measures, 602—shipping, XX 117—shoes, 208—slavery, 319—surgery, 809—masonry, 710—uses to which their theatres were applied, XXI 176—measures, 804—weights, 806 See Greece.

—(modern), their army, III 661—sieges of Athens by, IV 174—their war with the Turks, V 651: XI 30, VIII 494—Lord Byron's aid to, VI 40, XI 28—language, 22—monarchy, XV 413. See Greece (modern)

GREEN BAY, XI 37; XXI 893

—colour, XI 37; VI 644—varieties of, XV 59—of plants, XVI 693—dyeing, VIII 309, 319—for printing, XVIII 556

—MOUNTAINS, XI 38; XV 522; XXI 550

Green (Mr), on the mathematical theory of electricity, VIII 533, I 989—his modification of Fresnel's theory of reflection, 920 and *n* 6

—park, London, XIII 668

—river, XIII 69

—teas, XXI 86—artificial colouring of, 87

Green's fuel economiser, XX 604, 605.

—hydrogen lamp, VIII 626

GREEN-CLOTH, Board of, XI 37, 374, 774

Green-earth, XV 83

Green heart, timber, V 204; XXI 277—not liable to injury from marine worms, XI 225

GREEN-HOUSE, XI 38, 755—greenhouse plants, 766

GREENCASTLE, XI 37

—in Down, VIII 124

GREENE (Robert), XI 37—on Shakespeare, XX 84

Greener (William), on fowling-pieces, XX 213, 217

GREENLAND, XI 38—early Norwegian settlements in, II 698—extent of, 667—depression of the coast of, XV

GRE—GRE

167—height of mountains, XVII 645—whale, XIV 233—missions established in, XV 271—discovered by the Icelanders, XII 198—voyages to, XVIII 162 *et seq*

GREENOCK, Scotch town, XI 44; XIX 9

Greenoclate, VI 51, 492, XV 121

Greenovite, XV 110

Greensand, XV 210—in Scotland, XIX 793

Greenshank, bird, XVI 805

Greenstone, XV 135—ash, 136—its columnar structure, 166—relations between it and felsstone, 189—beds of, in aqueous rocks, 187—its absorbent power, VII 108, XI 271

GREENWICH, town in Kent, XI 47—population, XIII 67—naval asylum at, XVI 120

—HOSPITAL, XI 48; XIII 68; XVI 119; XXI 936—foundation of, XIII 686—roof of its chapel, VI 266—schools of, XVI 120—pensioned officers on, *ib*

—Observatory, III 816, XI 47—transit circle at, I 850—mural circles and transit instrument, IV 153—Bradley's improvements in, V 264—Maskelyne's observations and improvements at, I 833, 835—Pond's improvements, 849—meteorological observations at, XIV 672, 675, 686—Airy's improvements, I 850

—catalogue of stars, IV 95

GREET, river, XI 49

Gregarina, zoophytes, XXI 980

GREGORIAN CALENDAR, XI 49; VI 78, 85–89, 668

—reflecting telescope, XVI 533, XXI 126

Gregorius, Roman lawyer, VI 742

—OF NAZIANZUM, XI 51, XV 407

—IX (Pope), his Decretalium Compilatio, VI 189—inquisition confirmed by, XII 387

GRAGOIR the Great, XI 49—on the decay of the city of Rome, XIX 364

—II, bishop of Rome, XIII 640, 641

—VII (Pope), XI 50; XII 644—papal dominion under, VI 188

—XIII (Pope), his reform of the calendar, VI 78, 82

—(David), XI 53

—(Dr David), professor of astronomy at Oxford, XI 83; I 697

—(Duncan), I 807; *n* 2

—(James), mathematician, XI 53—his Optica Promota, I 629; II 88—his reflecting telescope, 88; I 748—his discovery of an algebraic series, 559—his burning mirror, VI 11—his attack on George Sinclair, IV 462, *n*—on optics, XVI 532—on the quadrature of the circle, XX 522, 523

—(Dr James), XI 65—on the moods of verbs, X 762, 768–770, *n*

—(Dr John), XI 53—his connection with Dr Cullen, VII 574—his lectures on the Duties and Qualifications of a Physician, I 224—on the union between mind and body, *ib*—Smellie's Life of, XX 337

—(Mr), of Lisbon, his slide-valve for locomotives, XX 615

—name of a Scottish family, XI 53

—or NYSSA, XI 52—on Balaam, IV 382—his Oratio Catechetica, XXI 183

—of St Vincent, on the quadrature of the circle, XX 523

—OF TOURS, XI 52, 548

—(OLIVIERUS), LL.D., XI 57—his notices of Robert Hall, 190 *et seq*

—TRAUMATURGUS, XI 52

—(Dr William), his letters on animal magnetism, XX 436, 441, his translation of Reichenbach's work on that subject, 484

GREIFFENBERG, in Pomerania, XI 57

GREIFFENHAGEN, town in Pomerania, XI 57

GREIFSWALD, town in Pomerania, XI 57—university of, XVIII 673; XXI 492

GREIZ, German town, XI 57

Grellman on the gypsies, XI 170

GRE—GRI

GRANADA, or Granada, island, XI 57—sugar-ants of, III 261, 263; mode of destroying them, 266—naval engagement between the British and French at, V 484

—New See Granada, New

GRANADE, XI 58

GRANADIER, XI 58—guards, 74

Granadines, islands, XI 58

Grenelle, Artesian well of, XV 184

Grenfell on the national debt, X 334

Grangesite, mineral, XV 78

Gremé (M), his improvements on the organ, XVI 712

GRENOBLE, in France, XI 58, XII 627—glove trade of, X 256—insurrection at, 176—population, 277

Grenville (George), A.L. 59—prime minister, V 467

—(Lord), XI 58. See Wyndham, Right Hon. William

—(Richard), Earl Temple, XI 58; V 468—his opposition to the peace with France in 1801, 586

—(Hon. Thomas), his bequest to the library of the British Museum, XIII 390

GRESHAM (Sir Thomas), XI 59

—COLLEGE, XI 60; IV 452, XIII 667

GRISSET (J B Louis), XI 60; XVIII 117

Greswell, on the dates of St Paul's epistles, XVII 350

GRETA, rivers in Cumberland, XI 60; and Yorkshire, 60, 61

GRETTA GREEN, XI 61—irregular marriages at, IV 651; XII 61

Greuze, painter, XVII 76

GREVILLE (Fulke), Lord Brooke, English poet, XI 61

—(Right Hon. Charles), his account of corundum, VII 420

Grevious. See Grævius

GREW (Nehemiah), XI 61; XIV 461—on comparative anatomy, II 769—on the sexual organs of plants, V 152

Grey colour, dyeing of, VIII 313—varieties of, XV 59

—(Dr), his Memoria Technica, XV 287

—(Earl), XI 61—promoter of the association, "Friends of the People," V 542—on the balance of power, IV 392, *n* 2—his motions for parliamentary reform, V 542, 549—his motion in 1795 for negotiations with France, 555—his opposition to the union with Ireland, 572—motion in 1801 for inquiry into the state of the nation, 577—refusal to join the ministry in 1812, 612—his administration, 660—his resignation of office and recall, 663—his coercion bill for Ireland, *ib*—his resignation in 1834, 664

—(George), papyrus brought from Egypt by, II 607

—(George A.), on paring and burning moorlands, II 359

—(Sir George), on the mountains of New Zealand, XVI 232—his policy in Kafiraria, XIII 35

—(Lady Jane), XI 63; III 723, VII 484; VIII 707–709

—(Major-General), his defeat of the Marhattas in 1843, V 669, XI 168

—(W. H.), his report on savings banks, XIX 664

GREYHOUND, XI 64, 771

GREYWACK, XI 64. See Silurian and Cambrian rocks

Grier (R. M.), his photographic process, XVII 546

GRIBSBACH (J Jacob), XI 64—his edition of the New Testament, IV 608; XIX 837; on the original text of, 835

Grieve (John), his kindness to Hogg, XI 577

GRIFFIN, XI 64

Griffith (Dr), on test objects for the microscope, XII 604—on the geology of Ireland, XV 200, 202

—(Mr), on Donegal, VIII 105

GRI—GRO

Griffith's Animal Kingdom, quoted, XI 291, *n* 1, 293, 298; XIX 60 *n*, 68; XXI 997, *n* 6

—screw-propeller, XX 658

Griffiths on point-blank range, XI 105

Griffon, bird, XVI 738

Grillparzer (Friedr.), his poetry, XVIII 119

Grise, IX 596; XII 239—conversion of smolts into, IX 596—their conversion into salmon, 597—dates of smolts returning from the sea as grises, 596—average weight of, in the Tweed, *ib*, *n* 3—marked grise recaptured as salmon, 597

GRIMALDI, Genoese family, XI 64

—(ANTONIO), XI 64

—(DOMENICO), XI 64

—(F. M.), on the inflection and interference of light, I 630, 895; III 801, XVI 533, 598—on the colours of light, 578

—(GERONIMO), XI 65

—(GIOVANNI), XI 64

—(RAMIERI), XI 64

GRIMM (F. Melchior), Baron, XI 65—his misrepresentation of a saying of Fontenelle, I 23, *n*—on liberty and necessity, 150, 270—an abettor of atheism, 182—his account of Diderot, VIII 15—his opinion of La Harpe, XI 231—on Hume, XII 4, *n* 1—on Beccaria IV 557

—(James Lewis), his philological searches, XVII 528

GRIMMA, town in Saxony, XI 65

GRIMSBY (Great), in Lincoln, XI 65

—harbour, VIII 75

Grimshaw on bleaching linen, IV 768

Grimshaw's rope-machinery, XIX 409

GRINDELWALD, Swiss village, XI 65

Grinders, teeth, in man, III 25—in animals, 107—in the elephant and mammoth, XVI 475

—artisans, diseases of, XIV 442; XX 98—grinders' asthma, XVI 128

Grinding, of plate-glass, X 666—of specula, XXI 135

Grinding-mill for gunpowder, XI 154

GRINDSTONE, XI 65—quarries of, at Gateshead, X 439

GRINSTEAD (East), town in Sussex, XI 65

Gripes, in horses, XXI 566

Grisson, in zoology, XIV 156

GRISONS, Swiss canton, XI 66, XX 882

Gristes, genus of fishes, XII 276

Gristle, II 831 See Cartilage

GRIFF, or GRISTSTONE, XI 66; XV 141

Groat, XI 66

GROATS, XI 66

GROCTY (William), XI 66

GRODNO, Russian town and province, XI 66, XIX 521

Grogginess, or contraction of the foot, in horses, XXI 561

GROIN, XI 67

—or groining, in architecture, XI 67, III 510, XX 731

GRONINGEN, in Holland, XI 67—university of, 590; XXI 492

GRONOVIVS (J. Friedrich), XI 67

—(JACOBUS), XI 67

GROOM, XI 68, 669—of the stole, 775—grooms of the bedchamber, *ib*, 776; in waiting, 775

Groombridge's catalogue of stars, IV 95

GROOTE EYLANDT, island, XI 68

Groove, in joinery, XII 808

Groppite, mineral, XV 79

Grorollite, mineral, XV 112

GROSE (Francis), XI 68

GROSS, XI 68—weight, *ib*; III 595—in law, XI 68

Gross-beak, evening, XVI 761—pine, 762—Philippine, 760—scofield, *ib*

GROSSASPEN, XI 68 See Aspern

GROSSENHAIN, town of Saxony, XI 68

Grossulariaceæ, nat. order of plants, V 194

GROSSWARDEN, city in Hungary, XI 68

Grote (Mr), his History of Greece, IV 218

—on Homer, XI 596 *et seq*—on the

GRO—GUA

- ethics of Homer, XIII 259—on the Helots, XI 308—on the Pelasgi, XVII 370
- GROTESQUE, XI 68.
- GROTTUS (Hugo), XI 68, 573, V 718—his work *De Jure Belli et Pacis*, I 38, 84, 85, 89, 331—period when his writings began to be generally studied, 46—his opinion of Ramond de Sebonde's principles, 52—Bentham on, 91, *n*—Samuel de Cocceus's strictures on some of his opinions, 92—his History of the Netherlands, 438—his answer to the ethical principles of Carneades, 332—on baptism, IV 422
- (Guhelmus), XI 70
- GROTTAMARE, in the Papal States, XI 70.
- Grotthus on electro-chemical decomposition, XXI 628
- GROTTU, or Grotta, XI 70—of Antiparos, III 275 See Cave.
- del Cane, XI 71, II 241, XX 289—carbonic acid gas of, VI 472.
- Grottoes of Benee-Hasan, VIII 504
- Grouchy (General), at Waterloo, XXI 718.
- Ground, for aquatinta engraving, III 332.
- Ground-nuts, XVI 395—oil of, 495
- Ground-slugs, XV 374.
- Groundsel, plant, V 117
- Grouv, in painting, &c., XI 71
- GROUSE, XI 71, IX 762—heteroclyte, XVI 792—pin-tailed, 791—red, *ib*—sand, *ib*—wood, *ib*
- Grouse-shooting, XX 224.
- GROUV, XI 71
- GROVU, XI 71 XVII 772.
- (Mr), on physiology, XVII 656.
- (Mr), his mode of collecting aberration, XXI 125—his constant battery, 616—his gas voltaic battery, 618—method of transforming daguerriotype plates into engraved plates, 636—experiments in voltaic electricity, 637, 630, 631, 633, 634
- Grover (Rev Mr), on the magnetic pole, XIV 51—on terrestrial magnetism, 67.
- Growler, screw gunboat, description of, XX 655.
- GROWTH, XI 71; II 747—of animals, see Physiology—of plants, V 99, 103
- Groyne, their use in tidal rivers, XVI 83
- Grozner's specimen of Chinese poetry, VI 578—on Chinese architecture, 582
- GRUB, larvæ of insects, XI 71
- Grubb (Mr), his apparatus for making lenses and specula, XXI 135, 142
- Grubbers, II 271—their substitution for the plough, 290.
- GRUBENHAGEN, XI 71, 434.
- Grubenhamm (Ulrich), his wooden bridges, VI 334.
- Grueben's travels in China, III 754
- Grumaute, mineral, XV 116
- GRUNBERG, in Prussian Silesia, XI 71
- Grundler (G), his work on insects, IX 23
- Grundtvig (N. F. S.), Danish author, XIX 695.
- Grundulus, genus of fishes, XII 252.
- GRUS, constellation, XI 71; IV 80—genus of birds, XVI 797.
- GRUTER (Jan), XI 71.
- GRUTERE, Swiss town, XI 71, X 305.
- cheese, X 304, 305.
- GRY, a measure, XI 71.
- Gryllotalpa, genus of insects, IX 158.
- Gryllus, genus of insects, IX 157.
- Gryphæa, genus of mollusks, XVII 105, 106.
- Gua (Du), on equations, IX 287, 290
- GUADALAJARA, in Spain, XI 72; XX 493.
- in Mexico, XI 72; XIV 724
- GUADALCANAL, Spanish town, XI 72.
- Guadalcanar, IV 265.
- GUADALETE, river, XI 72.
- GUADALOUPE, island, XI 72.
- GUADALQUIVIR, river, XI 72; III 123; XVII 647; XX 487.
- GUADALUPE, Spanish town, XI 73.
- Hidalgo, peace of, XIV 714.
- Guadarama, Spanish mountains, XX 487.
- GUADI, XI 73.
- Guadiana, river, XX 487; XVII 647; XXI 302.

GUA—GUE

- Guadiana or Durango, city in Mexico, VIII 264.
- GUADIX, Spanish city, XI 73.
- Gauge, in railways, XVIII 753, 794.
- Guahan, island, XVIII 269, XI 73
- Guanaq, resin, V 188
- GUALACUM, XI 73, V 188
- GUAM, island, XI 73
- GUAMANGA, Peruvian city, XI 73
- Guan, bird, XVI 785.
- Guanaco, IV 823, II 605; VI 549, XIV 205; XVII 473
- GUANAJUATO, XI 73, XIV 708, 723, 718—proportion of baptisms and burials in, XVIII 342
- Guana, reptiles, XIX 33
- GUANAXUATO silver mines, XV 235
- GUANCAVELICA, Peruvian town, XI 73.
- Guanches, VI 163
- Guanite, mineral, XV 96
- GUANO, XI 73; II 299. 408—11—use of by the ancient Peruvians, 251. XVII 461—its introduction into Britain, II 264—imports of, into the United Kingdom, VIII 784—causes of its value, VI 522, 524—composition of different kinds of, II 408, 409—adulteration of, 410—of the Lobos islands, XIII 531—its fertilizing power on the sugar-cane, XIV 363—of the Chincha islands, XVII 478.
- Guaporé, river, XIV 357.
- Guaraná plant, V 186
- GUARANI, XI 73; II 691; IX 348; XVII 268—language of, XIII 224
- GUARANTEE, XI 73—insurance companies, XII 408
- GUARD, XI 74—national of France, X 272.
- GUARD-BOAT, XI 74
- GUARD-SHIP, XI 74.
- GUARDAMAR, Spanish town, XI 74.
- GUARDIA, XI 74
- GUARDIAN, XI 74—of the spiritualities, XI 75—of the temporalities, *ib*—among the Arabs, III 352.
- GUARDS (the), XI 74; III 665—horse guards, IX 74—horse grenadier guards, *ib*—foot, *ib*—Scotch, *ib*—yeomen of the, XI 74; III 324
- Guarini, XVII 268.
- (GIOVANNI BATTISTA), XI 75; XVIII 111.
- GUASTALLA, Italian town, XI 76.
- GUATMALA, XI 76; II 705—declared independent, 702—height of mountains in, XVII 645—map of, XIV Plate.
- LA ANTIGUA, XI 78
- LA NUEVA, XI 78
- Guatimozin, king of Mexico, XIV 706.
- GUAVA, XI 78; V 192.
- Guaviare, river, VII 133; XVI 716.
- GUAYAQUIL, XI 78; VIII 387.
- river, XI 78; VII 134.
- GUAYMAS, Mexican port, XI 78; XIV 727.
- GUAYRA, (La), seaport in Venezuela, XI 78.
- GUBBO, Italian town, XI 78.
- GUBEX, Prussian town, XI 79.
- Guber, African country, XI 778.
- GUBERON, in mechanics, XI 79, VI 261.
- fish, XI 79; IX 764—angling for, III 161
- GUBRES, XI 79. See Fire-worshippers
- Guelder rose, XVII 764.
- GUELDERLAND, in Holland, XI 79.
- GUELTERS, town in Rhenish Prussia, XI 79.
- GUELPH, order of, XI 79, 340; XIII 119.
- GUELPHS, XI 79.
- and Ghibelins, XI 79; VII 296, X 602, XII 645 *et seq*
- Guenee (A.), his entomological works, IX 17
- Guenon, in zoology, XIV 140.
- GUERANDE, French town, XI 79.
- GUERCINO, XI 79. See Barbieri
- GUERROCKE (Otto von), XI 79—on electricity, VIII 523—his invention of the air-pump, I 598; IV 451; XVIII 32—his experiment of the hemispheres, XX 539.
- Guérinan (M.), surgical operation on a patient in hypnotic sleep, XX 433.
- Guerrilla warfare in Spain, XX 472, 478, 471.
- Guerin-Meneville (F. E.), his works on insects, IX 16.

GUE—GUI

- GUERNSEY, island, XI 79
- Guerrero, president of Mexico, XIV 712
- Mexican state, XIV 724, 718.
- GUESCLIN (Bertrand du), count of Longueville, XI 80
- Guest (Mr), XX 510.
- Guettardia, fossil sponges, XVII 93
- Quevea, in zoology, XIV 210
- Gugenbuhl (Dr), his institution for cretins, XIV 528, 539.
- Guglielmini on hydraulics, XII 71, 143; XIX 184, 185 *et seq*
- Gulliche's process for dyeing violet, VIII 312, 214—and puce colour, 313
- Guacum, action of light on, XVI 594.
- GUIANA, XI 81—ant-hills in, III 263—Raleigh's expeditions to, XVIII 801, 802—serpents of, XIX 54—timber of, XXI 277—weights and measures, 811
- BRITISH, XI 81
- DUTCH, XI 84
- FRENCH, XI 84—convict settlement in, XVIII 576
- GUIBERT, (J. A. H., Count de), XI 84—on war, III 619; XXI 712, 714—the military art, III 620, 622—on the tactics of the Greeks, 634 See Army, *passim*.
- GUICCIARDINI (Francisco), XI 85
- (Luigi), XI 86
- Guiccoli (Countess), VI 39
- Guicowar, family of Mahratta chiefs, V 674, XI 93.
- GUIDO ARETIN, XI 86; III 522
- RARI, XI 86, III 709, 710; XVII 73.
- di Sienna, painter, XVII 61.
- GUIDONIS, XI 86.
- GUIENNE, or Guyenne, in France, XI 86; X 277.
- GUIGUES (Joseph de), XI 86—on China, VI 554, 558, 579.
- Gugniant (M.), his report on M. Lebarbier's search for ancient MSS in the east, XIII 384.
- (M.), on the worship of Buddha, V 724.
- GUILD, XI 87; X 309, 624—guilds of London, XIII 677—in Preston, XVIII 510—guilds of workers in wool, XXI 914—disputes between the alien clothiers and the London guild, *ib*—dean of, VIII 401
- GUILDFOOT, town in Surrey, XI 87; XX 836, 837.
- GUILDHALL, London, XI 87; XIII 677
- Guilding (Rev Landsdown), his contributions to entomology, IX 13—on luminous medusæ, XXI 998, *n* 2.
- Guildy courts, in Scotland, VIII 404.
- Gullemites, birds, XVI 810.
- Guillé (Dr), on the blind, IV 774, 778
- GULLIN (John), XI 87.
- GULLLOTINE, XI 88; IV 591; XIV 445.
- chaff-cutting, II 284.
- Guilliche, in architecture, III 510.
- GUMARAENS, Portuguese city, XI 88.
- Gumand (M.), his flint-glass discs for telescopes, XXI 121.
- GUINEA, in Africa, XI 88; II 226—ants in, III 263—slave-trade of, XX 320.
- New, or Papua, XI 89, IV 262.
- (Guilf of), II 212
- gold coin, XI 89; XV 441; VII 79—superceded by sovereigns, 81.
- GUINEA-FOWL, XI 89; II 218; IX 762; XVI 788
- Guinea-grass, in Jamaica, XII 679, 680, 682.
- GUINEA-PIG, XI 89, XIV 188.
- Guinea-worm, XI 307; XXI 974.
- GUNGAMP, town in France, XI 89.
- GUINZCOA, in Spain, XI 89
- Guisards, in Scotland, VIII 134*.
- GUISBOROUGH, town in Yorkshire, XI 90.
- GUISBARD (Robert), XI 90; VII 316; XX 267
- Guischardt on military affairs, III 623, 624 *et seq*.
- GUISE, town in France, XI 90.
- or GUISE, family name, XI 90; XIII 695.
- (Duke of), X 82.
- (Francis de), la Balafré, XI 90

GUI—GUR

- Guise (Henri de), XI 90.
- Guut-gut, bird, XVI 789.
- GUITAR, XI 90; XV 741.
- Guizot (M.), X 196 *et seq*—his ministry, 216, 219—on Gibbon's treatment of Christianity, 617—his remonstrance against the extinction of Ciacow, VII 475—his merits as a historian, XI 543—on the work of Ordericus Vitalis, XVI 702
- GUJERAT, or Guzerat, in Hindustan, XI 91, 468—corneal mines of, 458—marbles of, 458—culture of cotton in, VII 447, 448, tobacco, XI 453
- Guldberg (O. Hoegh), Danish author XIX 694
- Guldinus, property of, XX 150
- GULDENSTADT (John Antony), XI 93.
- GULES, in heraldry, XI 93, 324
- GULF, XI 93; X 483
- GULF-STREAM, XI 93, IV 176; VI 772
- Gulf-weed, V 218, XIV. 652; XVII 578.
- GULL, XI 93; XVI 812
- Gulo, genus of mammalia, XIV 156
- GUM, XI 93; IX 758; V 73—in chemistry, VI 516, II 380—nutritive qualities of, VIII 20—quantities imported, 734—specific gravity of various kinds of, XII 88—Senegal, V 190—Aabic, 73, 190—tragacanth, 190; XVII 421—animal, fossil insects in, 103—ammoniac, plant producing, 421
- of the mouth, XI 93—period when teeth appear in, II 831.
- GUM-RESIN, XI 94; XIX 88
- Gum-trees, XVII 626, XXI 31, IV 261. See Eucalyptus.
- GUMBINNEN, Prussian town, XI 94.
- GUMFELTZHAMER (Adam), XI 94.
- GUN, XI 94—trade, 100—of Birmingham, IV 732. See Artillery, Cannon, Gun-making, Gunnery, Rifle, Shooting
- Gun-battery, IV 510
- Gun-boats, in royal navy, XVI 96; XX 137.
- GUN-COTTON, XI 94, VI 516—its use in blasting rocks, IV 757—much more inflammable than gunpowder, XI 156
- GUN-MAKING, XI 96—gun-trade, 100—casting of cannon, VI 177—seasoning of gun-stocks, X 169
- Gun-metal, specific gravity of, XII 88.
- GUNDAMUK, XI 95
- GUNDUCK, river, XI 95.
- GUNDWANA, in Hindustan, XI 95.
- Gunhilda, VIII 667
- Gunnellus, genus of fishes, XII 308, 310.
- Gunner, in the navy, XVI 104.
- GUNNERY, XI 103—in the royal navy, XVI 108—resistance of the air to projectiles, XVIII 67. See Projectiles
- GUNPOWDER, XI 150—not the invention of Roger Bacon, III 581, *n*; attributed to Schwartz, 581, *n*, 636—effects of its invention on the art of war, 636, 683; VI 624—blasting with, IV 754—explosive force of, *ib*, XI 108, 109—composition of, III 683; XI 151—velocity of the flame of, IX 456—magazine of, at Purfleet, VI 351—how to enflame it by electricity, VIII 590—specific gravity of, XII 88, 89—charge of, for fowling-pieces, XX 213—Count Rumford's experiments on, XXI 229, 231—manufacture of, in Sumatra, XX 805.
- plot, V 383, 384.
- Gunpowder-tea, XXI 87.
- Guns, town in Hungary, XI 160; XIII 133.
- GUNTER (Edmund), mathematician, XI 160—his line, quadrant, and scale, *ib*; XII 554—on logarithms, 554—on navigation, XVI 5.
- Gunther's homœopathic veterinary medicine, II 358
- GUNTROO, in Hindustan, XI 160.
- GUNWALE, XI 160.
- Gurhofan, mineral, XV 92.
- Guricke (Otto Von). See Guericke.
- Gurnards, fishes, XII 280—as food, IX 704.

GUR—GYM

Gurions, coast of the, IV 745
 GURNEY (Elizabeth), XI 160—her exertions on behalf of prisoners, XIV 445; XVIII 568, 569
 — (Thomas), his shorthand writing, XX 675
 — (Mr), extracts from his Life of Dr Thomas Young, XXI 962, 965
 Gurrans, Nepalese tribe, XVI 144
 GURWAL, in Hindustan, XI 160
 — British, XI 161, XIII 59
 GUSTAVUS (Wasa), of Sweden, XI 161; VII 740; XX 846, 847
 — (ADOLPHUS), XI 161; VII 740—his army, III 637—artillery, 684—his reign, XX 847—killed at Lutzen, 850—Hartes' life of, XI 234
 — III, king of Sweden, XX 857, V 580—his literary productions, XIX 698—assassination of, V 543
 — IV, king of Sweden, XXI 659
 GUSTROW, in Germany, XI 162
 GUTENBERG (Johann), XI 162—his claims to be regarded as the inventor of printing, X 362, IV 706, XVIII 526—works executed by, 530—his connection with Fust, X 362—his statue at Mayence, XIV 368
 GUTTA PERCHA, XI 162—obtained from the Taban tree, V 199—its use in electric telegraphs, 95, 96, 97, 113
 — SERENA, XI 163—in the domestic animals, XXI 658
 — TEAP, XI 163
 GUTTAE, in architecture, XI 163; III 510
 GUTTENSTEIN, triassic beds of, XV 206
 Gutters, in building, V 755, 756
 Gutties, in heraldry, XI 330
 Guttaferas, nat order of plants, V 186
 Guttang of herrings, IX 638
 Guttones, VI 364; X 726
 GUTTURAL, XI 163
 GUTTRY, in heraldry, XI 163
 GUY (Thomas), XI 163
 — of Lusignan, king of Jerusalem, VII 525
 — de Chauhauc, XX 817
 — a rope, XI 163
 GUYAQUILLITE, XV 124
 GUY'S CLIFF, in Warwickshire, XI 163; XXI 737
 — Hospital, XIII 673; XI 163
 GUYON (Madame), XI 163; I 351, 352, IX 506; XV 757—Bossuet's opposition to, V 60—her hymns, XII 190
 — (Mr), XIX 507
 — (General), XXI 375
 GUYTON DE MORVEAU (Bacon L. B.), XI 164—his attempt to ground the theory of electric attraction on capillary action, I 731—on the adhesive force of metals, II 140—his aerial voyages, 177, 181—on capillary attraction, XII 95—his works, XI 166—his pyrometer, XVIII 703
 — (M.), on iron bridges, XII 578
 Guzerat, in Hindustan, XI 463. See Gujerat
 Gvozdev, island, XIX 552
 GWALIOR, town and fortress in Hindustan, XI 167—Sepoy insurrection at, XVI 310
 Gwarriahs, Indian tribe, XI 466
 Gweedore, in Donegal, VIII 105
 Gwilt, on the merits of Salisbury, and other English cathedrals, III 448—on the absurdities of Vitruvius, 451—on the orders of architecture, 463
 Gwynne and Co, their peat fuel, XVII 358
 Gyarmathi (Dr Samuel), on the affinities of the Hungarian and Finnish languages, XVII 535
 GYBING, XI 163
 Gyges, XI 168, VI 169; XIII 747
 Gyllenberg (Count), Swedish poet, XIX 698
 Gyllenburg (Count), V 455
 Gyllenhal (Leonard), his work on insects, IX 12
 GYMNASIUM, XI 168—baths usually connected with, IV 505
 GYMNASTICS, XI 168

GYM—HAB

Gymnehs, genus of fishes, XII 268
 Gymnetis, genus of insects, IX 127
 Gymnetrus, genus of fishes, XII 303
 Gymnite, mineral, XV 80
 Gymnocephalus, genus of birds, XVI 749
 Gymnodactylus, genus of reptiles, XIX 37
 Gymnodera, genus of birds, XVI 751
 Gymnodontei, family of fossil fishes, XII 338
 Gymnodonts, fishes, XII 312, 314—fossil, 351
 Gymnolamata, polypes, XXI 1002
 Gymnomusæna, genus of fishes, XII 232
 Gymnopa, genus of insects, IX 257
 Gymnophthalmata, zoophytes, XXI 1000
 Gymnopleurus, genus of insects, IX 119
 Gymnops, genus of birds, XVI 754
 Gymnorhynchus, entozoa, XXI 979
 Gymnosoma, genus of insects, IX 247
 Gymnosomata, order of mollusks, XV 362
 Gymnosperms, V 139—embryogeny in, 137—eign of, in geological times, 236
 GYMNOSOPHISTS, XI 170, V 271
 Gymnotidæ, family of fishes, XII 233, 234
 GYMNORUS, XI 170, VIII 575, 580; XII 233, 234, 226; XVII 636—electrical organs of, VIII 576—method of fishing for, 575
 Gymnuia, dentition of, XVI 451
 GYNÆCEUM, XI 170—in botany, V 118, 129
 Gynandrous stamens, V 127
 Gyongros, Hungarian town, XI 170
 Gypætos, genus of birds, XVI 740
 GYPSIES, XI 170—the Bazeegurs of India analogous to, IV 525—in Hungary, XII 11—Moldavia, XV 312—acts against, XVIII 203—in Turkey, XXI 378—their language, IX 390
 GYPSUM, XI 172; XV 95, 145, 149; XVII 620—its use as a manure, II 304, 415; VI 524, 525—specific gravity of, XII 88—mortar of lime and, VI 381—enters into the composition of gauge stuff, V 742—optical properties of, XVI 651, 658—in Chile, VI 548
 Gyracanthus, fossil fishes, XVII 117; XII 339
 Gyration, radius of, XIV 412
 Gyrfalcon, XI 248. See *Jen-falcon*
 Gyrrinus, genus of insects, IX 101
 Gyrocera, fossil mollusks, XVII 112
 Gyrodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 337
 Gyrolepis, genus of fossil fishes, XII 334
 Gyrolite, mineral, XV 76
 GYROMANCY, XI 172
 Gyron, in heraldry, XI 329
 Gyroneus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 338
 Gyronny, in heraldry, XI 329
 Gyrosteus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 337
 GYULA, Hungarian town, XI 172
 Gyulal (Count), Austrian commander-in-chief, XIX 643

H

H, letter of the alphabet, XI 173; II 613—in abbreviations, 18
 Haan (V. de), his work on insects, IX 18
 HAARLEM, or Haerlem, XI 173—besieged and taken by the Spaniards, II 643; XI 568—population, 582—early printing at, IV 706; XVIII 593
 — MEER, XI 173—draining of, 581
 Haarlingen, in Holland, XI 229
 Haase on the lymphatics and nerves, II 703, 704
 HABAKKUK, the prophet, XI 174—style of, XVIII 98
 HABEAS CORPUS, XI 174
 — ACT, XI 174; XII 366; XVIII 567—passing of the, V 427—its suspension in 1794, 553; and in Ireland, 624, 634
 HABERDASHER, XI 175—origin of the word, IV 660
 HABERGEON, XI 175
 Habik, Malebranche on the formation of habits, I 77—its influence on the re-

HAC—HAG

spration of foul air, XXI 541. See Custom
 HACHETTE (J Nicolas Pierre), geometer, XI 175—on hydrodynamics, XII 73—his experiments in hydraulics, 146
 Hackensack river, XVI 175
 HACKER (John), bishop, XI 175
 Hackles, for artificial files, III 150
 HACKING, XIX 403; XX 285, 511
 HACENEX, in Middlesex, XI 176, XIII 664
 — COACHES, XI 176; VII 43—license to keep, XIII 438
 — horse, XI 652, 662
 Hackworth, blast-pipe invented by, XX 682
 Haco, king of Norway, XIX 754
 HACQUETON, XI 176
 HADDINGTON, XI 176
 HADDINGTONSHIRE, XI 177—agriculture of, II 368—flax prices in, IX 532—agricultural statistics, XIX 796, 797, 798—population, 799—trigonometrical survey of, XXI 333
 HADDOCK, XI 179; XII 269—fishery, IX 634, 647—as an article of food, 764
 — (Sir Richard), XX 130
 Haddon Hall, VII 756
 HADELEN, in Hanover, XI 179
 HADERLEBEN, in Denmark, XI 179
 HADES, XI 179
 HADERAMAUT, in Arabia, XI 179, III 345, 356
 Hadjr, in Arabia, III 341
 HADLEIGH, town in Suffolk, XI 179
 HADLEY (John), XI 179—his reflecting telescope, I 748; II 88—his quadrant, I 748; XVI 30—his sextant, XIII 687; XVI 28
 — (George), on the cause of the trade-winds, XIV 647
 Hadow (Mr), on gun-cotton, XI 95
 HADRIANOPOLIS, XI 179. See Adrianople
 HADRIANUS (P Ohus), Roman emperor, XI 180—Alexandria repaired by, II 470—his wall in Britain, III 281; V 379, XVI 300, XIX 741—villa of, III 470—mausoleum of, 473—buildings at Athens erected by, IV 164—his visit to Egypt, VIII 472—his passion for hunting, XII 32—Jerusalem rebuilt and fortified by, 733, 775—circus of, VI 734—reign of, XIX 342—his improvements in Rome, 362—sculpture encouraged by, 588
 HADRUMETUM, XI 180
 Hæal machines, XII 75, 173
 Hæmatine and Hæmatosine, II 780
 Hæmatite, XV 108; XII 640; VI 184
 Hæmatopota, genus of insects, IX 261
 Hæmatopota, genus of birds, XVI 797
 Hæmaturia, among cattle, XXI 570
 Hæmocharis, genus of annelides, XI 307
 Hæmodoraceæ, nat order of plants, V 212
 Hæmopsis, genus of annelides, XI 306
 HÆMOPHYTIS, XI 180
 HÆMORRHOÏD, XI 180; XVII 690—surgical treatment of, XX 821
 Hæmulon, genus of fishes, XII 235
 HÆMUS, mountains, XI 180, IV 396
 Haenke (Thadeus), on the vegetable productions of Peru, XVII 472
 HÆRETICO COMBURENDO, XI 180, 351
 HAERLEBEEK, town of Belgium, XI 180
 Haerlem. See Haarlem
 HAFY, lagoon near Stetna, XI 180
 HAFIZ (S. Edin Mohammed), Persian poet, XI 180; XVII 429—his tomb at Shiraz, XX 206
 Hafnefordite, mineral, XV 71
 HAGARENES, XI 181; III 361
 Hægecius ab Hayck (Thadeus), on brewing, V 319
 HAGEN, town of Prussia, XI 181
 Hagenbach (J. J.), his works on insects, IX 13
 HAGERSTOWN, in Maryland, XI 181; XIV 331
 HAGGAI, the prophet, XI 181
 HAGIOGRAPHIA, XI 181; IV 695, 697; XIX 838
 HAGUE (The), XI 181—royal library at,

HAG—HAL

XIII 422—political riots in 1785, V 525—collection of paintings at, XI 591—population, 582—meeting of the states-general at, in 1830, IV 605
 HAGUENAU, French town, XI 181
 Hahn (C. W.), his works on insects, IX 18
 HAHNEMANN (Samuel), founder of homoeopathy, XI 181, 606 et seq
 HAICITES, Mussulman sect, XI 181
 Haidinger (M.), on optics, XVI 550, 667, 669, 676
 Haidingerite, mineral, XV 96
 HAIL, XI 181; XIV 658—hail protectors, I 737; VIII 586—great hail storm in France, X 48—electrical origin of, VIII 686—laws regulating the distribution of, XVII 613
 Hailes (Lord). See Dalrymple (Sir D)
 HAILSHAM, in Sussex, XI 181
 HAIMAN, island, XI 181—fossil crabs of, XVII 102
 HAINAUT, in Belgium, XI 182; IV 601, 613, 615—tobacco and chicory grown in, 624
 — forest, IX 336, 337
 — scythe, II 313
 HAINBURG, town of Austria, XI 182
 HAININGEN, town in Saxony, XI 182
 HAIR, XI 182, XVII 607—structure of human, II 837—best kinds of, for fishing-lines, III 151—as manure, II 407—of the mammalia, XIV 133, 212—imports of, VIII 734—of the Rocky Mountain goat, XXI 806
 — cloth, XI 183
 — or down of plants, XI 183; V 75
 — manufactures, XI 183
 — powder, XI 183
 — salt, XV 97
 Hair-ball, disease of cattle, XXI 568
 Hair-eel, XI 307
 Hair-trigger, XI 99
 HAKE, fish, XI 183; XII 269—fishing, IX 643, 634—as food, 764—cured, 646
 Hakewill (Dr George), his work on the Power and Providence of God in the Government of the World, I 240
 Håkim, or El-Hakim, worshipped by the Druses, XX 908, VIII 478
 HAKLITT (Richard), XI 183—his Collection of Voyages, IV 707, n. 2—treatise on the north-west passage in, XVIII 164—on the gold and silver of California, VI 97—on the use of horse and camel's dung as fuel, X 318, n. 1
 HAL, town of Belgium, XI 184
 Haladroma, genus of birds, XVI 812
 HALAS, town of Hungary, XI 184
 HALBERSTADT, Prussian town, XI 184
 HALBERT, or Halberd, XI 184
 Halbesk (Dr), on leprosy, XIII 340
 HALCYON, XI 184
 — DAYS, XI 184
 Halcyornis, genus of fossil birds, XVII 155
 HALDANE (James Alexander), XI 185
 — (Robert), XI 184
 Haldat (M.), of Nancy, on magnetism, XIV 13, 32—his magnetic figures, 25
 HALDÉ (Jean Baptiste du), XI 185
 HALE (Sir Mathew), XI 185—on the foundation of the authority of laws, VI 190—on the law regarding fishing in England, IX 602—on mercy to animals, XI 663
 — (Mr), his improvement on rockets, XI 142
 Halec, genus of fossil fishes, XII 347
 Halecoidei, family of fossil fishes, XII 347
 HALES (Stephen), D.D., physiologist, XI 187—on the physiology of leaves, V 101, 104—instrument used by, to ascertain the force of the ascent of sap in trees, 112—on respired air, XVIII 73
 — of Eaton, Lord Hailes' edition of his works, VII 635
 HALESBORN, town in Worcester, XI 187
 HALESWORTH, town in Suffolk, XI 187
 HALF-PAY, XI 187; VII 202, 208—in the navy, XVI 113
 Halfpenny, VII 70

HAL—HAL

- Halhed (Mr), on the Sanscrit language, XVII 529
- Halietus, genus of birds, XVI 742
- Halibut, or Holibut, fish, XI 187, XII 271—as an article of food, IX 764—fishery of, 634, 648—in Lapland, XIII 241
- Haliscampus, genus of fishes, XII 315
- HALICARNASSUS, XI 187—sepulchre of Mausolus at, XIV 366
- Halicore, genus of mammalia, XIV 218 See Dugong.
- Halictus, genus of insects, IX 198
- Hahday (W H), on the destruction of salmon ova by trout, IX 617
- (A. H.), his writings on insects, IX 18.
- Halientea, genus of fishes, XII 312
- HALILETICA, XI 188
- HALIFAX, in Yorkshire, XI 188; XXI 959—woollen manufactures of, 916, 918—in Nova Scotia, XI 188; XVI 343, 345.
- (John of), III 581, 796; X 504.
- (MARQUIS OF), XI 189. See Savile.
- HALIMASS, XI 189, 196.
- Halitoda, family of mollusks, XV 380.
- Halitus, genus of mollusks, XV 380—fossil, XVII 111.
- Halthea, genus of annelides, XI 300
- Halkherring, fossil mammal, XVII 166
- HALL, (Capt. Basil), XI 189—his barometrical observations IV 458—on the falls of Niagara, VI 136—on the vegetation of Conception, II 671—cameia lucida employed by, VI 118—his pendulum observations, IX 572, 573.
- (C M), his achromatic telescope, XVI 584.
- (EDWARD), XI 189—his chronicle on masquerades, XIV 339.
- (Sir James), of Dunglass, XI 189—on the striated surfaces of rocks, VII 723.
- (John), his improvement in ropemaking, XIX 410.
- (JOSEPH), bishop, XI 189
- ROBERT, XI 190—his objections to Edwards' theory on the principle of virtue, XV 561—on the theory which places all virtue in universal benevolence, 563—his intimacy with Sir J Mackintosh, XIII 785
- (Dr Marshall), on the capillary vessels, II 797—on the nerves, 815—on the action of the brain, XVII 561—on the spinal cord, 674—his discoveries in relation to the nerves, 676.
- (Mr), his apparatus for sungeing cloth, IV 764.
- (Mr), on the aborigines of Tasmania, XXI 31.
- in architecture, &c., XI 189.
- in Wurtemberg, XI 189.
- town in the Tyrol, XI 189.
- Hall's condensers, XX 654
- Hallam (Henry), on the study of the canon and civil law, VI 737—on the feudal system, IX 521, 525—on Harrington, XI 232—on Hooker, 621—on the English constitution, VIII 759 *et seq*—his criticism on St Evremont, IX 422—on the Orlando Furioso, XVIII 111—on the sermons of Jeremy Taylor, XXI 78—on Da Vinci, 591.
- HALLS, Prussian city, XI 195—university of, XVIII 673; XXI 492.
- (John), his anatomical work, II 760.
- HALLBERG, Austrian town, XI 195.
- HALLBEGGAR, XI 195, II 589
- HALLER (Albert von), XI 195; XIV 462—his anatomical and physiological labours, II 765, 766—on fat, 788—on the arteries, 791, 792, 796—on the veins, 798, 799—on the spongy body of the urethra, 779—on exhalants, 802—on the lymphatics, 804—on the nerves, 814—on the mucous membrane, 836—on the serous membrane, 839—on the weight of the brain, III 82—his discoveries relating to the muscles and nerves, XVII 676—on monsters, XV 503—on surgery, XX 820.

HAL—HAM

- HALLEY (Dr Edmund), XI 196—on the proper motion of the stars, I 845—his hypothesis regarding magnetic poles, 990—physics greatly indebted to him, 658—his voyages for scientific purposes, 658, 659, 742—on the trade-winds and monsoons, 659—on the variation of the compass, ib—his life, works, and character, 697, n 3—on terrestrial magnetism, 741; and declination of the needle, ib, 990—on probabilities of life, III 220, 230; XII 396—his discovery of the law that connects the height of the atmosphere with its density, IV 463, I 729—his edition of Apollonius, VII 250, X 503—his astronomical labours, I 655, III 804—his comet, IV 76, 94—constellations added by, 80—on aurora borealis, 243, 246—on the barometer, 459—on barometrical measurements, I 729, IV 463—his improvement of the diving-bell, VIII 61, 62—on evaporation, IX 407, 409; I 659—on projectiles, XI 107—on magnetism, XIV 3, 49—on mortality, XV 601, 631—on the origin of springs, I 659—on navigation, XVI 6—pneumatics, XVIII 57—on the thermometer, XXI 221.
- Hallwell (Mr), on Shakespeare, XX 89.
- HALLMAN (C), Swedish author, XIX 699.
- Hallomennus, genus of insects, IX 132.
- Hallooing, in hunting, XII 46.
- HALLOWELL, village in Maine, XI 196.
- HALLOWMAS, XI 196.
- Halloysite, mineral, XV 83
- Halls in universities, XXI 454 *et seq*.
- Hallstatt, triassic rocks of, XV 206.
- Halmahera, island, X 627
- HALLMOT, XI 196.
- HALMSTAD, in Sweden, XI 196, XX 864.
- HALO, XI 196; VII 410, XIV 681, XVI 688—artificial, ib—polarisation of the light of, 689—colours of, VI 645, 651 See Corona.
- Haloid stones, XV 73
- Haloragaceae, nat order of plants, V 192.
- Halotrichite, mineral, XV 97
- HALSTED, town in Essex, XI 196
- HALTERES, ancient exercises, XI 196.
- in flies, IX 42, 41, n 2
- HALTWHISTLE, in Northumberland, X 196
- Haly Abbas, XIV 456.
- HALYS, river, XI 197.
- Halysites, fossil coral, XVII 97.
- HALYTEREPOLK, XI 197.
- HAM, son of Noah, XI 197; VIII 45
- the land of Egypt, XI 197; VIII 419.
- XI 197.
- town of France, XI 197
- thigh of a beast, XI 197; VIII 734.
- Hamadah, table-land in Africa, II 212.
- HAMADAN, XI 197; VIII 370
- HAMADRYADES, XI 197, VIII 201.
- HAMAZ, city of Syria, XI 197, XX 902, 904—plain of, 903
- Hamamelidaceae, nat. order of plants, V 195.
- Hamath See Hamah.
- HAMAXOBIA, XI 197.
- HAMBATO, town in Ecuador, XI 197
- HAMBURG, XI 197—Jews in, XII 783—commerce of, VII 187—corn trade, 403—member of the Hanseatic League, XI 213—libraries at, XIII 421—bank of, XV 489—rules for gas-fitters in, XIX 616—rate of interest at, XII 491—lottery, XIII 697—bills of mortality, XV 628—postal system, XVIII 424—coins, XV 441, 443—weights and measures, XXI 811.
- white, XIII 302.
- HAMEL (Jean Baptiste du), XI 199. See Duhamel.
- (de V. le M. H. L.) See Duhamel.
- (Dr), his ascent of Mont Blanc, II 627.
- HAMELN, town of Hanover, XI 199
- HAMESBECKEN, or Hamesucken, XI 199.
- HAMILCAR BARCA, XI 199, II 717; VI 281, 290 *et seq*—son of Gisco, 284.

HAM—HAM

- Hamlico, VI 283.
- Hamilton (Alexander), American statesman, XXI 437, 438, 756, 757, 760.
- (ANTHONY, COURT), XI 190.
- (Lord Archibald), his measures for parliamentary reform, V 632, 635, 637
- (Captain), his Cynl Thornton, XIX 282
- (ELIZABETH), XI 200
- (GAVIN), painter, XI 200
- (Gavin), patron of Burns, VI 18
- (Lady), XI 201; XVI 135, 136, 139 n
- (Lord), his bequest to Glasgow University, XXI 476
- (Marguis of), in Charles the First's reign, V 395—his assistance to the Swedes with British forces, XX 849
- on the climate of Ireland, XII 504.
- on the Turks in Syria, XX 909
- (Patrick), XIX 772
- (Dr ROBERT), XI 200—on the national debt, X 328 *et seq*; V 600—on the sinking fund, VIII 753—on capillary attraction, XII 91—on taxation, XXI 39, 70.
- (Sir W. Rowan), I 918—on conical refraction in biaxial crystals, ib, XVI 548, 656—his peculiar analysis in geometrical optics, I 918—a discoverer in pure analysis and its connection with geometry, ib n 2
- (Sir WILLIAM), diplomatist, XI 201—his account of Mount Etna, II 190, 196
- (Sir William), Professor of Logic at Edinburgh, Coleridge accused of plagiarism by, VII 111—his erudition and historical cast of mind, XI 546—on thinking, XIII 588, n—his definition of logic, 571, n—his works on logic, 576, n—on logic, 582, 583 *et seq*—his partial negatives, 588—on metaphysics, XIV 555—on sensation and perception, 563—on the primary and secondary qualities of body, 570, 571—on the classification of mental phenomena, 578, n 1 and 2—on association of ideas, 594, 595—on causal judgment, 601, n 3—his criticism on Schelling, 608, n 2—on the terms subject and subjective, XVI 401—on the senses of taste and smell, XIV 563, n 4—on the muscular sense, 569, n 8—his discussions on education, XXI 443, n 2
- (WILLIAM), of Bangour, XI 201
- (William), on Egyptian architecture and antiquities, III 435—Greek inscription published by, XI 384
- town in Lanarkshire, XI 199
- town in Upper Canada, XI 199; VI 185, 144, 152.
- Hamites, genus of mollusks, XV 394—fossil, XVII 113.
- HAMLET, XI 201.
- prince of Denmark, XI 201.
- HAMM, in Westphalia, XI 201.
- Hammarsköld, Swedish author, XIX 700.
- HAMME, town of Belgium, XI 201
- Hammel (A. D.), his works on insects, IX 18.
- HAMMER, XI 201—steam-hammer, XII 563
- Hammer-beam roof, XIX 392.
- Hammer-headed sharks, XII 320, 322.
- HAMMERFEST, town in Norway, XI 201; XIII 245.
- HAMMERSMITH, XI 201.
- HAMMOCK, XI 202.
- HAMMOND (Henry), XI 202.
- (JAMES), poet, XI 202
- Hamonaze, V 307, 309, VIII 84; XVIII 17.
- Hampden (Bishop), on moral philosophy, XV 536, 537.
- (JOHN), XI 202; VII 509; V 394; XI 683, 689.
- HAMPPIRE, XI 202—its breed of pigs, II 365—basin, XV 211, 212—population and value of property, VIII 754
- (New), in United States, XXI 419. See New Hampshire.
- HAMPSTEAD, in Middlesex, XI 205.

HAM—HAP

- HAMPTON, in Middlesex, XI 205
- Court Palace, XI 205—Raphael's cartoons at, VI 304—Thornhill's paintings at, XXI 237—King Charles' elm at, 274.
- HAMSTER, XI 205; XIV 182—its hybernation, III 180—its fur, X 348
- HANAPER, XI 205—clerk of, VI 764
- HANAU, in Hesse-Cassel, XI 205, 362—battle of, X 165
- HANCES, in architecture, XI 205
- Hancock, in Maryland, XIV 390
- (Mr), his work on the mollusca, XV 327—on the mollusca, 337
- HAND, XI 205, XIV 184—bones of, III 38—muscles, 38—motions of, 40.
- a measure, XI 205—imposition of hands, ib
- HAND-IN-HAND fire office, XII 417.
- HAND-LOOM, XXI 783
- HANDEL (George Frederic), XI 205, XV 715
- Handkerchiefs, folding of, VI 93.
- Handley (Mr), his account of an agricultural meeting at Mecklenburg, II 253
- Handson (Raphie), on navigation, XVI 5.
- HANDSPIKE, XI 207
- HANG-CHAU-FOU, Chinese city, XI 207.
- Hanging, death from, XIV 430—as a capital punishment, 445.
- HANGO-HEAD, promontory on the Gulf of Finland, XI 207—English boat, under a flag of truce, captured near, XIX 511.
- HANLEY, town in Stafford, XI 207.
- HANNIBAL, XI 208—his army, III 629—invader of Sicily, VI 281—war with the Romans, 293, XIX 310—passage of the Alps, VI 293 and n; II 623—his proceedings in Africa, 298—his defeat at Zama, 299—character of, 296; death, XIX 314—Saguntum taken by, XX 457—Whitaker on his passage over the Alps, XXI 851.
- HANNO, Carthaginian navigator, XI 210—Peripplus or voyage of, II 209, X 461—translation of his Peripplus by Camponanes, VI 130
- Carthaginian general, XI 210; VI 286 *et seq*
- HANOVER, XI 210—army of, III 652—conquered by the French, V 464—seized and plundered by the French, 596—monarchy, XV 413—coins of, 442, 443—crown of, XI 335—postal system, XVIII 424—university in, XXI 492—weights and measures, 811.
- city, XI 213
- in Indiana, XII 875.
- village in Hampshire, North America, XI 213.
- Hanse Towns, or Hansards, XI 214; VII 739; XVI 2—their commerce, VII 187—their contentions with Denmark, 739—French trade with, X 259.
- HANSEATIC LEAGUE, XI 213; X 303. See Hanse Towns.
- Hansen (M), on perturbations, I 826—on the perturbations of the smaller planets IV 91—his discovery of two new lunar inequalities, I 826; IV 88—on the moon's figure, I 813, n 3—his other investigations, 827—on the pendulum, 865.
- HANSTEEN (Prof. Christopher), I 900—his Dissertation on the earth's magnetism, ib—on magnetic variation or declination, ib—position of magnetic centres or poles, ib 991—on the lines of dip, ib—on aurora borealis, IV 249—his further researches on magnetism, XIV 7, 8, 15, 23, 42, 49, 55, 57, 58, 59 *et seq*—his four magnetic poles, 60—his magnetic observations in Siberia, I 991; XIV 60—on the causes of the earth's magnetism, 64.
- HANST, town of Hindustan, XI 215—sepoj insurrection at, XVI 309.
- HANWAY (Jonas), XI 215—on the evils of tea-drinking, XXI 83.
- Hanwell, lunatic asylum, XIV 528.
- Haplacanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII 117.
- Happiness, XV 572—Aristotle on, III 557, 561—Socrates on, XX 396.

HAP—HAR

Hapsburg dynasty, IV 302
 Har, Egyptian deity, VIII 438
 Har-oe or Aroens, Egyptian deity, VIII 438
 HARBOURS, XI 216; XVII 585—harbour of refuge at Portland, XVIII 273—in the Fifth of Forth IX 795—of Jamaica, XII 680—at Peterhead, XVII 435—English, VIII 721—French, X 243—Irish, XII 505 See Docks, Ports
 Harbs, Arabian tribe, III 348
 HARBURG, in Hanover, XI 226
 Harbutt (Rev William), on a marine worm, XI 297, n 3
 Harclay (Sir Andrew), VI 623; VII 699
 Harder, gland of, III 97
 HARDEWYK, town in Holland, XI 226
 HARDICANUTE, XI 226—reign of, VIII 682—shipping in the time of, XX 119
 Hardie (Thomas), V 553, 554
 — (Walter), his reflecting stereoscope, XX 688
 Harding (M), his discovery of the planet Juno, I 835, IV 68—on Mercury and Jupiter, 65, 71
 Harding's diary, VII 625
 Hardinge (Sir Henry), V. 669, 670—his engagement at Peizeshah, IX 518—his account of the death of Sir J. Moore, XV 529.
 HARDNESS, XI 226—of minerals, V. 55; XIII 231.
 HARDOUIN (Jean), Jesuit, XI 226
 Hardware-manufacture of Birmingham, IV 731—of England, VIII 723, France, X 254; Spain, XX 490, Staffordshire, 530. See Cutlery, Iron Manufacture, &c.
 Hardwick, seat of Duke of Devonshire, VII 756.
 HARDWICKS, earl of, XI 226 See Yorke (Su Philip)
 Hardy (Captain), XVI 133, 139.
 — (Sir Charles), V 488
 — (James), his contributions to entomology, IX 22.
 — (Sir Thomas), on capstans, XX 23.
 Hardy's escapement, VII 13.
 HARE, XI 226; XIV 187; XXI 548—as food, IX 762—teeth of, XVI 454, 455—hare skins, X 349, 350—of Java, XII 704—hare hunting, 41—shooting of, XX 222
 — (JULIUS CHARLES), XI 226—his vindication of Luther, XIII 739—his Life of Sterling, XX 692.
 — (Dr Robert), of Philadelphia, his electrical machine, VIII 538, 604—his single-leaf electrometer, 619; his galvanic deflagrator, XXI 612; its results, 626—his calorimeter, 616.
 Harebell, order of plants, V. 197—the harebell, 123
 Haredwara, in Hindustan, XII 49.
 Harelip, surgical treatment of, XX 835.
 HAREM, XI 226, VII 302; XXI 379.
 Har-em-heb, Egyptian king, VIII 461.
 Harengula, genus of fishes, XII 237.
 Harfang, bird, XVI 746
 HAREFIELD, French town, XI 228
 Harford's notice of Wharton, XXI 734.
 Hargraves (Edward Hammond), his discovery of gold in New South Wales, IV 275
 Hargreaves, or Hargraves (J), his spinning jenny, III 609, XX 510—carding machine and spinning jenny, VII 441.
 HARKARA, in Hindustan, XI 228
 HARRINGTON (Sir John), poet, XI 228.
 Harlan (Dr), on a fossil whale, XVII 168.
 Harland (Sir Robert), V. 485, 486.
 Harleian MSS, XI 229; XIII 391.
 HARLEQUIN, XI 228, VIII 148.
 HARLEY (Robert), earl of Oxford, XI 229; III 217—his kindness to Defoe, VII 695—his friendship with Swift, XX 878.
 HARLINGEN, in Holland, XI 229.
 HARMATTAN, African wind, XI 229; XX 271; XXI 543.
 HARMODIUS, XI 229; III 532; IV 197.
 HARMONIA, XI 229; VI 61.
 HARMONICA, musical instrument, XI 230; XV 713, 714.

HAR—HAR

Harmonical progression, VIII 639.
 HARMONICS, XI 230, II 107.
 — acute, XI 230; II 110; XV 701
 HARMONIUM, musical instrument, XI 230
 HARMONY, in music, XI 230 II 110, XV 719—theories of, 701—in architecture, III 484
 — Hall, socialist establishment, VII 216
 HARVOSTZ, XI 230.
 Harrotome, mineral, XV 77.
 Harmouth, fish, XII 260
 Harness, exports of, from Britain, XIII 311.
 HARS, town of Spain, XI 230
 HAROLD I, king of England, XI 230, VIII 662.
 — II, king of England, XI 230, VIII 663, 664—killed in the battle of Hastings, 665
 — Haidrada, king of Norway, VIII 663
 — Harfagr, king of Norway, XVI 316, 317 and n 1, XII 197
 Haroun-al-Raschid, II 4, 13 See Aaron-al-Raschid and Harun-al-Raschid
 HARR, XI 230
 Harp-shells, XV 386
 Harpa, genus of mollusks, XV 386
 Harpagifer, genus of fishes, XII 307.
 HARPAGINES, XI 230.
 Harpagus, VII 612; XIII 748.
 Harpalici, insects, IX 88—synoptical table of, ib
 Harpalus, genus of insects, IX 88
 HARPE (Jean François de la), XI 230—his eulogy of Condillac, I 116, n—his definition of Reflection, and on the moral tendency of the French school of metaphysics, ib.—his character of Aguesseau, II 425—Voltaire's letter to, XXI 667.
 HARPER'S FERRY, village in Virginia, North America, XI 231
 Harpi-chruh, Egyptian deity, VIII 439
 Harpies, birds, XVI 743
 HARPINGS in a ship, XI 231
 HARPOCRATES, Egyptian deity, XI 231, VIII 439
 HARPOCRATION (Valerius), grammarian, XI 231.
 HARPONULLY, in India, XI 231.
 HARPOON, XI 231
 HARPSICORD, XI 231; XVII 704.
 Harpyia, genus of birds, XVI 743.
 HARPYIA, or Harpies, XI 231.
 HARQUEBUSE, XI 232.
 HARRAR, African town, XII 50
 HARRIER, XI 232, 770; XII 41—packs of in Britain, 39
 — bird, XVI 744.
 Harrid (Messrs), then composition rollers, XVIII 549
 HARRINGTON, in Cumberland, XI 232
 — (JAMES), XI 232—merits of his Oceana, I 47 n.
 Harringtonite, mineral, XV 75.
 HARRIOT (Thomas), XI 232; XIV 742—his improvements in algebra, I 559; II 485—observed the spots of the sun not more than a month later than Galileo, I 559—on equations, IX 284, 299—telescopes used by, XVI 523
 Harris (A C), on Egypt, VIII 421—his discovery of an oration of Hyperides, XII 192.
 — (General), V. 567; XXI 818
 — (Howell), of Trevecca, XIV 693.
 — (JAMES), XI 233—on grammar, X 754 et seq.—on money, XVIII 220.
 — (Moses), his works on insects, IX 7
 — (Mr), on pictures seen by each eye separately, XX 684.
 — (T. W.), his works on insects, IX 22
 — (W. C.), on elephant-shooting, XX 211.
 — (Sir Wm Snow), on electricity, VIII 534—on the influence of heat in promoting conduction, 540, 541—on the attraction of spheres and planes, 550—on the evolution of heat by electricity, 550, 591—his electrical machine, 604—

HAR—HAR

his ship-conductors, 610; XX 24—his electroscopie and electrometer, VIII 620
 —his measuring electrometer, 622—his bifilar balance, 623—his electrical balance, 624—on magnetism, XIV 13, 20, 23, 24, 35, 67—his compass, 80—his magnetometer, 83—his experiments in voltaic electricity, XXI 627
 HARRIS, in the Hebrides, XI 233; XIII 351
 — SOUND OF, XI 233
 HARRISBURG, in Pennsylvania, XI 233—geology, XVII 395—railway at, 397
 HARRISON (John), XI 233—his escapement, VII 8—his going ratchet, 14—obtained the first Government reward for chronometers, 8; XIII 686—his compensation balance, VII 29
 — (Mr), of Blackburn, his power-looms, XXI 739
 HARROGATE, in Yorkshire, XI 234—its mineral waters, XV 37
 HARROW, agricultural implement, XI 234, II 272, 273.
 HARROW-ON-THE-HILL, in Middlesex, XI 234
 HARRY, BLIND, or Harry the minstrel, XI 234
 HART, XI 234. See Deer.
 — (Mr), of Glasgow, his galvanic battery, XXI 611
 HARTE (Walter), historian, XI 234
 HARTFORD, in Connecticut, North America, XI 234—Trinity College at, VII 295—asylum for the insane, also for the deaf and dumb at, VI 295.
 Hartine, mineral, XV 124.
 Hartate, mineral, XV 125
 HARTLAND, town in Devon, XI 234.
 HARTLEPOOL, town in Durham, XI 234—docks and harbour of, VIII 75, 266—chalybeate spring at, ib.—romantic rocks near, 267
 HARTLEY, in Northumberland, XI 235
 — (DAVID), XI 235—on the origin of our ideas, I 115, n—his Theory of Human Nature, 170, 171—his Observations on Man, 378 et seq, 386—on association of ideas, 170, 379, 381; XIV 596
 —his merits as a metaphysician, I 381
 —his vibratory theory of sensations, XVIII 68
 — (Messrs), their manufacture of sheet-glass, X 664
 — Institution, XX 452.
 Hartlib, on agriculture, II 257.
 Hartmann (Prof), his edition of Edm's geography, VIII 412
 Hartog (Dijk), his voyage, IV 252.
 HARTSHORN, spirit of, XI 235
 Hartz Mountains. See Harz Mountains.
 HARUN AL RASCHID, caliph of Bagdad, XI 235—Bagdad improved by, IV 363
 —his residence at Derbend, VII 753—his love of science, XIV 456—tomb of, 546—Arabic learning under, XVII 521—his patronage of medicine, XX 814
 HARUSPICES, XI 235; III 720.
 Harvard University, V. 62; XIV 340; XXI 423—library, XIII 429, XIV 340.
 HARVEST, XI 236—period of, in different countries, V 221, XVII 625; in France, X 241
 — cart, II 279
 Harvest-bug, III 389.
 Harvest-moon, IV 34.
 Harvesting implements, II 276.
 Harvey and Co, their pumping-engines, XX 614
 — (Gabriel), XI 363; XV 800.
 — (Major), on the Belgian army, III 654.
 — (Dr WILLIAM), XI 236; XIV 460
 —his discovery of the circulation of the blood, II 761; importance of that discovery, XX 818.
 HARWICH, town in Essex, XI 237; IX 387.
 Harwood (Dr), on editions of the ancient classics, IV 711.
 HARTZ, or HARTZ MOUNTAINS, XI 237, 211

HAR—HAU

—employments of the inhabitants of, 212
 HARTZGERODE, town in Germany, XI 237.
 Hasan Sabah, XVII 437.
 Hasbeyah, in Palestine, XVII 185.
 Hase (Dr), on theology, XXI 212.
 Hashesh, VIII 431, 448. See Hemp.
 Haskin's quicksilver pump, XVIII 84
 Haslam (Dr), his definition of insanity, XIV 528
 Haslar Hospital, VIII 84—Parry's superintendence of, XVII 308
 HASLEMERE, town in Surrey, XI 237
 HASLINGDEN, town in Lancashire, XI 237
 Hassa (el), or Bahrain, in Arabia, III 343
 Hassall (Dr Arthur Hill), his work on microscopic anatomy, II 770—on adulterations of food, IX 769, 700—of tea, XXI 87
 Hassan Aga, II 568
 — Caliph, anecdote of, II 455.
 HASSELQUIST (Frederic), Swedish naturalist, XI 238
 HASSELT, town of Belgium, XI 238
 Hassenfatz (M), on the speaking-trumpet, II 107
 HASTA, or hasta pura, XI 238
 HASTATI, XI 238; III 630, 631.
 Hastenbach, battle of, V 464.
 Hastings, a Calcutta-built frigate, XXI 277.
 — (Marquis of), his administration in India, XI 506—on the zemindars of Bengal, IV 650—abolition of the censorship by, XVI 203
 — (WARREN), XI 238, 490, 494 et seq.
 —his proceedings in Oude, XVII 21—charges against, V 509, 520—his impeachment, 520, 524—trial of, 619, 523, 534, 539, 556, 777—considerations regarding his conduct in India, 524—his acquittal, 556.
 — town in Sussex, XI 238; XX 838, 839—battle of, VIII 665; XX 840
 —sand rocks of, XV 209—singular case of atmospheric refraction at, IX 490
 HAT, XI 240—manufacture of, in Paris, X 256—at Oldham, XVI 506—use of oak bark in dyeing, VIII 304, n 3—straw hats, XI 242
 HAT-MAKING, XI 240—in England, VIII 732—in France, X 256.
 HATCH, in mining, XI 243.
 — in a ship, XI 243.
 HATCHEL, XI 243.
 Hatchet (Mr), on magnetism, XIV 27.
 Hatchette, XV 124
 Hatching, in engraving, VIII 805
 — of eggs, artificial, XVIII 815.
 HATCHMENT, in heraldry, XI 243, 340.
 HATCHWAY, XI 243
 HATHFIELD, town in Hertfordshire, XI 243.
 — house, XI 243.
 Hatsell, on parliamentary forms of procedure, XVII 297, 299
 HATHERLEIGH, town in Devon, XI 243.
 HATRAS, town in Hindustan, XI 244
 HATTENISTS, Dutch sect, XI 244.
 HAUBERK, XI 244.
 Hauch (J. Carstens), Danish author, XIX 695
 Hauelite, mineral, XV 121.
 Haughton (Prof.), on the granites of Ireland, XV 136, n—on other Irish rocks, 137, 138—on faults in rocks, 179—on cleavage, 179—on granite veins, 186.
 HAUKSBER, or Hawksbee (Francis), XI 244, I 733 and n.—on the luminous barometer, IV 455—his barometrical experiment, 459—his contributions to electricity, VIII 524—on capillary attraction, XII 93, 96—on magnetism, XIV 4—his air-pump, XVIII 34.
 HAUSOU, XI 244.
 Hauran, mountains, XVII 187, XX 902—province, 910.
 HAURANT, in heraldry, XI 244.
 Hausset (Madame du), on the character of Quesnay, XVIII 738.
 Hausmann on voltaic electricity, XXI 619.
 Hausmann on dyeing blue, VIII 304.
 Hausmannite, mineral, XV 111.
 HAUTOBOY, wind instrument, XI 244. See Oboe.

HAU—HAY

- HAUT** (René Just), XI 244—on capillary attraction, XII 91, 96—on crystallization, VII 548, 548, 551—on the pyro-electricity of minerals, VIII 529—on the electricity of minerals, 538, 559, 562 *et seq*—his electroscopes, 558—on double magnetism, XIV 7
— (Valentine), his invention of printing for the blind, XVIII 553.
Hauyne, mineral, XV 74.
Havana, in Cuba, XI 244; VII 565, 567; XXI 837—sugar, XX 796—tobacco, XXI 294, 295.
HAVANT, in Hants, XI 244.
Have (La), river in Nova Scotia, XVI 343.
HAVEL, river, XI 244.
Havelock (General), XVI 306—his relief of Lucknow, and death, 308.
Haven, X 483.
HAVERCAMPT (Sigbert), XI 245.
HAVERFORDWEST, in Pembrokeshire, XI 245, XVII 374.
HAVERHILL, town in Suffolk, XI 245
— village in Massachusetts, XI 245.
Haverluck, on the Old Testament, IV 696.
HAVRE (le), or Havre de Grace, seaport in France, XI 245—population, X 277.
HAW, XI 246.
HAWAII, XI 246, XVIII 270.
HAWARDEN, in Flintshire, XI 246—fire-brick clay found at, V 346.
HAWASH, river, XI 246; II 55.
HAWES (Stephen), XI 246.
Hawfinch, XVI 761.
HAWICK, Scotch town, XI 246; XIX 452, 453—Gavin Douglas, rector of, VIII 114.
HAWK, XI 247, 248, II 77; XVI 743
— plasterers', V 741.
Hawk's beak, in architecture, III 468.
Hawk-moths, IX 209.
Hawke (Admiral), V 462, 465.
— (Mr), on the prospects of emigrants to Canada, VI 148.
Hawke's patent organ, XVI 713.
HAWKER, XI 247.
— (Colonel), on wildfowl shooting, XX 217.
Hawkes (John), on hunting, XII 35.
HAWKESBURY, river of New South Wales, XI 247, XVII 608.
— (Lord), on the peace of Amiens, V 589—secretary of state for foreign affairs, 577. See *Liverpool*, second Earl of.
HAWKESWORTH (John, LL.D.), XI 247—account of Cook's first voyage, drawn up by, VII 841—aided by Dr Joseph Warton in publishing *The Adventurer*, XXI 733.
HAWKING, XI 247. See *Falconry*.
HAWKINS (Sir John), navigator, XI 248.
— (Sir John), historian of music, XI 248—his edition of Walton's *Angler*, III 163; XXI 696.
— (John Isaak), his filter, IX 581.
Hawkesmoor's architecture, III 455.
Hawkwood (Sir John), XIII 113.
HAWLOWINE, island, XI 250; VII 371.
Hawley (General), defeated by Prince Charles at Falkirk, V 461.
Haworth (Adrian Hardy), on the insensibility of insects to pain, III 177—his entomological works, IX 11.
HAWSE and **Hawse-holes**, XI 250.
HAWSER, XI 250.
Hawthorn, XVII 760, 763
— (Messrs), their locomotive engines, XX 585.
Hawthornden, VIII 408—residence of Drummond the poet, 180, 181.
Hazo (General), on fortification, IX 834.
HAY, town in Brecknockshire, XI 250.
— (Richard), his proposals for printing Fordun's *Chronicle*, IX 778.
Haycraft on the heat of gases, XI 274.
HAYDN (Francis Joseph), XI 250—his diligence in study, XV 729—his imitative music, 737—on melody, 729. See *Music*.
— (JOHN MICHAEL), XI 251.

HAY—HEA

- HAYDON** (Benjamin Robert), historical painter, XI 252; XVII 83, 84, 85.
HAYE, (La), town in France, XI 253.
Hayes (Capt John), H.M.S. *Magnificent* saved by, XX 19
— (Richard), on life annuities, XII 397, n.
Haygarth (Dr), on mortality, XV 603—on Perkins' metallic tractors, XX 415.
HAYLE, seaport in Cornwall, XI 253.
HAYLEY (William), XI 253.
HAYMAKING, XI 253; II 330—defects of the Scottish method, 331—haymaker, implement, 279.
Haymarket Theatre, London, XIII 676. XXI 173.
HAYNAU, or **Hainau**, in Prussian Silesia, XI 253
— (General), his operations in Hungary, XII 25.
Haytadin, king of Algiers, II 567.
Hayter (Rev John), his examination of the *Herculaneum MSS*, XI 345.
HAYTI, or **San Domingo**, XI 253, II 707
— army of, III 661—abandoned by the British in 1798, V 565—French invasion of, in 1801, 591—buccaniers of, 707—declared independent, II 707—Faustin I, emperor of, 708—monarchy, IX 413
— French trade with, X 260—the Spaniards in, XVII 30—measurement of the length of the pendulum at, VII 230—reptiles of, XIX 34, 34, 36—weights and measures, XVI 811.
HAYWARD, XI 253
— (Mr), his essay on the poet Rogers, XIX 247, n 1—his description of Rogers' residence, 248.
Hazara, in the Punjab, XVIII 637.
HAZARD, game of, XI 258.
HAZAREBAGH, town in Hindustan, XI 258.
HAZEBROUCK, town in France, XI 258.
HAZEL, XI 258, XVII 765—order of plants, V 208—culture of, XI 717—hazel-nuts, XVI 395.
Hazel-colour, in dyeing, VIII 813, 814.
Hazel-fly, in angling, III 153.
HAZLITT (William), XI 258—his connection with Northcote, XVI 298.
Head, regions of the, III 1—its size in male and female infants, 2—bones of, 15—muscles of, 38—of annelides, XI 293
— of insects, IX 31—of the mammalia, XIV 183—some animals continue to live after losing it, III 177—wounds of, XIV 431
— in botany, V 115
— (Sir Francis), his administration in Canada, V 685, VI 159—on the condor, XVI 738—celebrity given to Langenschwabach by the publication of his *Bubbles*, XIII 183.
— (Sir George), on the Vatican Library, XIII 412, 411, n 4.
Headache, XVII 700.
HEADBOROUGH, XI 259.
Headley (Mr), on Drummond's poetry, VIII 192, 193.
Headon eoene rocks, XV 212, 213.
Heads of Colleges at Oxford, XXI 455.
HEALFRANG, XI 259.
Health, riding and hunting beneficial to, XI 673, XII 33—effects of profession and trade on, XIV 442—circumstances affecting, 440, 443—gymnastics, as contributing to, XI 169—of seamen, XVI 105, 106—salubrity of the atmosphere, IV 184—marshy countries subject to fevers, ib.—influence of factory labour on, XIV 279—Public Health Act, XIX 604—effects of the use of tobacco on, XXI 279. See *Disease*, *Exercise*, *Sanitary Science*, &c.
— BOARD OF, XI 259; XIX 604.
HEARING, XI 259; XIV 564, II 98 *et seq*; XVII 679—in brutes, III 178—in fishes, XII 220; II 99, 100—in bees, IV 575—insects, IX 45—organs of, in man, III 45—in brutes, 98—organs of, in crustacea, VII 538—in relation to music, XV 703. See *Ear*, *Deaf* and *Dumb*.

HEA—HEA

- Hearing-trumpet**, XXI 361.
Hearman and **Dearn's filter**, IX 580.
Hearne's journey to Coppermine River, X 473; XI 791, XVIII 169—on the beaver, XIV 185.
Hearsey (Major-General), his address to the mutinous sepoy, XVI 301, n.
Heart, anatomy of, III 63—Mondino's description of, II 756—Aristotle's notions of, XIV 122—course of the blood in, III 65; XVII 661—comparative anatomy of, III 112—in mollusks, XV 325—of ophidian reptiles, XIX 48—diseases of, in the domestic animals, XXI 574.
Heart-wood, V 81, XXI 267.
Hearths, building of, V 740.
HEAT, XI 260—nature of, ib.—diffusion of, 261—effects of, 267; I 756—quantity of, in bodies, XI 272—variations of temperature, 275—doctrine of, I 755—views of Aristotle, Bacon, and the alchemists on, 756—considered in the eighteenth century as a branch of chemistry, 925—thermometers, 756 *et seq*—Boerhaave's views as to its distribution, 758—Wolffius and Mairan's speculations on, ib.—Dr Martine the first judicious writer on, ib.—discovery of the congelation of quicksilver, 759—discovery of latent heat, 760 (see *latent heat*)—Dr Black's discoveries respecting, ib (see *Black*, Dr Joseph)—specific heat, 761 (see that entry in *Index*)—radiant heat, 942 (see *Radiant Heat*)—conduction of, 951, mathematical theory of, 946—Fourier on, 946 (see *Fourier*)—Leslie's observations on increase and diminution of temperature by chemical union with bodies, 760—Irvine on, 926, 927; IV 739, his theory of *capacity*, I 761, 927—experiments of Wilcke and Lavoisier, 761, 932—determination of the absolute zero, 761—Dr Crawford's views, 761, 927; IV 739—views and experiments of Scheele, I 762—invention of the pyrometer, 763—a thermometer for measuring high temperatures still a desideratum, 763—metallic and register thermometers, ib.—differential thermometer, 764 (see that entry in *Index*)—hygrometer, 766—elasticity of, 767—radiation of, 768—pyroscope, 769—æthroscope, ib.—refrigerator, ib.—Prof Kelland's theory of, 932—Dalton's researches relating to, 933 *et seq* (see *Dalton*)—Lavoisier's contributions to, 932 (see *Lavoisier*)—Gay-Lussac on the specific heat of gases, 940—Rumford on the economical applications of (see *Thompson*, Benjamin)—Dulong on the laws of, 933 (see *Dulong*)—Prof J D Forbes on, 952 n 4, 956, 957 and n 2; XI 267—Regnault's contributions to the science of, I 957—refrangibility of, 956—coloration of, ib.—mechanical effect of, 947—moveable equilibrium of, 944—action of different substances on the rays of, 956—polarization and depolarisation of (see these articles)—relation of light and, XIII 454—Leslie on (see *Leslie*, Sir John)—reflection of, VI 1—solar, I 950; VI 2; XIV 637—in different latitudes, VI 769 *et seq*—mode of measuring, XIV 638—its influence in chemical combinations, VI 440—absolute quantity in the atmosphere the same at every elevation, 778—capacity of air for, at different degrees of rarity, ib.—its propagation through solids, liquids, and gases, 782, 783—performed by tremulous pulses, ib.—revolution in the mechanical arts from the application of heat, I 770—Papin's digester, ib.—gradual improvement in the steam-engine from a knowledge of the laws of, ib.—effect of heat on the barometer, IV 456; correction of that instrument as effected by, 457—cold the diminution of, VII 99—Wollaston's cryophorus, 644—its influence on fluidity, XII 73; and on the motion of fluids, 145—its influence

HEA—HEB

- on magnetism, XIV 6, 9, 35—connection between heat and magnetism of the earth, 11—its effect on the distribution of magnetism in magnets, 37—conversion of, into mechanical energy, 418—on land and water as recipients and communicants of, 643—its influence in promoting the conduction of electricity, VIII 540, 541—property of some bodies of becoming electrical by heat, 529, 557—its influence on the electrical fluid in metals, 561—evolution of, by electricity, 591—evolution of, in blossoms of plants, V 149—excites electricity in some minerals, XV 60—of the interior of the globe, XIV 636, XV 184—death from, XIV 431—its effect on the health of bakers, &c, 443—heat of the spectrum, I 954, 956—its influence in producing a polarising structure in glass, XVI 540—effect of, on the double refraction of crystals with one, two, and three axes, 657—circular polarization of, 683—fancied coldness of the moon's light, VII 101, 766; discovery of heat in, XIV 485—climatological distribution of, 670—animal heat, XVII 665—its influence on health, XIX 608—heat liberated by combustion, XX 353—mechanical theory of, 560—constituent heat of steam, 566—dynamical expression of quantities of, 618—laws of the expansive action of, ib.—efficiency of heat-engines, 619—heat-economiser, ib.—of combustion of coal and coke, 630—Count Rumford's publications on, XXI 231, 232—sources of volcanic, 606—produced by voltaic electricity, 626, 637. See *Boiling*, *Burning-glasses*, *Climate*, *Cold*, *Congelation*, *Dew*, *Evaporation*, *Latent Heat*, *Pyrometer*, *Radiant Heat*, *Reflection*, *Steam*, *Temperature*, *Thermometer*, *Thermo-electricity*, &c.
HEATH, XI 270—order of plants, V 198
— in Africa, II 216—plants growing on, V 221—culture of, XI 757—region of heaths, V 228, XVII 629.
— breed of sheep, II 347
— (Josiah), his patent for the manufacture of cast-steel, XXI 321
— (Rev Dunbar), on Egyptian papyrus, XI 409; XVII 264.
Heathcoat's lace-frame, VII 451; XIII 148.
Heathen, meaning of the word, I 456.
Heathenism, relation of Mohammedanism to, XV 307.
Heather, favourite food of bees, IV 587.
HEATHFIELD (Lord), XI 276. See *Elliot*.
Heating, nature of, for ventilation, XXI 541.
Heavens, phenomena of, IV 1—sun's course in the, 11—words denoting heaven, in different languages, XIII 199. See *Astronomy*.
Heavy spar, XV 94—specific gravity of, XII 88.
Hebdomadal council, in university of Oxford, XXI 456.
Hebdomarius, VIII 368.
HEBE, goddess, XI 276.
— planet, IX 91.
HEBER (Reginald), bishop of Calcutta, XI 276—on the occurrence of the lion in India, 455, n 2—on the Himalayan vulture, 456—on Cawnpore, VI 357—on Kemaon, XIII 59, 60—on the Himalayas, XI 448—on a mode of fishing in India, 457—on Hindu penance, 469—on the Indian races, 463 *et seq*—on Oude, XVII 18—on the prevalence of the taste for English goods in India, XI 461—on Lucknow, XIII 713—Delhi, VII 706.
HEBERDEN (William), physician, XI 276—on rain, XIV 656, 657—on mortality, XV 602, 608.
Hebertists, X 85.
HEBREW LANGUAGE, XI 277; XIII 209; XIX 838, 834—accents, II 75—alphabet, 614—and Chinese, VI 558—Bibles, IV 697—lexicons, XVII 526—gram-

HEB—HEI

- mars, ib.—Hebrew poetry, XVIII 97
 See Jews.
 HEBREWS, Epistle to the, XI 277.
 HEBRIDES, XI 278—ancient names of,
 VIII 370—confounded with Hyperbo-
 reans, II 10—cattle of, 342—pigs,
 355—heights of mountains in, XVII
 643—Dr Johnson's visit to, XII 801;
 V 64—geology, XIX 792—mountains,
 794
 —(New), islands, XI 280; IV 265.
 HEBROV, XI 280, XVII 189, 190
 HEBRUS, river of Thracia, XI 280.
 HECATEUS, XI 280
 HECATE, goddess, XI 281.
 HECATOMB, XI 281
 HECATOMBÆON month, XI 281
 HECINGEN, German city, XI 281
 Heckling of flax, XIII 495
 HECIA (Mount), XI 281, XII 201, IX
 384, XVII 644
 HECTARE, XI 281, X 284
 HECTOGRAMME, XI 281, X 284
 HECTOLITRE, XI 281, X 284
 HECTOCOTYLES, entozoa, XXI 982.
 HECTOMETRE, XI 281, X 284
 HECTOR, XI 281—character of, XVIII
 100
 HECUBA, wife of Priam, XI 281; XVIII
 511
 Heddles of looms, XXI 783 *et seq*
 Hedeiacæ, nat. order of plants, V 193
 Hedge trees and shrubs, XVII 760
 HEDGEHOG, XI 281; XIV 150, XXI
 548—cantharides eaten by, III 179—
 hibernation of, 180, XII 62—pairing
 of, 182—stores up food, III 181—den-
 tation of, XVI 451.
 Hedges on farms, II 269—hedge plants,
 V 221
 HEDJAZ (el), in Arabia, XI 281, III
 341 *et seq*
 HEDWIG (Johann), XI 281—on the lym-
 phatics, II 804—on the villi of the
 ileum, III 61—on the reproductive
 organs of mosses, V 153.
 HEDYCHRUM, genus of insects, IX 198
 Hedyphane, XV 106.
 HEDYSARUM gyrans, motion of its leaves,
 V 108, 109
 Heeger (E.), his works on insects, IX 20
 Heel-bone, III 36, 37.
 Heer (Osw), his works on insects, IX 20
 Heeren (Prof.), on the course of civilisa-
 tion in Egypt, III 437—on the Pelas-
 gi, 439—on the ancient kingdoms of
 Persia, 439—on the African and Asiatic
 nations, XVIII 161, n 2—translation of
 his essay on the Crusades, XI 589
 HEGEL (G W Friedrich), XI 281—on
 philosophy, XIV 551—his contempt for
 English philosophy, ib, n 6—on cos-
 mology, 605, n 5; his system of phi-
 losophy, 608—his pantheism, XVII 237
 —his intimacy with Schelling, XIX 714
 Hegesippus on the posterity of Jude,
 XIII 14.
 Hegeter, genus of insects, IX 129
 HEGIRA, XI 284—era of the, VI 673,
 677; XV 800.
 Heberg (J. Ludvig), Danish author,
 XIX 695.
 —(Madame), XIX 695.
 HEIDELBERG, XI 284—university of, IV
 360; XXI 492—library of, XIII 421—
 plundered by Count Tilly, II 633—
 catechism, XXI 496.
 Heights, mensuration of, XIV 502; in
 the trigonometrical survey, XXI 386—
 of the principal mountains in the world,
 XVII 642 *et seq* See Barometrical
 Measurements.
 HEILBRONN, town of Wurtemberg, XI
 289; XXI 988
 HEILIGENSTADT, town in Prussian Saxony,
 XI 285.
 Heilmann's wool-combing machine, XXI
 924.
 Heilmann, lake, XX 861.
 HEINE (Heinrich), German poet, XI 285.
 HEINRICUS (J. Gottlieb), jurist, XI 285.
 Heinecker (Dr), on the dew-points at Fun-
 chal, IV 184.

HEI—HEL

- Heineken on wood-engraving, XXI 902,
 903
 Heinsie, his novels, XIX 292.
 HEINSIUS (Daniel), XI 286
 —(Nicolas), XI 286.
 HEIR-AT-LAW, XI 286.
 —by destination, XI 286
 —apparent and presumptive, XI 287;
 III 307.
 Heister (Laurence), on surgery, XX 818.
 Helæus, genus of insects, IX 131
 Helcon, genus of insects, IX 138
 HELDER, town in Holland, XI 287.
 Heldeberg group of rocks, XV 199.
 HELENA, daughter of Leda, XI 287, XVII
 285
 —luminous meteor, VI 328
 —(St), empress, XI 287—her pilgri-
 mage to Jerusalem, XII 734; XVII
 195
 —(St), island, XI 287—Halley's voy-
 age to, I 658—meteorological observa-
 tions, XIV 686
 HELENSBURGH, in Dumbartonshire, XI
 288
 HELENUS, son of Priam, XI 288
 Helfer (J W.), his work on insects, IX
 17
 HELIACAL, XI 288
 HELIADÆ, sisters of Phaethon, XI 288,
 XVII 604.
 HELIÆA, XI 288.
 Helianthoida, polypes, XXI 1002
 Heliasæ, genus of fishes, XII 263
 Helical motion, XIV 389—teeth, 396
 Helicidæ, family of mollusks, XV 373.
 HELICON, XI 288
 —astronomer, III 789
 Helconius, genus of insects, IX 207.
 HELIOT (St), capital of Jersey, XI 288,
 XII 730.
 HELIGOLAND, islands, XI 288
 Heliceras, fossil mollusks, XVII 113
 Helicidæ, fossil echinoidea, XVII 100
 HELIOPORUS, XI 289
 —Roman surgeon, XX 813.
 Helogabalus See Elagabalus
 Helography, XVII 545
 Helolites, fossil corals, XVII 97
 HELIOMETER, XI 289, I 865—Bouguier's,
 V 244, XIV 747.
 HELIOPOLIS, in Egypt, XI 289; VIII
 488; XVI 514—battle of, VIII 474
 —in Syria. See Baalbec
 Helioscope, XXI 133
 HELIOSTAT, in optics, XI 289, IX 555, n
 HELIOTROPE, astronomical instrument, XI
 289; IX 555, n.
 —municipal, XI 289; IV 789; XV
 69.
 —genus of plants, XI 289; V 201.
 HELIX, in geometry, XI 289.
 —genus of mollusks, XV 373.
 —in architecture, XI 289; III 510
 Hell, Scandinavian notion of, XV 767
 —(X. Hommaire de), on the Black Sea,
 IV 741.
 —(Father), his dispute with Mesmer,
 XIV 547; XX 417—his astronomical
 observations, XIII 159.
 HELLANICUS, historian, XI 289.
 HELLANODICÆ, XI 289.
 HELLAS, XI 290, 9, 18
 HELLE, in mythology, XI 290
 HELLEBORE, XI 290; V 180—poisonous
 properties, XIV 439.
 HELLENISMS, XI 290.
 HELLENISTS, XI 290.
 HELLESPOINT, XI 290; VII 655.
 HELLIN, town of Spain, XI 290
 Hellmouth (Dr Julius), his account of a
 poisonous fish, XII 381, n.
 Heliot on dyeing, VIII 274—his process
 for dyeing woollen black, 305.
 Hellwig (J. C. L.), his work on insects,
 IX 11.
 Hellwigia, genus of insects, IX 192.
 Helm, weather, and lee-helm, XX 160.
 See Rudder.
 HELMET, XI 290—in heraldry, XI 387.
 —tun, shell, XV 886.
 Helminth, mineral, XV 78.
 HELMINTHOLOGY, XI 290.

HEL—HEM

- HELMONT (Jean Baptiste Van), XI 308;
 VII 768; XIV 460; XX 416.
 HELMSLEY, in Yorkshire, XI 308
 HELMSTEDT, German town, XX 308
 HELMUND, river, XI 308; II 202; XX
 36
 Helodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 340.
 Helouse, II 26
 Helomyza, genus of insects, IX 255.
 Helophilus, genus of insects, IX 241.
 Helophorus, genus of insects, IX 116.
 Helopi, tribe of insects, IX 132
 Helops, genus of insects, IX 132
 Helophilus, genus of insects, IX 163
 HELOS, in Laconia, XI 308—plain of, XIII
 148.
 Helostoma, genus of fishes, XII 290
 Helotes, genus of fishes, XII 277
 HELOTS, Spartan slaves, XI 308—revolt
 of, XX 501
 HELSINGFORS, Russian town, XI 309; IX
 585—university of, XXI 492
 HELSTONE, town in Cornwall, XI 309
 HELVELLYN, mountain in Cumberland, XI
 309—VII 576, XVII 648; XXI 842
 Helvetia, XX 883
 Helvetic republic, XX 886
 HELVETII, XI 309, XX 883
 HELVETIUS (Claude-Adrien), XI 309—his
 extension to metaphysical subjects of
 Leibnitz's law of continuity, I 135—on
 the origin of our knowledge, 178, 179
 —causes of the inferiority of the souls of
 brutes, 179—on the modifications
 of genius, 185—on memory, IV 778—
 his literary obligations to Diderot, VIII
 15
 Helvine, mineral, XV 85
 HELVOETSLUIS, town in Holland, XI 310
 HELMANS (Mrs), XI 310—poetry of, XVIII
 127.
 HEMATINE, dye stuff, XI 311; VIII 287,
 288
 Hematite, VI 489 See Hæmatite.
 Hematrophic organs, III 63—in the
 lower animals, 112
 HEMEL-HEMPSTEAD, in Hertford, XI 311
 HEMEROBATISTS, XI 311
 Hemerobini, insects, IX 178
 Hemerobius, genus of insects, IX 178.
 Hemerocetes, genus of fishes, XII 273
 HEMERODROMI, XI 311, VII 467.
 Hemerodromia, genus of insects, IX 236
 HEMI, verbal affix, XI 311.
 Hemistat, fossil echinoidea, XVII 100.
 Hemiscardium, genus of mollusks, XV
 349.
 Hemiscidaris, fossil echinoidea, XVII 99,
 100.
 Hemidactyl, reptiles, XIX 36
 Hemigaleus, genus of fishes, XII 327.
 Hemiglyph, in architecture, III 510
 Hemihedric crystals, XV 41
 Hemilepidotus, genus of fishes, XII 282.
 Hemimorphism in crystals, XV 49.
 Hemimorphus (Walton), XI 311.
 Hemiodon, genus of fishes, XII 263.
 Hemiodus, genus of fishes, XII 246
 Hemipalma, genus of buds, XVI 804.
 Hemipleura, XVII 700
 Hemipneustes, fossil echinoidea, XVII 99,
 100.
 Hemipristis, genus of fossil fishes, XII
 341, XVII 118, 119
 Hemiptera, order of insects, IX 25, 100.
 Hemiamphus, genus of fishes, XII 284.
 Hemirhynchus, genus of insects, IX 106.
 Hemirhynchus, genus of fossil fishes, XII
 346
 Hemiscyllium, genus of fishes, XII 323,
 209, 221, 222.
 Hemispheres, X 480; XVI 7—magnetic,
 XVII 617.
 Hemithylacus, genus of fishes, XII 315.
 Hemithypterus, genus of fishes, XII 282
 HEMLOCK, XI 311; V 195. See Conia.
 —spruce, tree, V 209.
 Hemman (M.), his anchor, III 118
 Hemmer (J. J.), on the electricity of the
 human body, VIII 571.
 —(J. J. B.), his work on insects, IX
 11.
 HEMP, XI 311; V 206; II 538—as an

HEN—HEN

- anæsthetic, VI 632—culture of, in Ca-
 nada, 147—smoked in India, XI 454;
 and Egypt, VIII 431, 448—imports of,
 734—in Fiance, X 254—for the navy,
 XVI 100—in rope-making, XIX 401—
 hacking of, 403—intoxicating liquor
 from, XX 804 See Hashesh, Flax.
 Hemp, Manila, V 211; XI 313, XXI
 782.
 —order of plants, V 206.
 Hempel's filter, IX 582
 Hemprich (F. S.), his work on insects,
 IX 17.
 Hempstead eocene rocks, XV 211, 213
 HENAS, or Homs, Syrian city, XI 313
 HENAUT (Charles-Jean-François), XI 313
 —his character of Mazarrin, XIV 374—
 on the degradation of the coin, XV
 435, n 1
 HENBANT, XI 314; V 202—its effect on
 the pupil of the eye, III 44.
 Hencke (M), planets discovered by, IV
 91.
 Hendenbeigte, mineral, XV 61
 Henderson (Ebenezer), on mud-volcano
 in Iceland, XII 263
 —(Thomas), his birth and character,
 I 863—his appointment to the Cape of
 Good Hope Observatory, 864—his dis-
 covery of the parallax of a star, ib,
 IV 96—his appointment to the Edin-
 burgh Observatory, III 818—his astro-
 nomical labours, ib
 Hendricks (F.), on insurance, XII 393
et seq
 HENRY ISLE, XI 314.
 Henfry (Prof.), on test-objects for the
 microscope, XIV 804
 HENG-KIANG, river in China, XI 314
 HENG-TOU, Chinese city, XI 314
 HENGIST, XI 314, V 381—ships of, XX
 113.
 Hengstenberg, on the book of Hosea, XI
 761—Isaiah, XII 626
 Henin (Baion d'), on animal magnetism,
 XX 426.
 Heniochus, genus of fishes, XII 300, 302.
 Henle (J.), his system of anatomy, II
 769—on blood-globules, 780—on tissues,
 786—on the arteries, 789, 790—on the
 capillaries, 798—on the helicine ar-
 teries, 801—on the nerves, 809, 810
 HENLEY-IN-ARDEEN, in Warwickshire, XI
 314
 HENLEY-ON-THAMES, in Oxfordshire, XI
 314.
 Henley's electrical discharging instru-
 ment, VIII 611—his quadrant electro-
 meter, 619—Henley and Foster's mag-
 netic telegraph, XXI 107
 HENNA, XI 314, V 191; VIII 431.
 Hannah (Mr), his photographic process,
 XVII 547.
 Hennebont, French town, X 17.
 HANNESBODORF, in Saxony, XI 314.
 Hennessy (Prof.), on metamorphic rocks,
 XV 161.
 Henops, genus of insects, IX 236.
 HENOTICUM, edict of Zeno, XI 314
 Henri's attempt on the life of Louis
 Philippe, X 224
 Henrietta (Queen), V 388, 391.
 Henriot, X 90 *et seq*.
 Henricillo, lake in Hayti, XI 254.
 HENRY I., of England, XI 314—reign of,
 VIII 660—his death and character,
 670.
 —II, XI 314—proceedings between
 him and Becket, IV 562—his residence
 in Dublin, VIII 217—his reign, 671—
 death, 674—duelling in his reign, 230—
 his invasion of Ireland, XII 468
 —III, XI 314—league of the barons
 against, VII 629—reign of, VIII 678—
 character of, 680—his conduct towards
 the Irish, XII 469; towards the Jews,
 770—his intrigues with Scotland, XIX
 764—the Forest Charter confirmed by,
 XX 210—his encouragement of the
 university of Oxford, XXI 469—his
 public instruments relative to Cam-
 bridge University, 460, 461.
 —IV, XI 314—reign of, VIII 686

HEP—HEP

- act regarding the coinage, VII 77—duelling under, VIII. 231—his fleet, XX 132
- HENRY V., XI 314—reign of, VIII 687—his invasion of France, X. 22—death and character, VIII, 688—law regarding wool bought by foreigners, VII 77—letter of, XVI 90—his navy, ib; XX. 122
- VI., XI 314—reign of, VIII 688—act regarding bullion, VII 77—act permitting exportation of corn, 874—mints in his reign, 73—his patronage of free-masons, XIV. 338—navy in the reign of, XVI 90, 91.
- VII., XI 314—reign of, VIII 694—character, 697—Bacon and Hume's eulogy on the laws of, I 37—his tomb, III 449—archery in his reign, 495— anecdote regarding, and the earl of Oxford, XIII 524—chapel of, 671—navy, XVI 91—mints in his reign, VII 73—shipping of England in his reign, XX. 124, 125—university of Oxford, XXI 454
- VIII., XI 314—his marriage to Anne Boleyn, III 217, VII 482—archery in his reign, III 425, 427—the coin debased by, VII 72, 77—distress thus occasioned 375, *n.* 1—his treatment of Becket's shrine and remains, IV 562—his divorce from Queen Catherine, VII 480—482—subsequent marriages, 482—religious persecutions, ib—his title of Defender of the Faith, 694—history of his reign, VIII 697—his character, 706—his Irish policy, XII 474—his household, XI 773—dock-yards first erected by, VIII 78 85—his book against Luther, XIII 729—masquerades introduced in his reign, XIV 339—his intimacy with Su Thomas More, XV. 583—his navy, XVI 91—post-office under, XVIII 403—his share in the Reformation, 824, 828—his wars with Scotland, XIX. 765 *et seq.*—shipping in his reign, XX. 126—Oxford University, XXI 454
- I. of France, XI 314, X. 12
- II. of France, XI 314; X. 31—killed at a tournament, VIII 230
- III. of France, XI 314; X. 33.
- IV. of France, XI 314—reign of, X. 33—his edicts against duelling, VIII. 231—his beard, IV 528—George Carew's account of him and his court, VI 236—Paris embellished by, XVII 278.
- IV. of Castille, XX. 464
- IV. of Germany, his quarrels with Pope Gregory VII, XI 50—his attacks on Rome, XIX. 365.
- V. of Germany, XII 645.
- VII. of Germany, X. 579; XII 649.
- Prince of Wales, son of James I. V. 386.
- (Dr), on the qualities of different kinds of salt, XIX. 585.
- (Joseph), his galvanic battery, XXI. 617—his reciprocating apparatus, 641.
- (MATTHEW), XI 315.
- of Huntingdon, XI 314.
- (Patrick), on Washington, XXI. 748.
- (ROBERT, D.D.), XI 315—on the introduction of coinage into Britain, VII 69—last volume of his history completed by Malcolm Laing, XIII 158
- (Tho.), his experiments on bleaching, IV. 759, 760.
- DI WILLIAM, XI 315—on oil-gases, X. 427—429—his electro-magnet, XIV. 75—on the decomposing effects of voltaic electricity, XXI. 623.
- (Dr Wm Charles), his notice of Dr Wm. Henry, XI 316
- HENRYSON (Robert), Scottish poet, XI 816; XVIII 120
- Henwood (W. J.), his account of Cornish lodes, XV. 219
- (Mr), on pitching and scending in ships, XX. 160.
- Hepaticæ, mineral, XV. 95
- Hepatic pyrites, XV. 115

HEP—HER

- Hepatic duct, III. 62 See Liver.
- Hepatica, nat order of plants, V. 217—reproductive organs of, 145
- Hepburn (Arch), on storing turnips, II 318
- (John), St Leonard's College founded by, XXI 473
- HEPHESTÆA, XI 317. See Lampadephoria
- HEPHESTION, XI 317.
- general of Alexander the Great, XIII 771.
- HEPHESTUS, one of the names of Vulcan, XI 317
- Hepialites, IX 211
- Hepialus, genus of insects, IX 211
- HEPPENHEIM, XI 317
- HEPTAGON, in geometry, XI 317.
- Heptanchus, genus of fishes, XII 324
- HEPTANCHY, XI 317—Saxon, VIII. 656—mints under the, VII 70
- Heptatrema, genus of fishes, XII 227, 228
- Hepu-her, Egyptian deity, VIII 439
- HERA, XI 317 See Juno
- HERACLEA, city of Magna Græcia, XI 317
- battle of, XIX. 305, XXI 22
- city of Sicily, XI 317.
- PONTICA, in Bithynia, XI 317
- HERACLEONITES, Gnostic sect, XI 317.
- HERACLES, XI 317, XIII 747.
- HERACLES (Ponticus), XI 318
- HERACLITUS, philosopher, XI 318; XVII. 232—on the souls of animals, III. 309—Socrates' opinions of his writings, XX. 373
- HERACLIUS, emperor, XI 318—Egypt under, VIII. 474—his edict, Ecthesis, XV 501
- HERALD, XI 319
- HERALD'S COLLEGE, XI 319, VII. 115.
- COURT, XI 320.
- HERALDRY, XI 321—an element of criticism in archaeology, III. 422—its symbols well fitted for being represented on stained glass, X. 669
- Herapath and Cox's method of tanning, XIII 308.
- HERAT, XI 342—siege of, by the Persians, in 1838; XVII. 442
- HERAULT, in France, XI 342.
- Herbaceous plants, XI. 749; V. 78
- Herbage crops, II. 322.
- Herbart, his system of philosophy, XIV 609
- HERBELOT (Barthelemy d'), XI 342
- Herbert (Colonel), on the Himalayas, XI 439.
- (EDWARD), Lord Herbert of Chesham, XI 342; VI. 603— anecdote of, 626—his delusical works, VII 701.
- (GEORGE), XI 343.
- (Sir THOMAS), XI 344.
- Herbivorous animals, their disposition and organisation, III. 172—seldom pair, 181—season of their parturition, 182—herbivorous cetaceæ, XIV 216.
- Herbois (Collet d'), X. 71.
- Herbst (J. F. W.), his works on insects, IX 10.
- Hercon on the Crusades, VII 527.
- HERCULANEUM, XI 344; III. 445, 456— theatre of, 470—Sir H. Davy's attempts to unroll the papyrus found at, VII. 672, XV. 782—glass utensils found at, X. 658—academy of, II 70—frescoes and papyrus found at, XV 781; XVII. 265
- HERCULES, XI 346—proportions of the statue of, VIII. 172—his wars with Antæus, XIV. 360—labours of, XV. 766.
- a machine, III 120.
- constellation, IV. 79
- (PILLARS OF), XI 347; X. 618.
- HEROYNIA SILVA, XI 347 See Harz.
- HERDER (J Gottfried Von), XI 347, 544—on poetry, XVIII. 99, 109.
- Herderite, mineral, XV. 94.
- Herdwick's breed of sheep, II 347; VII. 577.
- Hereditary predisposition to insanity, XIV. 335—monstrosities, XV. 503—transmission of diseases, qualities, &c., in the horse, XI. 636 *et seq.*
- HERFORD, English city, XI 348.

HER—HER

- HEREFORDSHIRE, XI 349—cattle of, II 340, 341—old red sandstone of, XV. 200—population and value of property, VIII 754—wool of, XXI 910
- HERENCLIA, Spanish town, XI 350
- HERETRY, XI 350—capital punishment of, approved of by Cranmer, VII 483—pretext on what secular power is called on to suppress, I 538
- Heretic and heretical, I 523, 529—proper meaning of the words, 529, *n.*
- HERETOCH, XI 351
- Hereward, VIII. 668
- HERFORD, or Hervorden, Prussian city, XI 351
- Heraides, genus of insects, XI 199
- HERIOR, in law, XI 351, VII 355
- Heriot's Hospital, VIII 401.
- birthplace, XI 178
- HERISAU, Swiss town, XI 351
- Heussant on catulages, II 765, 831
- Hermanhof, X. 4.
- HERMANN (J. Jakob Gottfried), XI 351; XVII. 525—his opinion of Gilbert Wakefield, VII 586, *n.* 7
- of Paria, on the doctrine Conservatio vinum vivarum, VIII. 354
- on the electricity of the atmosphere, VIII 580
- HERMANNSTADT, in Hungary, XI 352.
- Hermanus, or Armenius, X. 575.
- HERMAFIRODITE, XI 352; III 171; XIV 428; XVII. 683—cephalous mollusks, XV. 355—annelides, XI 291, 305—flowers, V 125.
- HERMAS, one of the fathers, XI 352; IX. 491
- HERMENEUTICS, XI 352—foundation of the modern school of, XVII 520
- HERMIS, and Hermæa, XI 352; XIV. 541; I 457. See Mercurius.
- (Egyptian), Trismegistus, or Thoth, XV. 760, 765; XI 333; VIII 437.
- HERMETICAL SEALING, XI 352.
- HERMIANI, hæretics, XI 352
- HERMAS, III 570.
- (G Cæcilius), signet of, XVIII. 521
- Herminea, genus of insects, IX. 217.
- HERMIT, XI 352
- crabs, VII 542.
- Hermitage (The), in Petersburg, XVII 401
- wine, XXI 883, 889, 512.
- Hermodorus, VI 740.
- HERMOGENES, painter, XI 352
- Roman lawyer, VI. 742.
- TARSSENTIS, XI 352
- HERMON (Mount), XI 352; XVII 183, 644, XX 901, 903, 906—supposed scene of the Transfiguration, XXI 325
- Hermoneura, genus of insects, IX. 233.
- Hermionites, ruins of, VIII. 513
- HERMOPOLIS MAGNA, XI 352; VIII. 504.
- HERMUS, river, XI 353
- Hernandez on birds, XVI 725.
- HERNE BAY, village in Kent, XI 353.
- HERNIA, XI 353; II 766—surgical treatment of, XX. 830—in cattle, XXI. 568.
- HERNICI, ancient Italian tribe, XI 353
- HERNOSAND, in Sweden, XI 354; XX. 864
- HERO, priestess, XI 354.
- and heroic age, XI 354—plays of heroic age, VIII. 161—dedication of heroes, XV. 766, I. 453
- mathematician, his thermometer, IV. 456—his hydrodynamical inventions, XII. 69—his fountain, XVIII 28; applied to the raising of water from a mine, 86—his modes of showing the effects of steam, XX. 573.
- the younger, X. 502.
- HEROD THE GREAT, XI 354, XII 733, 771 *et seq.*; XVII 194—his temple at Jerusalem, XII. 743
- AGRIPPA, XI 355; II 421; XVII. 194
- ANTIPAS, XI 355; III 275; XII. 770.
- HERODIANUS, Jewish sect, XI 355.
- HERODIANUS, XI 355—Polliziano's version of, XVII 522.

HER—HER

- HERODOTUS, XI 355—on the battle of Marathon, IV. 189, *n.* 1—on the Amazons, II. 650—on Babylon, XIX 846; IV. 340, 346—on India, III 752—on places whence the ancients obtained gold, XV 230—on embalming, VIII. 643—on Egyptian divinities, 435—his fidelity as a historian, XI 368, *n.* 1—on the people of Egypt, 371, *n.* 6—on the age of Homer, 596—on Egyptian writing, 377—on Egypt, VIII. 420—his account of Cyrus, VII. 612—on the Pelasgi, XVII 370—his allusion to Nineveh, XVI 273—on Syria, XI 901—on the Phœnicians, 905
- Herold (F.), his works on insects, IX 18
- HERON, bird, XI 357; XVI 798
- mathematician, XI 356—Egyptian king, 888
- the younger, XI 356
- Herophilus, his anatomical knowledge, II 751, XIV. 452—his skill in surgery, XX 811.
- Herpestes, genus of mammalia, XIV. 166.
- Herpestreng (Henrick), XIX. 692
- Herpetodryas, genus of reptiles, XIX 57.
- Herpetoichthys, genus of fishes, XII 232.
- HERPETOLOGY, XI 357. See Reptilia
- Herengrund, mimes of, XVI 155
- Herrera, the elder, teacher of Velasquez, XXI 533
- (FERDINAND DE), Spanish poet, XI 357—poetry of, XVIII 114
- (General), president of Mexico, XIV. 714.
- TORDESILLAS (Antonio de), Spanish historian, XI 357.
- Herrichte, mineral, XV 100
- Herrich-Schaeffer (G A W), his works on insects, IX 21.
- HERNICK (Robert), English poet, XI 357, XVIII 122
- HERRING, XI 358; XII 235—quantity cured and exported from Britain, in 1851, VIII. 727—quantity exported, from 1810 to 1854, IX. 640—as an article of food, 635, 768—different kinds of, 635—gutting, 638—trials of the merits of the British and Dutch, 639—quantity cured at different places in Scotland, 640—foreign duties on, 641, *n.* 2—smoking of, 643—in the Caspian sea, VI 312—expediency of abolishing the brand on, XIV 289—oil from, XVI 494—red, IX. 643—migrations of, XVII 636.
- Herring-fishery, in the Baltic, IV. 404—Britain, IX 635—Cathness, VI. 62; IX. 675—Donegal, VIII 105—in Holland, XI. 583—England, VIII. 727—Ireland, IX. 633—Scotland, 635, XIX. 804—number of boats, amount of tonnage, men employed, &c., in Scotch herring-fishery in 1854, IX. 642 See Fisheries.
- Herring-salmons, XII 243.
- HERRHUT, town in Saxony, XI 358; IV. 813.
- Herrnhuters, XI 358; XXI. 971. See Bohemian Brethren
- Herschel (Sir J F W.), I. 861—notation of differentials introduced at Cambridge by, 807—on aurora borealis, IV 250—on the cause of the rolling of thunder, VIII 638—his actinometer, II 118—on Schumacher's astronomical work, III 814—on the magnitudes of stars, IV. 95—on the pyramids of Egypt, VIII. 500, *n.*—on nebulae, IV. 85—on M. Plane's analysis, I 826—his astronomical career, 861—his observations at the Cape of Good Hope, 862—his high character, ib—on the orbits of double stars, ib—on the brightness of stars, ib—on variable stars, ib—his treatise on light, 917—on magnetism, XIV. 10, 32, 33, 35—his doublet microscopes, 773, 774—his optical discoveries, XVI 545, 561, 572, 573 *et seq.*—on the spectrum, 591, 594, 595—master of the mint, VII. 82—his report on the mint, 83—on planetary machines, XVII 758—coloured image of the solar spectrum by means of photography obtained by, 552.

HER—HEU

- HERSCHEL** (Sir William), XI 358—sketch of his life and works, I 838—his astronomical discoveries, 788, 840 *et seq*; III 807, IV 72—sidereal astronomy founded by, I 800, 830—as an optician, 839—his improvements in telescopes, ib—on the solar spots and atmosphere, IV 30—on the planets, I 840—Saturn and his ring, IV 71, 72, I 840—Mars, IV 66—on the fixed stars, 81, 82, 84, I 841—on double stars, ib; IV 84—on nebulae and the nebular hypothesis, I 842, 843; IV 85, 86—on the constitution of the starry heavens, and the milky way, I 843 *et seq*—his “gauges” 844—determines the direction of the motion of the solar system in space, 846—summary of his discoveries, ib—his character and death, 847—on the spectrum, 752, 846, 954; XI 263; XIII 452—his micrometers, XIV 753, 757—on the transmission of heat through glass, I 951—on optics, XVI 535, 592—his telescopes, XXI 128
—(Caroline Lucretia), I 857, *n*
—and South’s catalogue of stars, IV 95.
Herschelite, mineral, XV 77
HERSFELD, in Hesse-Cassel, XI 358.
HERSTADT, in the Netherlands, XI 358
HERTFORD, XI 358—savings-bank at, XIX 657.
—(Earl of), his invasion of Scotland, XIX 777
HERTFORDSHIRE, XI 358—population and value of property, VIII 754.
HERTHA, or Herthus, German deity, XI 360; I 457.
HERULI, XI 360
Hervart’s tables of the powers and products of numbers, I 706
Hervas, philology advanced by, XVII 528.
HERVEY (James), XI 360
—(John), lord, XI 360.
—lands, XVIII 278.
Herz (Henrik), Danish poet, XIX 695
Hesiod, Turkish town, XVIII 807.
HESIODOS, Hesiod, XI 361—poems of, XVIII 101.
Hesione, genus of annelides, XI 299.
Hesperia, insects, IX 208.
Hesperia, genus of insects, IX 209.
HESPERIDES, nymphs, XI 361.
Hesse, country of Germany, XI 361.
—Casser, or Kur-Hessen, XI 362—coins of, XV 444—university in, XXI 492—weights and measures, 811
—Darmstadt, XI 362—university in, XXI 492—weights and measures, 811.
HESSE-HOMBURG, XI 363.
Hessite, mineral, XV 118.
Hessomite, XV 85.
HESYCHIUS, lexicographer, XI 363.
—Egyptian bishop, his recension of the New Testament text, XIX 835, 836
Hetaira, secret Greek association, XI 23.
Heterobranchia, order of crustacea, VII 542.
Heterobranchus, genus of fishes, XII 263.
Heteroceracal fishes, XII 209, 333, XVII 120, 640
Heterocerous, genus of insects, IX 116
Heterodon, genus of reptiles, XIX 55.
Heterodontes, in zoology, XIV 229
Heterognathodon, genus of fishes, XII 278
Heterogyna, family of insects, IX 193
Heteromera, section of insects, IX 123.
Heteromyza, genus of insects, IX 255
Heteroneura, genus of insects, IX 256
Heteropoda, group of crustacea, VII 541.
—genus of birds, XVI 804
—order of mollusks, XV 375.
Heteroptera, division of insects, IX 161.
Heteropygia, family of fishes, XII 286.
Heterosci, X 485.
Heterotarsus, genus of insects, IX 181.
Heterotis, genus of fishes, XII 250.
Heterozite, mineral, XV 101.
HETMAN, XI 363; VII 423.
HETOWKA, town of Hindustan, XI 363
Heulandite, mineral, XV 76.
Heusinger on the teeth, XVI 419.

HEV—HIE

- HEVELIUS** (John), XI 363—opposed the application of the telescope to astronomical instruments, I 613—his astronomical labours, III 802—constellations added by, IV 80—his catalogue of stars, ib—on the cometary orbits, VII 167.
Hewet (Andrew), VII 482
Hewitson (C. W.), his contributions to entomology, IX 21.
Hewson (William), on the lymphatics, II 768, 803, 804—on the villi of the ileum, III 61.
Hexagon, X 507, 550, 551.
Hexagonal system of crystallisation, XV 45—twin crystals in, 52
Hexahedron in mineralogy, XV 41
HEXAMETER, XI 363.
Hexanchus, genus of fishes, XII 324
HEXAPLA, XI 364, IV 700—Origen’s, XVI 715; XVIII 266; XIX 840.
Hexaprotodon, fossil mammal, XVII 168.
HEXASTYLE, in architecture, XI 364; III 510
Hexatoma, genus of insects, IX 232
HEXHAM, in Northumberland, XI 364; XVI 800—battle of, VIII 691
Hexodon, genus of insects, IX 123
Heydenreich, his works on insects, IX 23.
HEYLIN (Peter, D.D.), XI 364
HEYNE (Christian Gottlob), XI 364—philology promoted by, XVII 524—his quarrel with Voss, XXI 672—his improvement of the library at Göttingen, XIII 420.
—on diamonds, VIII 2, 3
Heysham (Dr) parish registers kept by, XV 605.
HERWOOD (John), epigrammatist, XI 366.
—(James), on the Lancashire coal-fields, XIII 178
—(Mrs), novels of, XIX 270.
—(Thomas), dramatist, XI 366
—(Thomas), his description of the first English three-decker, XVI 92; XX 128.
Hezekiah, his improvement of Jerusalem, XII 731—seems to have had no idea of a future state, I 474, *n* 2.
HEZRONITA (John), his translation of Ednisi’s Geography, VIII 411
Hibbert (Dr), on apparitions, III 316—on vitrified forts, IX 792—on the boulders of Shetland, VII 723.
HICKES (George), XI 366—on the philology of the Teutonic languages, XVII 528
Hickory-tree, V 208—bark used in dyeing, VIII 297—nut, XVI 305.
Hicks (Elias), quaker, XVIII 721.
HIDAGE, XI 367.
HIDALGO, XI 367
—(Don Miguel), his proceedings in Mexico, XIV 708—his execution, 709
Hides, currying of, VII 695—imports of, VIII 731, 734, XIII 311—exports of, ib. See Leather.
HIDJELLEH, in Hindustan, XI 367.
Hiempsal, XVI 350.
Hiendelencia silver mines, XV 234.
Hieracon, Egyptian deity, XI 366.
HIERAPOLIS, in Phrygia, XI 367
—in Syria, XI 367.
Hieratic system of writing, XI 369, 370; VIII 441.
HIERAX, bishop, XI 367.
Hieres, islands. See Hyeres.
HIERO I and **II**, kings of Syracuse, XI 367 See Hieron
HIEROCLES of Alatanda, XI 367.
—of Alexandria, XI 367.
—of Bithynia, XI 367.
HIEROGLYPHICS, Egyptian, XI 368; II 606; VIII 441—Young’s interpretation of, I 900—Sir William Drummond on, VIII 195, 196—deciphering of, XVII 534—directions in which they are written, V 10—effect of, on mythology, XV 759.
—of Palenque and Copau, &c., II 697—Mexican, 684.
HIEROMANCY, XI 432.
HIERON, or Hiero I, tyrant of Syracuse, XI 432; XX 899.

HIE—HIM

- HIERON II**, king of Syracuse, XI 432; VI 287, X 900.
Hieronimo (Fabrius), anatomist, II 760.
HIERONYMUS, king of Syracuse, XI 432
HIERRO, island, XI 432, VI 167—fountain-tree of, X 845
HIGDEN (Ralph), XI 432.
Higgins (Godfrey), on the Pelasgi, III 439, 440
—(William), on chemical combination, I 987.
High, different meanings of the word, VIII 10.
—School, Edinburgh, VIII 400
High-pressure steam-engine. See Steam-engine.
HIGHAM-FERRARS, town in Northamptonshire, XI 432.
Highblower, diseased horse, XXI 571.
HIGHGATE, in Middlesex, XI 432.
Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, II 265; VIII 398—statistics collected by, XIX 796, 797
Highlands of Scotland, XIX 792—poems, II 338—cattle, 342—pigs, 355—sheep-farming in, 350—emigration from, VIII 651—second sight in, III 318, *n* 1—favourable for rearing bees, IV 587—measures for tranquillising, after the Rebellion of 1745, V 462—state of, in the reign of James IV, XIX 764—Highland roads and bridges, 807.
Highmore on the lacteals, II 761.
HIGHNESS, title, XI 432; XXI 281.
Highton’s telegraphic system, XXI 100, 102.
—(E.), his description of telegraphic instruments, XXI 103—on Bann’s transmitting apparatus, 107
—(Rev. H.), his telegraphic instruments, XXI 103.
HIGHWAYS, XI 432 See Road-making
HIGHWORTH, town in Wiltshire, XI 433
HILARE (Geoffroy de St), on the torpedo, VIII 573—his work on insects, IX 15—on Linnæus’ classification of animals, XIV 137—on the mole, 152—on the teeth of the rodents, XVI 454 and *n* 2.
HILARA, genus of insects, IX 235
HILARIA, Roman festival, XI 433
HILARY, bishop of Arles, XI 433—Athanasian creed ascribed to, IV 158
—the deacon, XI 433.
—(St), bishop of Poitiers, XI 433.
—TERM, XI 433; at Oxford, XXI 458
Hildanus (Fabricius), on surgery, XX 818.
HILDEBURGHAEUS, XI 434.
Hildebrand (Prof.), on the electric spark, VIII 544.
—See Gregory VII.
HILDESHEIM in Hanover, XI 434, 211.
HILL (Aaron), XI 434.
—(David), on the ryot-war settlement in India, XI 526
—(Frederick), his report on Scotch prisons, XVIII 570.
—(John), his work on insects, IX 4
—(Sir John), XI 435
—(M.D.), on the treatment of released criminals, XVIII 209.
—(Principal), of St Andrews, XI 434
—on ordination, XVI 704—on theology, XXI 198.
—(Rev. Rowland), XI 435.
—(Rowland), Lord, XI 435.
—(Rowland), his pamphlet on post-office reform, XVIII 409—on the postal statistics of 1837, 410—his uniform penny postage adopted, 411; V 667; XXI 67—results of, XVIII 412—appointed secretary to the post-office, 414.
Hill’s method of purifying gas, X 418.
HILLAH, XI 436; IV 431, 432 *et seq*; IX 376
HILLEL (Rabbi), XI 436.
Hilton Castle, VIII 287.
Hilum, in botany, V 133.
Himara, site of, XX 243.
Himalaya, steam troopship, description of, XX 666.
—MOUNTAINS, XI 436, 447; III 781;

HIM—HIP

- XVI 141, 143, XVII 598—heights of, 643—sub-Himalayan flora, V 228; XVII 628—Moorcroft on, XI 447—Fraser on, ib, 448—Elphinstone on, 448—Captain Raper on, ib—glaciers of, X 634—snow-line on, XIV 660—cultivation of tea among the, XXI 81—vegetation of, V 226—culture of, XI 456.
Himantopterus, fossils, XVII 101
Himantopus, genus of birds, XVI 805
HIMERA, Sicilian city, XI 445; VI 281, 282—coins of, XVI 366.
—rivers, XI 445.
HIMILCO, navigator, XI 445.
—generals, XI 445; VI 283.
Himmelstuf silver mine, XV 235.
Hims, battle of, VIII 495
Himyaric inscriptions, XVII 534
HINCKLEY, in Leicester, XI 445—population, XIII 321.
Hincks (Dr), XI 369, 409; XVII 263, 534
Hind (Mr), I 859—his success in the discovery of small planets, 859, IV 91—his discovery of comets, I 859; IV 95
HINDIA, in Hindustan, XI 445
Hindmarsh (Captain), governor of South Australia, IV 293, 294
Hinds, in Berwickshire, IV 680; Roxburghshire, XIX 455.
Hindsham, island, III 140
HINDU COOSE, XI 445; II 201; XVII 598, 643.
Hindus, XI 473—Arabian algebra probably derived from the, II 483—their writers on that science, 487—their mathematical knowledge, ib; X 503—architecture, III 459, 484, 514, XI 477
—invented the denary numerals, III 580—their character, 749, XI 473—astronomy, III 735—geometry, X 503—various races of, XI 463—Bamians, IV 414—Bamnians or Bannes, 508—Bazeegurs, 625—Bengali, 651—Bheels, 633—Brahmins, V 286—castes, 287; VI 314, 315, XI 471, XIV 104—difference from the Chinese, VI 568—fakirs, IX 472—medical profession among, XIV 450—mythology, VII 718, XV 761, 762—traditions relating to the Deluge, 761—laws, XI 476—languages, XIII 207—calendar, VI 353—supposed inventors of chess, 537—Jains, XII 670—Jants, 707—of Malabar, XIV 104—land tiles among, XI 512—trial by ordeal among, XVI 701—college, at Calcutta, XI 531—Sir William Jones’ service to the literature of, XIII 4—their doctrine of the metempsychosis, XIV 628—their pantheistic system, XVII 229, 230—their theistic system, 229, 230—their practice of burying money, XVIII 471—their belief in a future state, I 463—doctrine of transmigration as held by, ib—in Sindh, XX 305—their Vedas, or sacred books, XXI 531. See Buddhis, Shaster, Beals, Brahmins, &c.
HINDUSTAN, XI 446. See India.
Hindustanee language, XIII 198, 207.
HINE, XI 532; XII 813—in bivalve shells, XV 342.
Hinging of doors, XII 813
Hinglaj, place of Hindu pilgrimage, IV 641
Hinna, VIII 431. See Henna
Hinnites, fossil mollusks, XVII 106.
HINOM, XI 532; X 445; XII 786.
HINOJOSA DEL DUEBO, Spanish town, XI 532.
HINTZA, Kafarian chief, XIII 34.
Hinzuan, island, XII 739
Hip, muscles of the, III 38.
Hip-joint, III 36—sprain of, in cattle, XXI 560.
Hippahmus, fossil sponges, XVII 93.
HIPEARCHUS, XI 532—his contributions to astronomy, I 598; III 790, 791—on geography, X 465.
—and **HIPIAS**, XI 532, 229; IV 187, 193.
Hippobosca, genus of insects, IX 258.
Hippocampina, family of fishes, XII 315.

HIP—HIT

- Hippocampus, in anatomy, III 53.
— genus of fishes, XII 815.
Hippocastanea, family of plants, V 186.
Hippocrateacea, nat. order of plants, V 186.
HIPPOCRATES, XI 532; XIV 451—not distinguished as an anatomist, II 749—works erroneously ascribed to, ib—on bathing, IV 503, 504—Boerhaave's admiration of, 806—his surgical skill, XX 810—his candour, 812, n. 2
— of Chios, mathematician, X 498—Lane of, XX 520
Hippocratic writings, II 749; XIV 451
HIPPOCRENE, XI 534, 288
HIPPODROME, XI 534, VI 733.
Hippoglossus, genus of fishes, XII 272, IX 648, 764.
HIPPOGRYPH, XI 534
HIPPOLYTE (St), French town, XI 534.
HIPPOLYTUS, XI 534; IX 492
HIPPONAX, Greek satirist, XI 534.
Hippopotamus, fossil mollusks, XVII 108
HIPPOPODAMUS, XI 535; XIV 196, II 217—dentition of, XVI 469—stomach, III 108—cranium of, 77—in Egypt, VIII 432—its ivory, III 105, XII 684—leather from the skins of, XIII 305—fossil, XVII 168, 169, 638.
Hippopus, genus of mollusks, XV 349
Hippuric acid, VI 512
Hippuris, or Mare's-tail, order of plants, V 192
Hippurites, fossil mollusks, XVII 107.
Hippuritidae, family of mollusks, XV 349—fossil, XVII 107.
Hiram, king of Tyre, XXI 405.
Hirat. See Herat.
Hiras (Philippe de la), XI 535—on magic squares, XIII 811—on dialling, VII 776—on micrometers, XIV 745—on the projection of the sphere, X 491.
Hiring by time, and by piece-work, XXI 678
Hirling, XII 240.
Hirreni, people of ancient Italy, XI 535
HIRSCHBERG, Prussian town, XI 535
Hirudines, family of annelides, XI 303.
Hirudo, genus of annelides, XI 303
Hirundo, genus of birds, XVI 757.
Hisinger on electro-chemistry, I 908.
Hisingerite, mineral, XV 90.
Hispia, genus of insects, IX 148.
HISPANIA, XI 535 See Spain.
Hispaniola. See Hayti.
Hissar, town in Hindustan, XI 535—sepoj insurrection at, XVI 309.
Hister, genus of insects, IX 113.
Histeroides, tribe of insects, IX 113.
HISTIA, city of Euboea, XI 536
Histiophorus, genus of fishes, XII 297, 298.
Histioporus, genus of fishes, XII 302, 222
Histiotheuthis, genus of mollusks, XV 400.
HISTOLOGER, XI 536; XIV 469—histological physiology, XVII 649.
Historian, qualifications of the, V 692, XI 546—primalve historians, 548; classical, ib; mediæval, ib; modern, ib—Niebuhr on the province of, XVI 262—historic periods in science, I 799 *et seq*
Historical writing and arrangement, XI 547.
— plays, VIII 145—geography, X 459—painting, III 717—argument for the existence of a God, XXI 185.
HISTORY, XI 536—academies of, II 69—its distinction from anatomy, III 216—obscurity of early, VI 664—chronicles of the middle ages, VII 634—Hailes' Annals regarded by Dr Johnson as a new mode of, 634—Herder on, XI 348—illustration it receives from coins, XVI 361—its relations to philology, XVII 526, 527.
— (Natural). See Natural History.
HISTRIA. See Istria.
Hrn, town of Asiatic Turkey, XI 546—its scenery, IX 376—its bituminous fountains, IV 736.
Hitchecock (Dr), on fossil footprints of birds, XVII 164.

HIT—HOD

- HITCHEN, town in Hertfordshire, XI 549
Hitches, in coal beds, VII 117
HITTITES, XI 549; XVII 192—their war with Egypt, VIII 462
Hive (Jacob), his forgery of the Book of Jasher, XII 700.
Hives, different kinds of, III 295, 296; IV 588, 587—preparation of, by bees, 576—their mode of ventilating, 574—temperature of, ib
HIVITES, XI 549, XVII 192.
HOADLEY (Benjamin), bishop, XI 549.
HOANGHO, river, XI 549, XVII 607, 647.
Hoard (William), his rope-machine, XIX 409.
Hoarding, analysis of the principle of, I 382 See Advance
Hoare (Sir R C), on Abruzzo, II 49.
Hoar-frost, VII 765; X 316; XIV 653—Dr Wilson on, VII 769
HOBAL, Arabian idol, XI 549.
Hobart (Lord), governor of Madras, XI 501.
HOBART-TOWN, XI 549; IV 261; XXI 31—meteorological observations at, XIV 636.
HOBSEMA (Minderhout), XI 549.
HOBBS (Thomas), XI 550—his philosophical, political, and ethical principles, I 40, 41, 144, n. 332—his Leviathan, 42—Addison's opinion of his treatise on human nature, ib—extensive influence of his writings, ib—his style, 334—his antagonists, 43, 339; VII 579, n. 3—Butler's answer to his opinion as to the origin of the affections, I 298—coincidence between his followers and the Antinomians, 44—on the comparative advantages of reading and thinking, 45—his leading principles traced by Cudworth to the remains of the ancient sceptics, ib—on the law of nations, 90, n. 1—on the origin of our knowledge, 114—his definition of liberty, 268—his early studies and works, 338—his arrogance and dogmatism, 241, 333, 334—does not distinguish between thought and feeling, 336—neither the social affections nor moral sentiments to be found in his system, 338—his low estimate of human nature agreeable to the court of Charles II, ib—anecdote regarding his Leviathan, 241—Clarendon's opinion of him, 242—on logic, XIII 573—on association of ideas, XIV 596—on right and wrong, XV 541—theory of rectitude ascribed to, 548—Clarendon's work on, XII 67—on the source of wealth, XVIII 225—on the quadrature of the circle, XX 522.
Hobbs (Mr), his lock, XIII 537, 545—on locks, 534 *et seq*—his rudimentary treatise on, 536.
Hobby, bird, XVI 745.
HOBSON, XI 551.
Hobhouse (Sir John), his travels in Albania, II 444—on the French war with Egypt, XXI 371—on the insurrection of the janissaries, 372.
HOBLEMS, XI 551.
HOB-NOB, XI 551.
Hobson (Capt), consul in New Zealand, XVI 238.
Hobson's Bay, Port Phillip, XIV 478.
Hoccleve, poetry of, VIII 796.
Hoccoes, birds, XVI 785
HOCHE (Lazare), general, XI 551, V 559; X 104, XII 498.
Hochhuth (J. H.), his works on insects, IX 23.
Hochkirch, battle of, XVIII 654; XXI 708.
Höchst, pottery of, XVIII 436.
Hock (A.), his plan for gilding fibres, XIII 145.
HOCK-DAY, XI 552.
Hockhocking, river, XVI 499.
HOCUS-FOCUS, XI 551
Hodada, seaport on the Red Sea, XVIII 818
Hodges (Mr), on the bad effects of multiplying cottages, VII 454.
Hodgkin on the Greek alphabet, II 612

HOD—HOL

- Hodgkin (Dr), on zoophytes, XXI 975, 981.
Hodgkinson (Eaton), on the strength of pillars, I 876, XX 178—on the catenary curve, I 876—his assistance in erecting the Menai tubular bridge, 877—on the strength of iron, XII 566 *et seq*, 591, 592, of iron columns, XX 780—strength of timber, 171.
Hodgson (Adam), on Indian antiquities, II 696
— (Capt), on the sources of the Ganges, X 634
— (Richard), his microscopic photographs, XIV 801
— (Robert), XV 661
HODMAN, XI 552.
HODY (Humphry), XI 552.
Hoe's printing machine, XVIII 562.
Hoes (horse), II 275.
Hoesen's burning-mirrors, VI 11
Hoesnagel (D. J.), his work on insects, IX 2.
HOF, town in Bavaria, XI 552
HOFER (Andrew), XI 552
Hoffman (M), on births and deaths in Prussia, XV 623.
— novelist, XIX 292.
Hoffman's polytypes, XVIII 552
HOFFMANN (E Theodor Wilhelm), XI 552.
— (FREDERICK), XI 553
— on the circulation of the sap in trees, V 111.
Hoffmannswaldau, poetry of, XVIII 118.
Hoffmeister on the earthworm, XI 301, n. 5
— on the embryology of plants, V 153, 156, 157 *et seq*.
Hofwyl, M Fellenberg's establishment at, IX 500; XVII 477.
Hoe, XI 553; XIV 197; II 335; IX 762—dentition of, XVI 467—times of appearance of the permanent teeth, 468—nerves of the teeth, 418—fat of, 493—American, II 713, 714—leather from the skins of, XIII 305
HOGARTH (William), XI 553; XXI 287—his merits as a painter, III 712, 717; XVII 79—contours of Greek architectural mouldings conform to his line of beauty, III 468.
HOGG (James), Ettrick shepherd, XI 555, XXI 877—poetry of, XVIII 127—his visit to Tannahill, XXI 19.
Hoggets, II 349.
Hogging of a ship, XX 179, XVI 97.
HOGGSHED, XI 559
HOGUE (Cape de la), XI 559—battle of, V 445; XI 578; XIX 400
HOHENLINDEN, village in Bavaria, XI 559—battle of, X 120; XV 585, 793
HOHENZOLLERN-RECHINGEN and HOHENZOLLERN SIGMARINGEN, XI 559; XVIII 662.
Hohenzollern family, XVIII 647.
Holacanthodus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII 125.
Holacanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 344.
Holaster, fossil echinoidea, XVII 100.
HOLBACH (Paul Thyry, Baron de), XI 559—his *Système de la Nature*, I 181, n. 3—his connection with Diderot, VIII 18
HOLBACH, in Lincolnshire, XI 559.
HOLBEIN (Hans), XI 559—his portrait-drawings, XIII 390—woodcuts of the Dance of Death ascribed to, XXI 903
HOLBERG (Baron Ludwig), XI 560; VII 750; XIX 692.
Holcus saccharatus, sugar-bearing plant, XX 798.
Holectypus, fossil echinoidea, XVII 100.
Holegu-Ilecon-Khan, a patron of astronomy, III 795
Holepta, genus of insects, IX 113.
Hollbut, fish. See Halibut.
Holiness of God, XXI 191
— title, XXI 291.
HOLINSHEAD (Raphael), XI 560.
HOLKAR, XI 560, 508 *et seq*.
HOLLAND, XI 561; IX 399—proceedings of the Duke of Alva in, II 642—analysis of the soil of, 394—policy in Am-

HOL—HOL

- boyna and the Banda islands, 661; IV 410—army, III 653—painters, 711—discoveries in New Holland, IV 252 *et seq*—bleaching, 758—bricks, V 343—wars with Britain, 415, 417, 422, 426, 495—political movements in 1784, 525—invaded by the Duke of Brunswick, 56—invaded by the British in 1799, 568; X 114—discussions in the British parliament on that expedition, V 573—colonies, VII 149; in the West Indies, II 708, the Banda islands, IV 409, Brazil, V 282; XI 575, Celebes, VI 360; Ceylon, 396; Guiana, XI 84—commerce, VII 187; with the East Indies, III 757; England, VIII 732, 733; Japan, XII 695, 698, Java, 709—commercial policy, VII 193—sources of its commercial prosperity, 197—short credit, 198—battle of Camperdown, V 561; X 107; VIII 253—drifting sands, 646, 647—fisheries, IX 639, 643; herrings, 635, 638, 639, 641—conduct of the French towards, X 39, 42—conquered by them in 1794, V 554; X 93, 94—no usury laws, XII 431—language, XIII 211—libraries, 422—population of, XV 601, 602—coins, 442, 444; XVI 389—monarchy, XV 413—education, 818, 828— inland navigation, XVI 55—newspapers, 202—early traffic with New York, 217—liberal treatment of foreigners, XIV 275—earning of florists' flowers in, XI 751—scholars of, XVII 524—early north-east voyages, XVIII 165—pottery, 433—Presbyterianism, 438—railway statistics, 787—postal system, 424—rise of naval power, XX 130—number of vessels, 138—surgeons, 818—possessions of, in Sumatra, 805, 806—stamp-duties first levied in, XXI 65—condition of the lower classes in, 49—consumption of tea in, 91—universities in, 492—weights and measures, 811—map of, XI Plate. See Belgium.
Holland (New) See New Holland
— (Dr), on the Ionian islands, XII 444 *et seq*
— (Dr), on animalcules as the cause of disease, XXI 975.
— (Sir H), on phrenology, XVII 559
— on mental physiology, XIV 689, n. 1.
— (Sir John), VI 619.
— (Lord), VIII 242—on a peace with France in 1800, V 670—his opposition to the union with Ireland, 672—his Life of Lope de Vega, VIII 146—on the extravagances of the early drama, ib
— (Mr), on the usury-laws, XII 430
— (Mr), Bank of Scotland projected by, XV 483.
— (Dr PHILEMON), XI 592—his translation of Camden, VI 116; of Livy, XIII 527—extract from his translation of Pliny, XII 271
Hollands. See Gm.
Hollandus (Isaac), on sal-ammoniac, II 720.
HOLLAR (Wincelans), engraver, XI 592
Holloa, in hunting, XII 46.
Holly, order of plants, V 199.
— common, V 199; XVII 759, 760, 762—species used as tea in South America, V 199 See Maté
Holmes' manure distributor, II 275.
Holocanthus, genus of fishes, XII 302, 301.
HOLOCAUST, XI 592
Holocentridæ, family of fishes, XII 279.
Holocentrum, genus of fishes, XII 279—fossil, 348.
Holocephali, order of fishes, XII 318—fossil, XVII 119.
Holocystis, fossil corals, XVII 96, 97.
HOLOGRAPH, XI 592
Holohedric crystals, XV 41.
Holohepa, fossil mollusks, XVII 110.
Holoophotal system of lights, XII 476—its adaptation to Fresnel's apparatus, 478—condensers, 479.
Holoopodius, genus of birds, XVI 805.
Holoptychius, genus of fossil fishes, XII 336; XVII 123, 457; XIX 453.

HOL—HOM

- Holoptychidae, fossil fishes, XVII 123.
 Holosteus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 347.
 Holostomata, fossil mollusks, XVII 110.
 Holothurina, XXI 985, 984—fossil, XVII 100.
 Holothurida, XXI 988.
 Holothuridea, XXI 984.
 Holothuriodea, XVII 100.
 HOLSTEIN, XI 592, VII 748—discontent in, after the peace of 1815, 749—invaded by Charles X. of Sweden, XX 552—ravaged by the Danes, 853.
 Holt (Sir John), XI 592
 —in Denbighshire, XI 593; VII 736
 Holwell (Mr), VI 71, XI 484.
 HOLY ALLIANCE, XI 593; II 468, VIII 40; XVIII 657; XIX 485—secession of Great Britain from, V 637.
 HOLYHEAD, XI 593—Chester and Holyhead Railway, IX 664—harbour of refuge at, XI 221—mail-packets, XX 668.
 HOLY ISLAND, XI 593, XVI 299
 —in Lamlash bay, Ayr, VI 28
 Holy Ghost, blasphemy against, IV 754—office of, I 501; XXI 217—personality of, 1b—effects of his work in man, 218
 HOLY-STONE, XI 593
 Holyrood, abbey of, VIII 395, 390—sanctuary of, 395.
 HOLYWELL, town in Flintshire, XI 593, IX 664
 HOLZMINDEN, town in Brunswick, XI 593
 Homacanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII 117.
 Homalaceae, nat. order of plants, V 193
 Homalopus, genus of serpents, XIX 59
 Homalutia, genus of insects, IX 254
 Homberg (William), chemist, his arsenometer, XII 392.
 Homberg. See Hesse-Homburg.
 Home, (Captain), on magnetism, XIV 15, 56
 —(Sir EVERARD), XI 594—on the spleen, II 302—on the nerves, 808—on the brain, 819—on muscular filaments, 821—on the tongue of the graffe, III 100—his work on Comparative Anatomy, II 118—his appropriation of John Hunter's papers, XII 29—on the Dugong, XIV 219—on the vampire bat, XVI 452.
 —(Dr F.), on bleaching, IV 758.
 —(HENRY), Lord Kames, XI 593—his Elements of Criticism, I 221—on the "hoarding instinct," 382, n—his mode of improving Blair-Drummond moss, II 382—on the pairing of birds, III 181—on the old Roman law against bankrupts, VI 740—on the recovery of the Pandects, 747—on Lord Star's Institutes, VII 633, n. 1—his discussion with Dr Doig, VIII 91—on feudal law in Scotland, IX 525, n. 10—his friendship towards Smolke, XX 336—Tytler's life of, XXI 411.
 —(JOHN), author of Douglas, XI 594; IX 511—his tragedy of Douglas, VIII 168; XIX 230
 HOMER, XI 594—were letters known in his time? III 617—Alamanni's notes on, II 428—Bryant's opinions concerning, V 706—Dr Clarke's translation of the Iliad, VI 758—Eustathius' Commentaries on, IX 408—his notices of the Ionian Islands, XII 451, 454—Fouli's edition of, XV 526—his description of the horse, XI 633—his imperfect distinction between morality and law, XIII 259—criticisms on, XX 86, n. 1—MS of Iliad, XXI 889—translations of, into English, V 678; VII 473; VI 418; XI 650; XVIII 325, 380, 381; French, XII 685; VI 615; Italian, 389; XV 519; Icelandic, XII 199; German, XX 708—palimpsest of the Iliad, XVII 214—fragment of, on papyrus, 265—poetry of, XVIII 92, 95, 97, 99, 100, 101—Homeric hymns, 102—Homeric Greek, 325—comparison between him and Spenser, XX 507—Voss's editions of, XXI 672.

HOM—HOO

- HOMER or Omer, a Jewish measure, XI 604; VII 421.
 HOMOTIDE, XI 604; XIV 429; XV 567—its punishment in China, VI 566—homicidal mania, XIV 538
 Homildown, battle of, VI 616—archers present at, III 425.
 HOMILY, XI 606.
 Homobranchia, order of crustacea, VII 540.
 Homocercal fishes, XII 209, 333, XVII 126, 640.
 HOMOGOPATHY, XI 606—in the treatment of live stock, II 358—number of homoeopaths in United Kingdom, XIV 465 See Hahnemann.
 Homologies of the mollusks, XV 324—of the teeth, XVI 478—promoted by paleontology, XVII 91.
 Homologous series, in organic chemistry, VI 505
 HOMOTYMS, XI 608.
 HOMOTYMS, XI 608.
 Homoptera, insects, IX 166
 Roman, translator, XIV 456.
 HONDEKOTTER (Melchior), XI 608
 HONDURAS, British, XI 609
 —state of Central America, XI 611.
 HONE, or Hone-slate, XI 614, VII 601
 —(WILLIAM), XI 614.
 Honey, IX 765—used for preserving fruits, 767—of Hymettus, XII 188—of Hybla, XX 244—ants fond of, III 264—used to form lenses, XIV 769—specific gravity of, XII 89—dead embalmed with, IV 847—polarisation of, XVI 681—occasionally poisonous, XIV 439 See Apiary, Bee.
 Honey-bees, IX 203; IV 570.
 Honey-buzzard, bird, XVI 774.
 Honey-combs, IV 577—Buffon's theory of their formation, 578—durability of, 583—construction of, XII 391.
 Honey-dew, IV 572; IX 171, n. 2.
 Honey-guides, birds, XVI 778, II 218.
 Honey-hawks, XVI 744.
 Honey-soap, XX 308.
 Honey-stone, XV 125
 Honeysuckle, order of plants, V 195; XVII 764.
 —ornament in Greek architecture, III 468—derived from Assyria, 501.
 HONFLEUR, French seaport, XI 615
 HONG KONG, island, XI 615—ceded to Britain, V 669; VI 597—silver exported from England to, XVIII 472
 HONITON, in Devonshire, XI 615—lace, XIII 142.
 HONOLULU, in the Sandwich Islands, XI 615; XVIII 273, 278
 HONORIUS (Flavius), Roman emperor, XI 616; VII 311.
 —I, II, IV. (Popes), XI 616.
 —III. (Pope), XI 616—his persecution of the Albigenes, XII 387.
 HONOUR (Legion of), XI 616; XIII 114, 120, 129, X 280.
 —remarks on the law of, I 391; VIII 282.
 HONOURABLE, XI 616.
 Honours, academical, XXI 453, 463, 467 et seq.
 Hood (Alexander), XI 617.
 —(Charles), on the structure of iron, XII 670.
 —(Lieut.), on aurora borealis in North America, IV 244, 249
 —(Mr), on hot-house furnaces, and heating with hot-water, XI 720, 721.
 —(ROBNS), XI 616; XII 49.
 —(SAMUEL), viscount, XI 617; V 496.
 —(Sir Samuel), XI 617; V 600.
 —(THOMAS), poet, XI 617.
 —in falconry, XI 248.
 Hooded snake, XIX 64.
 Hoofed animals, II 774.
 Hoofman (Elizabeth), Dutch authoress, XI 591.
 HOOGST (Peter Cornelius), XI 618.
 HOOGSTRAEN (Heinrich), XI 619.
 HOOGHLY, town and district in Bengal, XI 619; IV 651.
 —river, XI 619; X 400.

HOO—HOR

- Hooght's (Van der), Hebrew Bible, IV 687.
 Hook, fishing, III 150, 158.
 —(Dr), his camera lucida, VI 117—on capillary attraction, XII 98—on the deflection of rays of light, VII 694.
 —(THEODORE EDWARD), XI 620—his novels, XIX 283
 HOOKAH, XI 620.
 HOOKE (Nathaniel), XI 620.
 —(ROBERT), XI 620—his opposition to the optical discoveries of Newton, I 667—his jealousy and illiberality, 595—on the earth's annual motion, II 36—on Jupiter's belts, IV 69—his principle of arches, III 403—on gravitation, IV 221; I 675—on pneumatics, IV 453—his barometer, 454—inventor of the anchor escapement, VII 8—his improvements in clocks, 3—his watch-springs, I 595—on light, 895—on the teeth of wheels, XIV 396, 397—on magnetism, 3—his universal joint, 399 his micrometer, 743—on optics, XVI 533, 598, 599—his air-pump, XVIII 34—his discovery of a law of nature, *ut tensio sic vis*, XX 751—on the strength of materials, 763—on the thermometer, XXI 221.
 HOOKER (John), XI 620.
 —(Dr Joseph D.), on the Himalayan glaciers, X 634—on the botany of the Auckland Islands, IV 268—on the Himalayas, XI 438—on the preparation of opium, XVI 518
 —(RICHARD), XI 621—on the law of nature, XIII 264—on virtue, XV 563
 —(Sir William), his improvements in Kew gardens, XIII 75—on antarctic plants, XVII 625
 HOOLIS (John), XI 622
 Hoon, town in Fezzan, IX 523
 Hoop-nets, XIX 92.
 HOORSE (John), bishop, XI 622.
 HOORSE-CORNER, XI 622.
 Hoopes, birds, XVI 771, VIII 433.
 HOORN, in Holland, XI 622.
 Hor, plant, XI 622; V 206—culture of, I 333—use of hops in brewing, V 324—their qualities, 1b—of Herefordshire, XI 349—of Canada, VI 147—of Kent, XIII 66—excise duties on, XXI 59.
 Hope, XIV 576; XVII 563.
 —(Cape of Good). See Good Hope
 —(F. W.), his works on insects, IX 20
 —(Lord Justice-Clerk), on the right of salmon-fishing on the sea coast, IX 601, n. 2
 —(THOMAS), XI 622—his Anastasius, XIX 382.
 —(THOMAS CHARLES), M.D., XI 623—on the maximum density point of water, I 941.
 HOPETIE, mineral, XV 93.
 HOPITAL (G. F. Antoine), Marquis de l', XI 623—his work on the calculus, I 646.
 —or HOSPITAL (MICHEL DE L'), XI 624.
 —(W.), on fractures in the earth's crust, XV 177—on the thickness of the earth's crust, 184, n
 HOPKINS (Ezekiel), bishop, XI 625.
 Hopkinson's punting machine, XVIII 562.
 Hoplegnathus, genus of fishes, XI 303, 223.
 Hoplia, genus of insects, IX 126.
 Hoplides, group of insects, IX 125.
 Hoplopteryx, genus of fossil fishes, XII 343.
 Hoplopygus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 386; XVII 125.
 Hoppe (David Henry), his works on insects, IX 8
 Hor, mount, XI 626; XII 359.
 HORAPOLLO, XI 626, 373, 381; II 608.
 HORATTI, XI 626.
 Horatius Cocles. See Cocles.
 —FLACIUS (Q.), Roman poet, XI 626—Pine's edition of, IV 707—Cunningham's edition of, VII 586, 587—Bentley's emendations of, 586—Bur-

HOR—HOR

- man's edition of, V 786—on field-sports, XII 33—his obligations to Maecenas, XIII 807—his verses on Pindar, XVII 711—poetry of, XVIII 105—friendship between him and Virgil, XXI 595
 Hore (H. Francis), on Irish fisheries, IX 618, 629.
 Horeb (mount), height of, XVII 644.
 Horesti, Caledonian tribe, VI 74.
 Horia, genus of insects, IX 134.
 Horiales, tribe of insects, IX 134.
 Horizon, XI 630, IV 1—sensible and rational, IV 5, X 480
 Horizontal water-wheels, XII 168—steam-engines, XX 608
 Hormusdas, king of Persia, XVII 438.
 Hormuz, XVI 724
 Horns of animals, XI 630; XIV 203—use of, as manure, II 407.
 —musical instrument, XI 631; XV 711—English, 710—French, XI 631— or Hoom (Cape), XI 631—discovery of, XVII 336
 —(Count), XI 563 et seq.
 —(Van), buccaneer, V 711
 Hornbeam tree, XVII 758, 765—astumber, XXI 278.
 Hornbeares, order of, XIII 122.
 Hornbills, birds, XVI 773
 Hornblende, XV 60, 81—rock, 135—analysis of, II 390—specific gravity of, XII 88.
 —schist, XV 154.
 Hornblower (Mr), steam-engine valves invented by, XX 603—beam of his engine, VI 267
 HORNCastle, in Lincolnshire, XI 631—fair at, IX 468.
 Horn-cobalt, XV 112.
 HORNE (George), bishop, XI 631—his Introduction, &c., XIX 329 et seq.
 —(T. H.), his work on bibliography, IV 716, XIII 378—on the Mentz Psalter, XVIII 530
 Hornemann, his expedition to Africa, II 210.
 HORNER (Francis), XI 631—on Machiavel, I 286—estimate of his character, 237, 403, n. 1—on the currency, IX 439
 Hornet, IX 198—an enemy to bees, IV 585.
 Horning, in Scotch law, XII 365.
 Hornsilver, XV 107.
 Hornstone, XV 69
 Hornung's blue ink, XII 383.
 Hornwort, order of plants, V 206.
 HORROCK'S (Jeremiah), XI 632—observed the first transit of Venus in 1639, I 611—among the first who appreciated the discoveries of Kepler, 1b—died young, but left behind him matter which Newton adopted, 1b.
 Horsa, V 381—ships of, XX 118.
 Horsburgh's barometrical plates, IV 458.
 HORSE, XI 632, II 337; XIV 200—dentition of, XVI 410, 412, 470, II 107—fat of, XVI 497—race-horse, XI 633—hunter, 645—saddle, II 337—drey, 1b—hackney, XI 652, 662—charger, 656—troop-horse, 657—coach-horse, 658—gig-horse, 660—post-horse, 1b—cart-horse, 661; II 338—Clydesdale horses, 338; XI 662—of America, II 714—Indian tribes that make use of, 693—of Arabia, III 345—of Hungary, XII 17—Asia, III 740—Beykancer, IV 691—Brazil, V 294—Buenos Ayres, 726—Chile, VI 549—Derbyshire, VII 755—Down, VIII 123—Egypt, 432—England, 723—France, X 248—Germany, 586—Greece, XI 17—New South Wales, IV 280—Ireland, XI 662—Jamaica, XII 682—Japan, 689—Lincolnshire, XIII 491—Morocco, XV 594—India, XI 465—Norway, XVI 324—Palestine, XVII 191—Persia, 423—Prussia, XVIII 605—Scotland, XI 662, XIX 793—Tangutan, or Bootan, V 34—Spain, XX 498—breeds of the, II 337—breeding and rearing, 338—feeding, 339, 340—affectionately treated by the Arabs, III 348—lots in, IX 247; XXI 569—vocal organs of, III 101—small brain of, 178

HOR—HOU

—degeneration of, 182—Apelles as a painter of, 291—speed of race-horses, VII 230—strength of, in draught, XIV 417—general treatment of, XI 683; II 339—light playing round the ears and manes of, XIII 458 See Horsemanship, Hunting, Veterinary Science
Horse-chestnut tree, V 188, 91; XVII 759, 762—smooth-fruited species, 762.
Horse-flies, IX 231; XXI 569
Horse-Guards, XI 74—Horse Grenadier Guards, ib.
—master of the, XI 776
Horse-hoes, II 275.
Horse-leech, XI 306
Horse-power, in mechanics, XI 689; XIV 404—of steam-engines, XX 802, 601—of boilers, 802—proportion of, to tonnage in steam-vessels, 664.
Horse-radish, XI 745.
—tree, V 190.
Horse-rakes, II 279.
Horse-shoe magnets, XIV 72
Horse-tail, order of plants, V 216, 144.
Horsefield (Dr), his work on insects, IX 15—on the volcanoes of Java, XII 702—on the birds of Java, 704—on the bats of Java, XIV 147—on the Mydaus of Java, 158.
HORSEMANSHIP, XI 672—race-riding or jockeyship, XI 686.
Horsfall (Mr), his assassination, VII 165.
HORSHAM, in Sussex, XI 689; XX 839.
HORSLEY (Samuel), bishop, XI 690
HORTENSUS (Quintus), XI 691
HORTICULTURE, XI 692—fruit and kitchen garden, 697—fruit garden, 702—forcing garden, 719—kitchen garden, 737—flower garden, 745—calendar, 758—in Middlesex, XIV 808—hot walls in, XVIII 79. See Garden, Gardening
Horton (Mrs), her marriage to the Duke of Cumberland, V 474.
Horus, VIII 438; XI 384, 385, and *n.* 1—Apollo, XI 626.
HOSANNA, XI 761.
HOSBA, book of, XI 761.
Hosier (Admiral), V 456
Hosiery. See Stocking Manufacture.
Hoskins (Mr), on the best means of exploring the White Nile, XVI 269
Hoskyn (Chandos Wren), on agriculture, II 248, 250.
Hospitality, among the Arabs, III 353; Circassians, VI 731; Druses, VIII 198.
HOSPITALIERS, knights, XI 762; VI 622; XIII 114.
HOSPITALS, XI 761; XIV 444—in London, XIII 673—proportion of patients in, to the population of Great Britain, VIII 749—in France, X 268—England, VIII 748—Ireland, XII 629—Edinburgh, VIII 402—Belgium, IV 628—Madrid, XIII 806—Dublin, VIII 224—Paris, XVII 283—for lepers, XIII 340—improvement in surgical, XX 828—royal naval, at Plymouth, XVIII 20.
HOSPODAR, XI 762; XV 613—of Wallachia, XXI 683.
Hosr, XI 762.
Hot-blast furnace, X 355; XII 547 *et seq* See Furnace, Smelting.
Hot-houses, XI 721 *et seq*
Hot-water apparatus, for heating, XIX 614.
Hotels, in New York, XVI 225.
Hotham (Admiral), XVI 133.
Hotman (Francis), on the origin of hereditary nobility, XVI 281.
HOTTESTON, XI 762; II 222; IX 353; X 714—their language, XIII 203, 219, 225. See Bosjesmans.
HOTTINGER (J. Heinrich), XI 762.
Houbigant's Hebrew Bible, IV 697; XIX 836.
HOUBRAKEN (Jacob), engraver, XI 762.
Houel (M.), his description of the view from Zina, II 190—of its forests, 191.
Hough (Dr), XVII 892.
Houghton on the potato, II 259.
HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING, XI 762.
HOUND, XI 762. See Hunting, Dog.
Hounds, fishes, XII 322.

HOU—HUA

Hounslow Heath, trigonometrical base on, IX 553; XIX 456, XXI 330, 334.
Hour, VII 772 *et seq*—Egyptian, VIII 450. See Dialling
—circles and angles, IV 2, X 485
Hourdequin, trial of, X 219.
House of Commons, VIII 768. See Commons
—Peers, X 737—the supreme court of appeal, VIII 787. See Lords, House of
—(R. E.), his printing telegraph, XXI 112
House-tax, XXI 45.
HOUSEHOLD, The Royal, XI 773—of France, X 279
Houses, in London, XIII 658—number of, in England and Wales, VIII 717—site of, XIV 443—attempts to make them fire-proof, XIII 438—situation and construction of, with a view to health, XIX 613—in the university of Oxford, XXI 456, 457.
HOUSSE, in Central Africa, XI 776; II 229
Houston (Mr), on the tongue of the chameleon, III 100.
—city of Texas, XI 779.
Hovas, people of Madagascar, XIII 792.
HOWARDEN (Roger de), XI 779
Howell's explorations in Australia, IV 255
HOVELLERS (The), XI 780.
Hoven, disease of cattle, XXI 568.
Howard (Catherine), VII 482, VIII 704, 706.
—(CHARLES), Lord Howard of Effingham, XI 780.
—(Sir Edward), on the state of the fleet in 1613, XX 126
—(Lady Frances), II 15.
—(HENRY), earl of Surrey, XI 780—his execution, VIII 706—poetry, 798
—(JOHN), XI 782; XVIII 568—his tomb, IV 743; XIII 77
—(Luke), on the electricity of clouds, VIII 581—his nomenclature of clouds, XIV 655.
—(Mr), his account of meteoric stones which fell near Benares, XIV 681.
—(Mr), his report on Irish fish, IX 638.
—(Mr), his process of distillation in vacuo, XX 556—his vacuum-pan, 793
Howard's patent harrow, II 272
Howard-Arundel MSS, XIII 392.
HOWDEX, in Yorkshire, XI 787.
Howe (Dr), his printing for the blind, XVIII 554.
—(General), V 487; XXI 750, 751, 752.
—(JOHN), Puritan divine, XI 787—on the cosmological argument for the existence of God, XXI 186
—(RICHARD), viscount, XI 789; V 487; XXI 750—his victory over the French fleet in 1794, V 554.
Howe of Fife, IX 543, 544.
Howell (Mr), his method of boring wooden pipes, V 45.
—(Mr), his photographic process, XVII 648
Howick (Lord), his bill for religious liberty in the army and navy, V 600.
HOWITZER, XI 790, 140—boring of, V 42—tables of ranges for, XI 149—table of length, weight, &c., of 184.
Howlett, voice of, III 101.
Howlett (Mr), on the population of England, VIII 753.
Howship on the development of bone, II 828, 829.
Howson (Mr), on the ruins of Iona, XII 441, *n.*
HOWZE, town near Dublin, XI 790; VIII 214—diving-bell used in making the harbour of, 65.
Hox, one of the Orkneys, XI 790; XVI 718.
Hoyle (Mr), on evaporation, IX 410.
Huahine, island, XVIII 279, 280.
HUAMANGA, in Peru, XI 790, 73

HUA—HUM

Huancavelica, in Peru, XVII 474.
Huantaya, silver mines of, XVII 622.
Huara, town in Peru, XVII 474
Hubbard (Mr), on the Bank Act of 1844, XV 467.
—(Mr), his estimate of the supply of wool, XXI 906, 907
HUBLEY, town in Hindustan, XI 790.
HUBER (Francis), XI 790—his hive, III 295—his work on bees, IX 12—on bees, IV 571 *et seq*—his blindness, 780—on the sense of smell in bees, IX 44, 45
—(Pierre), on ants, III 261 *et seq*—on bees, IV 572—his works on insects, IX 12.
Hubert (Louis), conspirator, X 214
Hubner (James), his work on insects, IX 12
Huddart (Joseph), his rope-machinery, XIX 407, 409, 410
Hudde on insurance, XII 396
HUDDERSFIELD, in Yorkshire, XI 790.
HUDSON (Henry), XI 790—his discovery of New York, XVI 216; Greenland, XI 39—voyages of, XVIII 168.
—(Jeffery), dwarf, VIII 271.
—(John), XI 791—his collection of the minor Greek writers on geography, X 468
—city in Columbia, XI 791.
—RIVER, XI 792, 790, XVI 213; XVIII 168—Hudson valley district, XVI 213
HUDSON'S BAY, XI 791; XVIII 168 *et seq*
—French expedition to, in 1782, V 501
—Bay Company, XI 791—history of, X 345—present state of, 346, 347—its contests with the North-west company, 296—their expeditions of discovery, XVIII 169, 170, 172, 175
—Bay sable, X 347
—BAY TERRITORY, XI 791.
—Strata, XVIII 167, 168; XI 790.
Hudsonite, mineral, XV 81
Huá, river and town in Cochín-China, VII 48.
HUE AND CEX, XI 792; XVIII 191.
HUELVA, Spanish province, XI 792; III 123, 124.
—Spanish seaport, XI 793.
HUEZTA (V. Garcia de la), Spanish poet, XI 793
HUESCA, town and province of Spain, XI 793; III 393
HUESCAR, town of Spain, XI 793.
HUET (Pierre Daniel), XI 793—superintended the Delphin edition of the classics, IV 711—Huetana, II 739—disposal of his library, XIII 376—his praises of tea, XXI 89
Hug on recensions of the text of the New Testament, XIX 886.
Hughes (Mr), his printing telegraph, XXI 94, 112, 113.
Hugo de Sancto Caro (Cardinal), IV 695—his division of the Scriptures into chapters and verses, XIX 888
Hugo of Lucca on anesthetics, VI 632
—(Victor), XVIII 117—character of his novels, XIX 289.
HUGUENOTS, XI 794; X 32 *et seq*; XIX 163—assisted by Queen Elizabeth, VIII 711
Huillier (C.) on the geometrical structure of bees' combs, IV 578.
Hush on bees, III 294, 296.
—(Captain), on railway accidents, XVIII 795.
Hutzihluitl, Mexican king, XIV 700.
Hulaku Khan, XVII 437.
Hulks, XVIII 670; XX 123.
HULL, XI 794—slege of, in 1643, V 464—docks of, VIII 74, 75—tonnage of the port of, 738.
—(Mr), on the great colite, XV 207.
Hulls (Jonathan), his idea of a steamboat, XX 686
Human body, electricity of, VIII 571—poisons generated in, producing disease, XIX 612.
—nature, science of, XIII 263.
Humane Society, their rules for the recovery of drowned persons, VIII 182.

HUM—HUM

Humamty of Jesus Christ, XXI 210.
Humann (M.), X 218, 219.
HUMBER, river, XI 796; XVII 647
Humbert (General), his invasion of Ireland, X 109.
Humble sandstone, XX 711.
Humble-bees, IX 201
Humboldt (Alexander von), I 992—his early history and travels, ib—his contributions to physical geography, ib—on America, II 669 *et seq*—on the indigenous Americans, 676—on American languages, 679—on the geology of the Andes, III 129—his account of his journey across these mountains, 181—account of a crocodile roused from its summer sleep, 181—on the ancient buildings of Mexico, II 685—his table of the produce of gold and silver mines of America, 706—barometrical observation on the summit of Chimborazo, IV 467—on the equinoctial current, 176—vertical section of America, 468—his contributions to magnetism and meteorology, I 991, 993; XIV 7, 17, 61—on the alpine vegetation of South America, V 226—on terrestrial temperature, VI 769—on isothermal lines, 771; I 993; XIV 664—his isothermal and isochermal lines, ib—on the horary variations of the barometer, VI 776—on the Canary Islands, 164, 165, 166—on the electricity of the torpedo and electrical eel, VIII 573, 575, XII 238—his confirmation of Galvani's experiments on the electricity of the frog, I 960—on the vegetable productions of Mexico, XIV 716, 717—his exploration of the Orinoco, XVI 716—his Kosmos, XVII 627—on the results of philology, 538—on the centres of gravity of continents above the sea-level, 590—his classification of plants characteristic of different zones, 628—on population, XVIII 338, 341, 342—on the supply of precious metals from America, 460—his letters to Varnhagen Von Ense, XXI 525—his theory of volcanic action, 607
—(KARL WILHELM VON), XI 796—on the Basque language, IV 490, XIII 214—on the inhabitants of the banks of the Iberus, XII 196.
Humboldtite, mineral, XV 73.
Humboldine, mineral, XV 125.
HUME (David), XII 1—his estimate of Machiavelli, I 24—on modern improvements in monarchical governments, ib—on the statutes of Henry VII, 37, 38—on Harrington's Oceana, 47, *n.* 1—on the influence of the civil war of 1640, 48—his residence at the village of La Fleche, 61, *n.* 4—on Sir Isaac Newton, 73—on cause and effect, 78, *n.* 2, 3; 211, *et seq*, 286—his Treatise of Human Nature, 206, 207, 221, 369—its effects on literature, 208, 214, *n.* 2—his division of the objects of knowledge, 208—admitted the existence of only impressions and ideas, 209, 219, *n.* 2—his scepticism, 209, 210, 215; XIV 612, XIX 709—his refutation of attempts to demonstrate self-evident truths, I 210—benefits which have resulted from his reasonings, ib—his distinction between the sensitive and cognitive parts of our nature, 112—on our conviction of the permanence of the laws of nature, ib—on the course of nature, and succession of ideas, ib, *n.* 2—his reformation of the philosophical vocabulary, 218—instance of his sincerity in the search after truth, 216—Butler's opinion of his essays, 217—virtuous private character of, 368—anticipated in some of his doctrines, 441—considered his Inquiry concerning the Principles of Morals as the best of his writings, 370—merits of that work, 371 *et seq*—his style, 370—his last illness, 440—cordial to his will, 441—on atheism, 451, *n.* 1—on the state of agriculture under the feudal system, II 261—on God's government of the universe, III 189, *n.*—on the balance of

HUM—HUN

- power, IV. 389.—Dr Beattie on, 580—his injustice to Pryne, 713—on miracles, IX. 417; XV. 264—on Roman lawyers, VI. 745—on the coinage, VII. 78, 79—on the effect of a progressive rise of prices in stimulating productive industry, 188, *n.*—on Demosthenes, 729—on the character of Oliver Cromwell, 509—his letter to Gibbon, X. 612; to Dr Reid, XIX. 2—his defects as a historian, XI. 546—on manufactures, XIV. 291—on causality, 600 and *n.* 4—on rates of interest, XVIII. 217, *n.* 1—on political economy, 220—on money, 476—his intimacy with Dr Robertson, XIX. 282—his conduct to Rousseau, 449—on Rousseau, as a writer, 450—Smellie's life of, XX. 387—on Smith's Wealth of Nations, 341—Adam Smith's account of his death and character, 342, and Lord Hailes' Latin version of it, VII. 635—his essay on taxes, XXI. 38—on the argument for the existence of God from design, 188
- HUME (Joseph), XII. 8—his opposition to ministers on financial questions, V. 632, 635, 638—his committee on the Mint, VII. 81—his motion on the Irish Church, V. 641—on the corn-laws, 650
- HUMERACEA, nat. order of plants, V. 187.
- HUMEROPOL, town in Hindustan, XII. 9
- Humerus, or arm-bone, in man, III. 81—in mammalia, 81—in reptiles, 88
- Humidity, XII. 186—of the air, XIV. 675. See Moisture.
- HUMILIARY, XII. 9
- Humility, Christ's state of, XXI. 211.
- Humility, I. 397.
- Humite, mineral, XV. 189.
- Humming birds, XVI. 770; V. 294, XVII. 638, 268—in West Indies, XXI. 837
- Humours of the eye, XIII. 461; XVII. 678
- HUMPHREY (Laurence), XII. 9
- duke of Gloucester, XVII. 688, 689.
- Humphreys (H. R.), his works on British insects, IX. 22
- Humus, II. 376; V. 95—soils, 98
- Hundred court, VIII. 786
- HUNDREDS, XII. 9—division of English counties into, VIII. 720.
- Hung-sen-tseuen, Chinese fanatic, VI. 598, 599.
- Hungarians, their invasion of Switzerland, X. 883.
- HUNGARY, XII. 9—fairs, IX. 469—libraries, XIII. 428—silver mines of, XV. 236—height of mountains, XVII. 642—condition of the Jews in, XII. 783—monarchy, XV. 413—language, XIII. 215—Presbyterian Church in, XVIII. 486—aversion to the name of queen in, 727—war with Russia and Austria, XIX. 488—silk produced in, XX. 278—war with Sweden, 852—Turkish invasions, XXI. 369—wines of, 885, 886.
- WATER, XII. 26
- HUNGER, XII. 26; XVII. 658
- HUNGERFORD, town in Berkshire, XII. 26, IV. 666
- suspension-bridge, XIII. 676
- HUNN, or Huns, XII. 26, I. X. 577, 728
- Charlemagne's war with, 8—De Guignes' history of, XI. 87—language of, XIII. 217.
- Hunniades (John), VII. 320.
- Hunt (Captain), V. 470
- (John), XVI. 186.
- (Leigh), his connection with Lord Byron, VI. 39; XVI. 186
- (Mr), his estimate of the value of British minerals, XV. 248.
- (Mr), on photography, XVII. 546, 549, 550.
- (Mi), his mode of curing stammering, XX. 584.
- Hunter (Capt.), governor of New South Wales, IV. 271.
- (Dr John), on grammar, X. 746 *et seq.*, 792.
- (JOHN), XII. 26; XIV. 462—his anatomical labours, II. 765, 766—on the distinction of species, III. 175—on

HUN—HUT

- bees, IV. 570 *et seq.*—on the varieties of the human complexion, VII. 222—his discovery of lymphatics in birds, II. 766—on the period of gestation in the human species, IV. 492, *n.* 1—his experiments on hybrids, XII. 63—his intimacy with Dr Jenner, 720—compared with Dr Jenner, 726—on the circulating system of crustacea, XV. 356—on the teeth, XVI. 459—his work on Digestion, XX. 497—his improvements in surgery, 819—too fond of amputating, 823, *n.*
- Hunter (Joseph), on Pope's ancestry, XVIII. 322
- (Dr WILLIAM), XII. 29; XIV. 462—his anatomical labours, II. 765, 766—on cellular and adipose tissues, 786, 787—on the lymphatics, 804, 805—on cartilage, 831, 832—his copartnership with Dr Cullen, VII. 572—on the torpedo, VIII. 573; XII. 326, and electrical eel, 576
- horse, XI. 645, 662, 664, 667, 634—purchase of a, 652.
- river, IV. 279—80—wines of, XXI. 887.
- Hunter's stone-boring machine, V. 45
- Hunterian Museum, X. 662; XII. 30.
- HUNTING, XII. 81, XX. 209—of the boar, IV. 799—in chivalry, VI. 612—horsemanship in, XI. 679, 680
- HUNTINGDON (Selina), countess of, XII. 48—her religious party, XIV. 693—her patronage of Whitefield, XXI. 854.
- Station, on the Great Northern Railway, XVIII. 774. Plate
- town, XII. 48
- willow, XVII. 759.
- HUNTINGDONSHIRE, XII. 48—population and value of property, VIII. 754
- HUNTLEY, in Aberdeenshire, XII. 49; II. 34.
- Huntsman, XII. 44—duties of, 45.
- Hunyadi (John), XII. 13
- (Matthias), XII. 14
- Hupear (M.), his centre for the bridge of Orleans, VI. 378
- HURD (Richard), bishop, XII. 49—his answer to Hume, 3, XXI. 730—his panegyric on Warburton, 728—on Bellingbrooke's attack on Pope, 729—his preface to Warburton's works, 731, his letters to that prelate, *ib.*
- HURDWAR, in Hindustan, XII. 49—commerce of, XI. 459—fair at, IX. 469.
- Hureaulte, mineral, XV. 101.
- Hurmuzd, king of Persia, XVIII. 436.
- HURON, lake, XII. 50; VI. 137, XIV. 739; XVII. 605.
- genus of fishes, XII. 274.
- Huronis, fossil mollusks, XVII. 112.
- Huronite, mineral, XV. 73
- HURREANAN, in Hindustan, XII. 50
- Hurricanes, XIV. 649; XVII. 616—in Jamaica, XII. 673—Barbadoes, IV. 429, 430.
- HURURU, African town, XII. 50
- Hurst castle, XI. 204—Charles I., prisoner in, V. 411.
- Hursthouse (Charles), on New Zealand, XVI. 233 *et seq.*
- HUSBAND and WIFE, XII. 50—laws regarding, VIII. 782—duties of, XV. 568.
- Husbandry. See Agriculture.
- HUSKISSON (William), XII. 57—his bill for amending the combination-law, V. 643—dismissal from the ministry, 651; XVII. 363—on the corn-laws, V. 636; VII. 390—on the sinking fund, X. 323, 332.
- HUSS (John), XII. 57; IV. 310; XVIII. 449—his connection with Jerome of Prague, XII. 728, 729.
- HUSSARS, light cavalry, XII. 60
- Hussey's reaping machine, II. 276.
- HUSTONS, XII. 60
- HUTCHINSON (Francis), XII. 60; I. 204 and *n.* 3, 364—his writings and philosophy, 205—his letters to Dr Clarke, 364—on the moral sense, *ib.*; XIV. 580; XV. 544—compared with Butler, I. 364—on secondary desires, *ib.*—his errors, 365—on beauty, IV. 538.
- Hutchins' experiments on the freezing of quicksilver, VI. 852.

HUT—HYD

- HUTCHINSON (John), XII. 60—on the Deluge, VII. 720.
- (General), V. 584, VIII. 439, X. 121—on the death and character of Sir R. Abercromby, II. 28.
- Hutchison (Mr), his patent for protecting the surface of building-stone, XX. 735
- HUTTEN (Ulrich Von), his attack on Erasmus, IX. 321.
- HUTTON (Charles), XII. 61—on gunnery, XI. 107, 122 *et seq.*—on the resistance of fluids, XII. 161—his mathematical tables, XIII. 555—his pendulum eprouvette, XI. 157—his account of Laplace's theory of meteorolites, XIV. 633
- (Dr JAMES), XII. 61—his manufactory of sal-ammiac, II. 721—his theory of the earth, I. 928; XII. 684; XVIII. 5, 6—theory of rain and vapour, I. 928—contrasted with Dr Black, *ib.*
- Huxley (Prof.), on the motion of glaciers, XV. 139, *n.* 1—his arrangement of the hydroses, XXI. 1006—on the genus thalassiscolla, 1008.
- Huxtable (Rev. A.), his mode of feeding cattle, II. 345.
- HUY, town in Belgium, XII. 61
- HUTGENS (Christaan), XII. 61—his discoveries regarding motion, I. 595—his micrometer, 612; XIV. 757—other adaptations of the telescope to astronomical purposes suggested by, I. 613—on telescopes, II. 89—his theory of light, I. 630, 895, 896—his life and character, 697, *n.* 1—his improvements in dynamics, 719—on probability, III. 220—on Saturn, IV. 71, 72; I. 612—his astronomical discoveries, III. 802; I. 612—on pneumatics, IV. 453—his barometer, *ib.*—on barometrical measurements, 463, *n.* 1—on the pendulum, VII. 3; I. 595, 697, *n.* 1, XVII. 376—principle of, I. 896—on probabilities, XII. 394—on simple and double refraction, I. 631, 895, 901; XIII. 453—on the figure of the earth, IX. 549—on micrometers, XIV. 743—his birthplace, XI. 181—extract from a MS. of, regarding Sir Isaac Newton, XVI. 206, *n.* 2—on the discovery of the telescope, 527; and microscope, 529—on double refraction and polarisation of light, 531, 532, 627; discovery of polarisation by calc-spar, I. 903—his lens of no aberration, XVI. 574—his long-focused refractors, XXI. 119—his eye-piece, 124—on the doctrine of chances, XVIII. 589—his experiment on the alternate attraction and repulsion of glass, XX. 753—on the quadrature of the circle, 523.
- HUTSUM (Jan Van), painter, XII. 61
- Hyacinth, V. 212—culture of, XI. 751.
- mineral, XV. 86
- Hyena, genus of mammalia, XIV. 167—dentition of, XVI. 459, 460—fossil, XVII. 172.
- Hyenodon, genus of fossil mammals, XVII. 166—dentition of, XVI. 464.
- Hyalea, genus of mollusks, XV. 358—fossil, XVII. 111.
- Hyalite, mineral, XV. 69.
- Hyaloid membrane and fluid of the human eye, III. 44.
- Hyalosidite, mineral, XV. 89.
- HYBERNATION, XII. 62, III. 130; II. 52—of the marmot, XIV. 179—of bats, 147—in the insectivorous mammals, 150—of the dormouse, 180—hamster, 182—economic rat, 183—tanreos, 182.
- HYBLA, in Sicily, XII. 62—honey of, XX. 244.
- Hybodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 340, XVII. 117.
- Hybos, genus of insects, IX. 235.
- Hybotina, insects, IX. 235
- HYBRID, XII. 62—generally barren, III. 174
- Hybridization in plants, V. 159.
- HYDARES, now Jelum, river, XII. 63; XVII. 687—passed by Alexander the Great, XIII. 769.
- Hydatus, genus of insects, IX. 140.
- Hydatids, XXI. 976.

HYD—HYD

- Hyde (Edward), Earl of Clarendon, XII. 63; V. 421, 422—impeached, 425—on Blake's exploits, IV. 752—on the government and laws of England, VIII. 763, *n.* 769 *et seq.*—on the character of Selden, XX. 38—on the star-chamber, 537
- Park, London, XIII. 668
- (THOMAS), orientalist, XII. 67.
- town in Cheshire, XII. 67.
- HYDER ALI, XII. 67, XI. 490, 492 *et seq.*; XIV. 104, 105—his conquest of Canara, VI. 160
- HYDERABAD, XII. 67, 68; XI. 450, 463
- city and fortress, in Scinde, XII. 68; XX. 305—climate of, 304—remarkable fall of rain at, *ib.*—capitulation of, to Sir C. J. Napier, XV. 776.
- HYDRA, island, XII. 69
- polypus, XXI. 1005.
- Hydrachna, genus of arachnides, III. 389.
- Hydrangeaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 194.
- HYDRANTES, river, XII. 69, XVIII. 637
- Hydriargillite, XV. 86
- Hydrargyra, genus of fishes, XII. 252.
- Hydraspis, genus of reptiles, XIX. 18.
- Hydrates of lime, XX. 713
- Hydraulic press. See Hydrostatic.
- ram, XII. 75, 173.
- HYDRAULICS, XII. 103, 69—Souterrasi, or hydraulic obelisks at Constantinople, III. 235—pipes for conveying water into towns, 337—Coulomb on the cohesion of fluids, VII. 464—mean hydraulic depth, I. 886, XIX. 194—hydraulic machinery, XII. 163—improved hydraulic machines, I. 889—theory of the motion of rivers and canals, XII. 182—principle on which systems of depend, 184—laws of, applicable to air, XVIII. 29. See Aqueduct, Fluids, Hydrodynamics, Pumps, Water-works, &c
- Hydromete of potassa, XIV. 435.
- Hydrotic acid, VI. 470
- Hydro-carbons, XII. 87.
- Hydro-electric machine, VIII. 605, 534.
- Hydroboracite, XV. 94
- Hydroboracalite, mineral, XV. 94
- Hydrocampe, genus of insects, IX. 218.
- Hydrocanthari, insects, IX. 100.
- Hydrocele, surgical treatment of, XX. 835.
- Hydrocephalus, in the domestic animals, XXI. 575.
- Hydrochaerus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 183.
- Hydrochardaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 210.
- Hydrochloric acid, VI. 467—gas, poison, XIV. 435.
- Hydrochous, genus of insects, IX. 116.
- Hydrocoisae, insects, IX. 164.
- Hydrocyanic acid, VI. 474—its poisonous properties, XIV. 437, XVII. 702. See Prussic Acid.
- Hydrocyon, genus of fishes, XII. 247.
- HYDRODYNAMICS, XII. 69; I. 886—fundamental principles of, 723—Daniel Bernoulli on, *ib.*—D'Alembert and Euler, 724—Lagrange, Newton, Bouguer, *ib.*—Bossut, 725—experiments of Smeaton, *ib.*—method of investigating the resistance of fluids, *ib.*—experiments of Robins, Borda and Hutton, on the velocity of moving bodies, 726; of Coulomb, *ib.*, 887—observations on the flow of air and water through pipes, 726—Amper's experiment of projection of water through a vertical slit, *ib.*—progress of, 886—Dubuat on, *ib.*, 887—friction and resistance of fluids, 886—viscosity of fluids, 887—Venturi on, 727, 887—three cases of fluid resistance to moving solids, 887—Prof. Stokes' definition of index of friction, *ib.*—Weber's and Russell's experiments on waves, 888—peculiar effect of wave transmission on canal navigation, 889—water-wheels, 889, 890—turbines, *ib.*—Poncelet on, 890—breast-wheels, *ib.*—motion of fluids in pipes, XVIII. 64. See Hydraulics, Hydrostatics.
- Hydrofluoric acid, VI. 470.

HYD—HYL

Hydrogen, in chemistry, VI. 457—in mineralogy, XV. 60, 61—combined with oxygen, VI. 458, with carbon, 473—in plants, II. 375; V. 95—its lightness and use in balloons, II. 170, 171, 172—tones produced by the burning of, 108—specific gravity of, XII. 89—its use with oxygen in the blowpipe, IV. 794—alimentary substances containing, VIII. 18, 19, 24—electricity developed in the combustion of, 568—deutoxide of, 461—illuminating power of gases deteriorated by mixture with, X. 431—as an element in the crust of the globe, XVII. 618—in the combustion of coal, XX. 629—carburetted, X. 431; XIV. 436, XVII. 602—sulphuretted, XIV. 436.

Hydrographic charts, VI. 426

Hydroids, polypes, XXI. 1005.

Hydromagnetite, mineral, XV. 92.

Hydromagnesian, XV. 92.

Hydromancy, VIII. 54.

HYDROMETER, XII. 185, 86.

Hydrometra, genus of insects, IX. 164.

Hydromys, genus of mammals, XIV. 180.

Hydropardus, genus of fishes, XII. 247.

Hydrophobus, XIV. 465. See *Freusnitz*.

Hydrophane, mineral, XV. 69.

Hydrophil, insects, IX. 116.

Hydrophis, genus of serpents, XIX. 67—teeth of, XVI. 432—poison of, XIX. 46.

Hydroplute, mineral, XV. 80.

HYDROPHOBIA, XII. 185; VIII. 423; XIV. 440, XVII. 700—dipping as a cure for, XII. 721, XIV. 454—in the domestic animals, XXI. 575.

Hydrophyllaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 200.

Hydroporus, genus of insects, IX. 101.

Hydroseleum acid, VI. 478.

Hydrostatic balance, IV. 386—press, II. 102; IV. 451; V. 273, XII. 178; XIV. 386—test, 423—bellows, XII. 81.

HYDROSTATICS, XII. 185, 77, 69; XVIII. 22—discoveries of Archimedes, Stevinus, Torricelli, Otto Guericke, I. 596—principles of, 723, 724—Euler on, 724—the theory reduced into a simple form by Bouguer, 725—outline of this theory, 1b—investigation of the earth's figure from the laws of, IX. 564—laws of, applicable to air, XVIII. 22.

Hydrosulphuric acid, VI. 477.

Hydrothorax, in the domestic animals, XXI. 573.

Hydrous, genus of insects, IX. 116.

Hydrozoa, polypes, XXI. 1006—fossil, XVII. 95.

HYDRUNTUM, now Otranto, XII. 185; XX. 242. See *Otranto*.

HYERES, French town, XII. 185.

— islands, XII. 186.

Hygeia, planet, IV. 91.

Hygiene, public, XIV. 463; XIX. 602—general, 607—special, 613.

HYGNIUS (C. Julius), XII. 185.

Hygrobia, genus of insects, IX. 101.

Hygrometer, XII. 186, IV. 188—dew-point hygrometer, I. 935—invention and description of, 765—applications of, 766, 767—Lesche's, VII. 102—necessary in hot-houses, XI. 724—its use in barometrical observations, IV. 466—Pelmer's thermo-electric hygrometer, XXI. 654.

HYGROMETER, XII. 186, XIV. 653—observations on, in a balloon, by Biot and Gay-Lussac, II. 182, 183—theory of, I. 934—M. Regnault on, 958—periodical fluctuations in the hygrometric state of the atmosphere, XIV. 674—Saussure's work on, XIX. 653—best time for hygrometric observations, XXI. 225. See *Meteorology*, *Evaporation*.

Hygroscope, XII. 186. See *Hygrometer* and *Hygrometry*.

Hyla, genus of reptiles, XIX. 78.

Hylosaurus, fossil reptiles, XVII. 151, 640.

Hyloa, genus of insects, IX. 198.

Hyloisus, genus of insects, IX. 142.

Hylosum, IX. 421.

Hylobates, genus of mammals, XIV. 189.

Hylobius, genus of insects, IX. 140.

HYL—HYT

Hylozoma, genus of insects, IX. 183.

Hyliurgus, genus of insects, IX. 142.

Hymen, in anatomy, III. 71.

Hymenium, in botany, V. 142, 147.

Hymenoptera, order of insects, IX. 25, 181.

HYMETTUS, mountain, XII. 188—marble of, XIX. 843.

HYMN, XII. 188—Homeric hymns, XVIII. 102—Spenser's, XX. 506.

Hynnus, genus of fishes, XII. 297.

Hyodon, genus of fishes, XII. 249.

Hyodontidae, family of fishes, XII. 248, 249.

Hyoid bone, III. 26—its muscles, 39—of the perch, XII. 214.

HYOXYGAMUS niger, its poisonous properties, XIV. 437. See *Henbane*.

Hypæthros, in architecture, III. 610.

HYPATIA, XII. 190, II. 483, IX. 677; X. 502—invention of the areometer erroneously ascribed to, III. 390; XII. 86.

Hypathus, VII. 312.

Hypera, genus of insects, IX. 139.

HYPERBOLA, XII. 191; X. 544, 555; XIV. 518, VII. 269—in masonry, XX. 726.

HYPERBOLE, XII. 191.

Hyperbohe lenses, XVI. 574.

Hyperboloid, X. 559, XIV. 519.

Hyperborean, Abans (the), II. 10.

Hypericaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 186.

HYPERIDES, Athenian orator, XII. 192; XVII. 526.

Hyperion, XI. 385.

Hyperodon, genus of mammals, XIV. 230—jaw and teeth of, XVI. 443.

Hypersihene, XV. 82—rock, 135.

Hypertrophy, XVII. 663, 690.

HYPHASIS, river, XII. 192, XIII. 770; XVIII. 687.

Hypnos, genus of fishes, XII. 327.

Hypnotism, XX. 413, 433.

Hypo, a prefix, VI. 453.

HYPOCHONDRIASIS, XII. 192.

Hypochloric acid, VI. 468.

Hypochlorite, XV. 90.

Hypochlorous acid, VI. 468.

Hypocyclon, VII. 269; IX. 274.

Hypoderma, genus of mammals, XIV. 148.

Hypogæon, genus of annelids, XI. 302.

Hypogæa, in architecture, III. 510.

Hypogynous stamens, V. 127, 179—exogynous, 1b.

Hyponitrous acid, VI. 463.

Hypophosphorous acid, VI. 480.

Hypophthalmus, genus of fishes, XII. 262.

Hypopiron, sub-genus of fishes, XII. 323.

HYPOSTASIS, XII. 193, 727; XXI. 193, 194.

Hypostilbite, mineral, XV. 76.

Hypostomus, genus of fishes, XII. 264.

Hyposulphite of soda, its use in photography, XVII. 545, 547.

Hyposulphuric acid, VI. 477.

Hyposulphurous acid, VI. 476.

Hypothense, X. 508.

HYPTOSIS, XII. 193—in geometry, X. 508—the true use of, I. 101, n. 2.

Hypotrachelium, in architecture, III. 510.

HYPOXIDACEAE, nat. order of plants, V. 212.

Hyporurus, genus of fishes, XII. 229.

Hypanotus, genus of fishes, XII. 802.

Hypapyrmus, genus of mammals, teeth of, XVI. 449.

Hypsodon, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 946.

Hyplus, genus of insects, IX. 132.

HYRACOTHERIUM, teeth of, XVI. 465.

Hytrax, genus of mammals, XIV. 199—stomach of, III. 108—dentition of, XVI. 471.

HYRCANIA, XII. 193—reduced by Alexander, XIII. 768.

HYRCANUS (John), XII. 733, 770, XVII. 194.

HYRII (Joseph), his anatomical works, II. 770.

Hyson teas, XXI. 87.

Hyssop, V. 202; XI. 745.

HYSTERIA, XII. 192; XVII. 700.

Hystricidae, family of rodents, XVII. 632.

Hystrix, genus of mammals, XIV. 187.

Hysudrus, river in the Punjab, XVIII. 687.

HYTRES, town in Kent, XII. 198—extract from its corporation records, XV. 683.

I—ICH

I

I, letter of the alphabet, XII. 194—in abbreviations, II. 19.

Iaita, or Yaita, in the Crimea, VII. 505.

Iambic verse, XII. 195—its invention ascribed to Archilochus, III. 429.

IAMBOLICHUS, XII. 194.

Iambus, in prosody, XII. 195; IX. 770.

Iannas, Egyptian king, VIII. 457.

Ianthina, genus of mollusks, XV. 389.

IAPODES, tribe of Illyria, XII. 195.

Ibaha, genus of insects, IX. 192.

Ibatzes, VII. 314.

Iberia, name of Spain, XII. 196.

— in Asia, XII. 196, X. 566—ravaged by the Turks, VII. 315.

Iberian alphabet, II. 615—language, IX. 351.

— mountain system, XVII. 595; XX. 486.

Iberians, IX. 387; XX. 457.

IBERUS, now Ebro, XII. 195. See *Ebro*.

Ibex, II. 626; XIV. 212—peculiar to the Alps, XVII. 630, 632—Caucasian, XIV. 212. See *Bonquetin*.

IBIS, bird, XII. 196; XVI. 800—Egyptian, VIII. 433, 438—sacred to Thoth, XI. 383.

Ibn Sina. See *Avicenna*.

Ibos, African race, IX. 352.

Ibrahim Aga, III. 365, n.

IBRAHIM, or Ibraheem Pasha, XII. 196; VIII. 494, 495—his war against the Wahabys, III. 365—his Greek campaigns, XI. 28—his conquest of Syria, XX. 311.

— Bey, VIII. 498.

— Turkish emperor, XXI. 369, 376.

IBRAHIM, XII. 196; V. 266, XXI. 683.

Ibycter, genus of birds, XVI. 741.

IBYCUS, Greek poet, XII. 196.

Icacaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 185.

Icarus, VII. 616.

ICE, XII. 196; XV. 125—celerity of sound through, II. 103—how collected in India, VII. 101—artificial, 104, 544; XI. 271, 275; VI. 353—mode of forming it in India, IX. 415, XIV. 646—floating, XVII. 583—cause of its floating, XI. 269—field, pack, and floe ice, XVII. 584—glacier ice, X. 636, 639—system of rings formed in, XVI. 652—specific gravity of, XII. 88—its influence on rocks, XV. 139—its elasticity, &c., XX. 753, 754.

ICE-BOUYS, XII. 196.

Ice-islands, XII. 197.

Ice-plant, V. 194.

Ice-spar, XV. 70.

ICE-TRADE, XII. 196.

ICEBERGS, XII. 196; XVII. 583—influence of, on rocks, XV. 140.

Iceblink, XII. 197.

ICELAND, XII. 197—ancient mythology of, VII. 388—its volcanic nature, IX. 384—glaciers, X. 634—language, XIII. 211—birds, XVI. 731—proportion of insane, XIV. 536—height of mountains in, XVII. 644—volcanoes, 589; XXI. 605—Geysers, XVII. 602—its poets and historians, XIX. 691—sagas of, 690—Rask's Icelandic grammar, XVIII. 808.

— moss, XII. 203, 200; V. 217.

— spar, XV. 92; XII. 202—double refraction of, I. 630, XV. 57; XVI. 532, 626; XIII. 453—lenses of, XVI. 628—system of rings in, 651, 652, 663—luminous circles in, 689—electricity produced by pressure of, VIII. 562. See *Calcareous Spar*.

Icelus, genus of fishes, XII. 282.

ICENY, XII. 203; IV. 799.

Iceunne Way, VIII. 112.

Iceetas, VI. 283; XX. 900.

ICHTHEUM, XII. 203—genus of insects, IX. 189—one of the mammals, XIV. 166.

Ichneumonides, tribe of insects, IX. 184.

Ichthyography, III. 510.

ICH—IDO

Ichthyology, XVII. 129.

Ichthyocampus, genus of fishes, XII. 315.

Ichthyodorulites, fossil fishes, XII. 339.

ICHTHYOLOGER, XII. 204—circulation and respiration of fishes, II. 772—bones, III. 74, 89—muscles of tail, 98—organs of smell, 94—eyes, 95 *et seq.*—ears, 99—nervous system, 103, 104—brain occupies but a small part of the skull, 104—stomach, 109—pyloric appendages, 111—intestines, 110, 111—organs of circulation, aeration, and secretion, 112, 113—teeth of fishes, 105, 106, XVI. 420, as a means of classification, 477—Cuvier on, VII. 605—electricity of fishes, VIII. 572—fishes ejected by volcanoes, XXI. 607. See *Fish* and *Fisheries*.

— (Foss), XII. 332; XVII. 115, 129, 640—fossil fishes of Perthshire, 457—Roxburghshire, XIX. 453—Russia, 517—Scotland, 791, 793—order of their appearance in the strata of the earth, XVII. 92.

Ichthyophagi, XVI. 125.

Ichthyopterygia, fossil reptiles, XVII. 149.

Ichthyosaurus, XVII. 149—peculiarities of its bones, III. 89—its eyes, 96.

Icolmil, XII. 440. See *Iona*.

ICOINUM, town of Asia Minor, XII. 356; XIII. 129.

ICONOCLASTS, XII. 356, 357; XIII. 384, 641, XVII. 59.

Iconolatry, XII. 356.

Icononzo, natural bridge of, III. 130.

Icosandria and Icosandrous, in botany, V. 177, 127.

Icositetrahedron, XV. 41, 42.

Icterus, genus of birds, XVI. 762.

Ichtes, genus of mammals, XIV. 155.

Ichma, genus of birds, XVI. 744.

ICTINUS, Greek architect, XII. 356—architect of the Parthenon, IV. 168—temple erected by, on Mount Cithlun, XVII. 508.

IDA (Mount), XII. 356; VII. 615.

— Saxon chief, XIX. 743.

Idéal, in the fine arts, III. 707, 716.

IDEAISM, XII. 356—by whom first assailed, I. 80—Berkeley's theory of, 165, XIV. 611—the object of Dr Reid to refute it, I. 218—Schelling's views of, XIX. 716.

Idealist, meaning of the term as employed in philosophy, I. 190, n. 4.

Ideality, XVII. 563.

IDEAS, XIV. 552 *et seq.*—M. Allamand's criticism on Locke's argument against innate ideas, I. 107, 250—Anand's doctrines on, 80—Cudworth's, 194, 195—Diderot's erroneous estimate of Locke's discoveries, 109, 111—views of Gassendi, 78; Hume, 209, Helvetius, 179; Kant, 279, XIII. 443; Leibnitz, I. 123; Locke, 109; Shaftesbury, 118; Voltaire, 251—remarks concerning, 247—abstract ideas, II. 52—Meyer's doctrine of the materiality of, III. 316—Plato's notions of, 538; XVII. 798—Condillac's, VII. 234, 236—innate ideas, XIV. 601—three stages in the development of, XIII. 595—material signs of, XXI. 94. See *Association of Ideas*.

Identity, laws of, XIII. 672.

— (personal), XIV. 618—Dr Butler on, I. 217—in medical jurisprudence, XIV. 425.

Idia, XII. 256; VI. 76.

Idia, genus of insects, IX. 249.

Idioey, XIV. 527, 528, 538—in Egypt, VIII. 423.

Idiom, XIII. 188.

Idiosyncrasy, its relation to health, XIX. 607; to the amount of air required for respiration, XXI. 541.

Idleness, diseases arising from, XIV. 442.

Idemita, fossil animals, XVI. 98.

Idocrase, mineral, XV. 85.

Idolaters, I. 465.

IDOLATRY, XII. 356—its connection with sculpture, XIX. 846.

IDOMENUS, XII. 337; VII. 494.

Idoteadae, crustacea, VII. 642.

IDR—IMA

IDRIA, XII 357—quicksilver mines of, XV 237
 Idrialte, mineral, XV 125
 Idro (Lago d'), XII 637, XIII 644
 Idsted, battle of, VII 744, IX 660
 IDUMEA, XII 367, VIII 411
 IDYLL, XII 359; VIII 374
 Iena See Jena.
 Ienikale, in the Crimea, VII 505
 Ierax, genus of birds, XVI 745
 If, French island, XII 359; XIV 316
 IGLAU, town in Austria, XII 359
 IGLESIA, town in Sardinia, XII 360
 Ign, his logotypy, XVIII 552
 IGNATIUS FLOLA, XII 360, 750.
 — (St), XII 360; IX 491—MSS. of, XIII 393.
 — (St), bean, V 200
 Igneous rocks, XV 181; XVII 587—classification of, 155—petrology of, XV 182—in Scotland, XIX 791—as building stones, XX 711.
 IGNIS FATUUS, XII 360; X 409; XIII 457.
 Ignition of wires by electricity, XXI 626.
 Ignorance, sins of, XXI 201
 Igor, king of Russia, XIX 469
 IGUALADA, Spanish town, XII 360
 Iguaña, XVII 634; XIX 33—teeth of, XVI 434, 435
 Iguanidae, reptiles, XIX 30—teeth of, XVI 434.
 Iguanodon, XVII 151—teeth of, XVI 435, 436
 Ihe-Oehring, XVII 535.
 Ikan-sumpit, fish, XII 302.
 Ikhsheedees, dynasty of, VIII 473.
 ILCHESTER, XII 360, XX 411
 ILDEFONSO (San), Spanish town, XII 360
 ILE-DE-FRANCE, XII 360, X 278.
 ILERDA, XII 360, XIII 341
 Ileum, anatomy of the, III 60—villi of, ib—comparative anatomy of, III
 Ilex, V 199 See Holly
 ILFRACOMBE, town in Devon, XII 360
 Ilac artesmes, III 65
 Iliad of Homer, XVIII 100. See Homer
 Ilacacea, nat. order of plants, V 199.
 ILISSUS, river, XII 361, IV 170
 Ithia, genus of insects, IX 219.
 Iium, monarchy of, XV 418.
 — See Troy.
 Ilkley, fountain in Yorkshire, XV 39.
 Ilr, river, X 747
 Ile and Rance Canal, XII 361.
 ILLE-ET-VILAINE, in France, XII 361.
 Illaenus, trilobite, XVII 101, 102.
 Illecebracea, nat. order of plants, V 193.
 Illegitimate children, duties between parents and, XVII 276—number in England, VIII 756, IV 494, in Scotland, XIX 800—in different countries and towns in Europe, IV 494. See Births.
 Illiger (Prof.), his classification of animals, III 183; and of the mammalia, XIV 128, 129—on birds, XVI 730, 819—his works on insects, IX 11.
 Illimani, gold of, IV 824.
 ILLINOIS, XII 361; XXI 419—debt of, 428—wines, 888.
 ILLUMINATE, XII 363; XV 809
 Illuminating power of gases, X 428.
 — of telescopes, XXI 128.
 Illumination, artificial, XIX 615.
 — circle of, X 481.
 — of microscopic objects, XIV 794-796—of the wires of micrometers, 744, 745—of clock dials, VII 24.
 ILLYRIA, or Illyrium, XII 363; XIX 332—reduced by Juhn, VII 807; and by Philip of Macedon, XIII 763.
 Ilyrian alphabet, II 614—language, IX 392—coinage, XVI 370.
 Ilmen, lake, XIX 516.
 Imante, mineral, XV 109.
 IMMERSTON, in Somerset, XII 364
 Imocetes, genus of fishes, XII 310.
 IRVA, or Elba, XII 364; VIII 521.
 Irvate, mineral, XV 90.
 Image-breakers, or iconoclasts, XII 365; XIII 384, 641. See Iconoclasts.
 Image-worship, I 465; XII 358, 367, 671; XVIII 387.

IMA—INC

Images, in optics, formation of, by apertures and mirrors, XVI 554—by lenses, 567—form of, by lenses of different sizes, 569
 IMAGINATION, XII 364; XIV 576—incorrectly identified by D'Alembert with abstraction, I 6—its province may be considered narrow when compared with that of observation and reasoning, 79—Addison on the pleasures of, 161—pleasures of, mostly originate in association, 384—the source of apparitions, III 317—fecundity of, in the blind, IV 778—poetic, XVIII 92—effect of civilization on, 96
 Imago, in entomology, IX 54.
 IMAUM, or Iman, XII 364—of Muscat, III 360, XV 609.
 Imbattled, in heraldry, VII 491.
 Imbricate leaves, V 87
 IMBROS, or Imbro, island, XII 364.
 IMBERTIA, in Russia, XII 364
 Imbric, VI 282.
 Imitation in music, XV 733—imitative music, 737—phenological sentiment of, XVII 563.
 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, XII 365, XIV 328
 Immediately, VIII 9.
 Immersion, in baptism, IV 424, 426.
 Immorality, a cause of the corruption of Christianity, I 506, 507, 520.
 Immortality of the soul, views of the ancients regarding, I 463—only conjectured before the promulgation of Christianity, VI 636, 637—influence of the doctrine in helping to diffuse that religion, 637—Clarke's controversy with Dodwell on, 757—not a necessary attribute of personal existence, XIV 619—taught in the ancient mysteries, XV 754—options of Aristotle on, III 549; of Plato, XVII 807; Socrates, XX 396 See Future State, Soul.
 IMOLA, town in the Papal States, XII 365.
 Impact of bodies, laws of, XIV 414
 Impaction, VII 338
 IMPACHMENT, XII 365; VIII 773.
 Imperative mood, X 708 and n. 1.
 Imperator, XIX 295, 327, 380
 Imperial orders of knighthood, XIII 122.
 Impey (Sir Elijah), V 509, 514; XI 494—charges against, V 529.
 Imphee, sugar-bearing plant, XX 798.
 Implements of husbandry, II 270
 Importation, taxes on, XXI 59, 61—effect of restrictions on the importation of corn, VII 388, 390
 Imports, into the United Kingdom, VIII 784, 785—of grain, VII 397—countries whence, 399, 400—customs—duties on, XXI 59, 61—into the United States, 426
 Imposition, in printing, XVIII 540.
 — of hands, XI 205
 Impost, in architecture, III 510.
 Impotence, causes of, XIV 425.
 Impregnation, organs of, III 69—of bees, IV 581, 584. See Generation
 IMPRESSMENT of seamen, XII 365; V 562, VIII 776; IX 776, XVI 106
 IMPRISONMENT, XII 365; XIV 445—numbers sentenced to, in England and Wales, VIII 750.
 Improvers of Agriculture, Society of, II 262.
 IMPROVISATORI, XII 366—female, in Egypt, II 600.
 Impulsion, motion from, IV 219; VIII 322—explained by reaction, 364—of vessels by the wind, XX 7.
 Imputation of sin, XXI 204, 206, 207.
 Imrie (Col.), on the mineralogy of Forfarshire, IX 781.
 IN CENA DOMINI, Papal bull, XII 366.
 INACHUS, VII 712.
 Inaugural stones; XIX 750.
 Inca, genus of insects, IX 127
 Incandescence, XI 272; XIII 450.
 Incantation, resorted to by the Romans for the cure of diseases, XI 612.
 Incarnation, era of the, VI 667—ancient opinions regarding the, I 516.

INC—IND

Incas of Peru, XVII 431 *et seq.*—their government, II 686.
 INCENSE, XII 366
 INCORBALD (Mis), XII 367—her novels, XIX 279
 INCORCOLE, island, XII 367; IX 795.
 Inchgarvey, island, IX 795
 INCHEKEITH, island, XII 367; VIII 390—lighthouse, IX 795; XIII 475, 476, n.
 Inchmarnock, VI 27.
 Incidence, angle of, III 143
 Incisor teeth, in man, III 25; XVI 409, 417—in the lower animals, III 107.
 See Odontology
 Inclination, of the moon's orbit, IV 33—of the planetary orbits, 57, 59—of two planes, in geometry, X 532—of beds, in geology, XV 168
 Inclined barometer, IV 454
 INCOMBUSTIBLE CLOTH, XII 367; II 716; XV 81. See Asbestos.
 Income of the United Kingdom in 1854, VIII 751, items from which it is derived, XXI 75—effect of war expenditure on that of individuals, VII 190—taxes on, XXI 50—impossibility of fairly assessing incomes, ib—incomes should not be disclosed, 56
 Income-tax, V 566—repeal of, 590—in Scotland, XIX 609—proposed by Sir R. Peel, XVII 364—apparently an equal, but in reality a most unequal tax, XXI 50—pernicious operation of a graduated, 52—account of the late, ib.; and existing income-tax, 53; returns under, ib 54—objections to, 55
 Incommensurable quantities, X 517; XIII 167.
 Incorporation of Universities, XXI 433 *et seq.*
 Incubation, in reptiles, XIX 50.
 INCURTURE, XII 367; XIV 346.
 Independence, declaration of, by the United States, XXI 436—war of, ib
 INDEPENDENTS, XII 367; IX 273, XVIII 480—places of worship in England and Wales, VIII 745; in Scotland, XIX 801—English in the seventeenth century, V 408 *et seq.*—their idea of ordination, XVI 704.
 Indeterminate problems in algebra, II 538
 INDERABIA, XII 372; III 125
 INDEX EXPURGATORIS, XII 372; IV 712; XX 492
 Index to Entomology, IX 263—to Mammalia, XIV 239—to the Natural Orders of Plants, V 281—to Ornithology, XVI 829—to Helminthology, XI 307—registration indexes, XVIII 835.
 INDIA, XII 372; III 736; XI 448—metaphysical and ethical remains of, I 203—arc of meridian measured in, 776, 853; IX 552—architecture of, III 434 antiquity of the caverns of, ib—British troops in, 665—early history of, 742—Mahomedan empire in, 743, 745—conquered by Sultan Baber, 746—rise of British power in, 747—knowledge of the ancients respecting, 752—commerce of, ib, 753—astronomy in, 785—were its superstitions derived from or communicated to Egypt? V 272—Mr Dundas's measure respecting, 507—discussion in Parliament in 1788, as to the payment of troops sent to, 523—war with Hyder Ali and Tippoo, 539, 541—Burmese war, 646, 788—Afghan war, 687—war with the Sikhs, 689, 671—cloth manufactures in, VI 92—carpets, 270—castles, 314—chronology, 676, XII 789—mode of cooling apartments and collecting ice in, VII 100, 101—yields no tribute to Britain, 140—as a colony, 148—effects of British dominion, ib—trade with Europe in the middle ages, 186—discovery of a maritime route to, 188—exports from Britain to, 190—alleged rapidity of fortune-making in, 196—cotton manufacture, 437, 447—trade with Damascus, 640—ancient temples and idols, VI 667—Danish settlements sold to England, 745—diamonds,

IND—IND

VIII 1, 2—dyeing, 272, 273—calico-printing, 314—method of forming ice in, IX 415, XIV 646—ethnology, IX 346—Alexander's expedition to, X 463
 XIII 769—glaciers of, X 634—languages, XIII 194, 195, 206, 207—libraries of, 481—Mill's History of British, XV 12—geological survey of, 205—miocene rocks, 214—missions established in, 271—monarchy, 413—mystics, 755—coins, 442, 445; XVI 390—Mohammedanism in, XV 308—newspapers of, XVI 203—state of the press in 1832, 204, and Lord Metcalf's law of 1835, and Lord Canning's of 1857, ib—insurance of the Sepoys, in 1857, 301; XIV 471—ancient philosophy, V 271—life assurance societies in, XII 413—hail storms in, XIV 659—dust whirlwinds, 685—philology in, XVII 519, parallel between it and that of the Greeks and Jews, ib—river system of, 606—mountains of, 598, their height, 643, 644—great plain of, 610—earthquakes in Upper and Western, 616—botanical region of, V 223, XVII 628—discovery of a passage to, X 393; XVIII 382—settlement of the Portuguese in, ib—imports of the precious metals into, 467, 468, 469—exports from, 470—causes of the drain of bullion to, 470, 471—want of mines of the precious metals in, 470—trade with China, 472—precious metals derived by, from China, ib—currency of, impolitic regulations regarding, ib—railway statistics, 787—sculpture in, XIX 848—varieties of rice in, 157—serpents, 46, 71, 72, 73—duration of voyage from Britain to, XX 19—best course to, in passing through the tropics, 20—silkworms in, 283, 289, 295—mesmerism in, 436—steam-boats for the lives of, 604, 665, 666—sugars of, 796—suicide in, 799—woods of, XXI 277—Timour's invasion of, 293—tobacco, 294—Wellington's despatches from, 817—weights and measures, 811—wool, 911—map of, XI. Plate. See East India Company, Hindus, Bengal, Calcutta, Clive, Hastings, Sepoys, &c.
 INDIA RUBBER, XII 373. See Caoutchouc.
 INDIAN TERRITORY, in United States, XII 373.
 — corn. See Maize.
 — cress, order of plants, V 183
 — cress, plant, V 91, 183; XI 745
 — glue, X 684
 — ink, XII 383—drawing in, VIII 173.
 — ocean, XVII 576—temperature of, 577—soundings of, 7040 fathoms in, 576—currents of, 579—active volcanoes in, XXI 603.
 — summit, VI 140
 INDIANA, XII 373; XXI 419—debt of, 428—wines of, 888
 INDIANAPOLIS, XII 375, 374
 Indiamite, mineral, XV 71
 Indiana, XI 641—of Canada, VI 148—of Bolivia, IV 828—Mexico, XIV 718—New York, XVI 216—Honduras, XI 610—in Indian territory, XII 373—languages of the, XIII 219 *et seq.*—charge of, in the United States, XXI 429—wars with, 434.
 Indicative mood, X 766, 790.
 Indicator, in mechanics, XIV 404—pressure indicators of gasometers, X 422—in steam-engines, XX 596, 644—indicators, diagrams of, 597, 645—measurement of work done in the cylinder form, 601.
 — genus of birds, XVI 778.
 Indicolite, mineral, XV 89.
 Induction, cycle of, VI 81, 673; VII 607.
 Inditions, XIX 352
 INDICTMENT, in law, XII 376.
 Indigestion, in the domestic animals, XXI 565. See Digestion.
 INDIGO, XII 375; V 190; VI 518—in Hindustan, XI 453—of Bengal, IV 649—in Arabia, III 358—Mexico, XIV 717—Java, XII 705—Nicaragua, XVI

IND-INF

244—Amboyna, II. 660—Corfu, XII. 445
—Persia, XVII. 421—its introduction as a dye-stuff, VIII. 274—its atomic constituents, ib.—its use in dyeing, ib.—indigo test in bleaching, IV. 763—unsuccessful attempts to cultivate it in Russia, XIX. 530.
Individual, its meaning in psychology, XIV. 557, 587—in natural history, III. 174.
Individuality, faculty of, XVII. 563
INDIVISIBLES, in geometry, XII. 376.
Indo-European languages, XIII. 199, 206, 298; VI. 365; IX. 390
Indo-Germanic philology, XVII. 530, 531
See Arian Languages
INDORE, town in Hindustan, XII. 376—sepooy insurrection at, XVI. 810
INDORSEMENT, XII. 376—of bills, IX. 445, 446
Indragiri, in Sumatra, XX. 806.
INDRE, in France, XII. 376.
INDRE-ET-LOIRE, in France, XII. 377
INDUS, genus of mammalia, XIV. 145
INDUCTION, XII. 377; XIX. 125—logic of, I. 803—Aristotle on, III. 555—inapplicable to moral philosophy, XV. 538—bearing of syllogisms on, XIII. 626—known before Socrates, XX. 398—much employed by him, 399.
—electrical, VIII. 555; I. 979—induction coils, XXI. 99 and *n.*
—magnetic, XIV. 21
Inductive science, philology an important branch of, XVII. 539
INDULGENCE, XII. 377—Luther's opposition to, XIII. 724.
INDULTR, XII. 378.
Induration of building stone, XX. 735
INDUS, river, XII. 378; II. 202; III. 735, XI. 436, 450; XIII. 149, XVII. 608, 647; XX. 303—passed by Alexander the Great, XIII. 769—his voyage down the, 770—floods of, XVII. 600—valley of, 610.
Indusium, in botany, V. 143
Industry, stimulated by indirect taxation, XXI. 67.
Inertia, VIII. 330—moment of, XIV. 412; XIX. 491—of air, XVIII. 28—of machines, XIX. 437.
Inescutcheon, in heraldry, XI. 330
INFALISTATO, ancient punishment, XII. 879.
Infallibility, popish doctrine of, XVIII. 318, 336—craving in the human mind for the existence of, I. 499—it relieves men from all care and trouble, 600—no such power exists, 597—many cling to the idea that it must be lodged somewhere on earth, 581—existed only in churches under the immediate care of the inspired apostles, 533.
Infancy, XIV. 425.
INFANT, in law, XII. 379
—schools—in Belgium, IV. 613
Infanticide, XIV. 428—sanctioned by Aristotle, III. 568—in China, VI. 595—Cutch, VII. 598—Gujerat, XI. 92—Japan, XII. 690—secret society for, III. 676—in the South Sea Islands, 677; XVIII. 371—Onde, XVII. 19.
INFANTRY, XII. 379. See Army.
Infants, size and weight of, III. 2—skulls of, 28, 29—nursing of, XIV. 441. See *Fœtus*.
Infection, VII. 337—in the plague, XVII. 751.
INFESTMENT, XII. 379.
Inference, in logic, doctrine of, XIII. 601—character and kinds of, ib.—immediate categorical, ib.—by contra position, 602—by contradictory opposition, 603—by contrary and sub-contrary opposition, 604—by substitution, ib.—by conversion, 605—of constitution, 606—complex modes of, 629—from premises involving ultra-syllogistic subsumptions, 632—by combination of complex modes, 633.
INFERENCE, XII. 380; IX. 510, 513.
Inferobranchia, order of mollusks, XV. 371.
Infidelity, in France before the Revolution, X. 47. See *Atheism*, *Deism*.

INF-INN

Infinite series, II. 529.
Infinitesimals, method of, IX. 713
Infinitive mood, X. 770.
Infirmarys in London, XIII. 673—in Ireland, XII. 523. See *Hospital*.
Inflammable minerals, XV. 122.
—salts, XV. 125
Inflammation, a disease, XVII. 690—treatment of, in animals, XXI. 555—of the stomach and other organs in cattle, 567 *et seq.*
Infiate, family of insects, IX. 236.
Infection, in optics, XVI. 605
—of nouns, X. 748, 749, XIII. 192—of verbs, 189—whether an advantage or disadvantage, ib
Inflorescence of plants, V. 112—indeterminate, 114—determinate, 115—mixed, 117
Influenza, VI. 332—in horses and dogs, XXI. 572
Influx, definition of the word, I. 254.
INFORMATION, in law, XII. 380
INFORMER, in law, XII. 380
Infusoria, III. 193—obscurity of their origin, 175—Lamarck's definition of, 194—Cuvier's arrangement of, ib.—Ehrenberg's, 211—method of feeding them with coloured substances, 208, *n.*—naked, 199—appendiculated, 202—fossil, XVII. 94.
Ingemann (B. Severin), Danish author, XIX. 695
INGENHOUSZ (John), XII. 380—on the electricity of the torpedo, VIII. 573—his electrical machines, 605—on the composition of the atmosphere, IV. 180—on the gaseous exhalations of plants, V. 104—his opposition to Mesmer, XX. 417.
Inglebert (St), justs of, VI. 618.
Ingfield (Captain), his arctic voyage in 1852, XII. 40, XVIII. 173
Ingis (Captain), anecdote of, at the battle of Camperdown, V. 561, *n.*; VIII. 253, *n.* 2
—on Dublin, VIII. 327—on Galway, X. 389.
Ingolf, his colonisation of Iceland, XII. 197
INGOLSTADT, in Bavaria, XII. 381.
Ingots, of gold, VII. 85—of silver, 86, 87.
Ingpen (A.), his work on insects, IX. 15.
Ingraffing. See *Grafting*.
Ingrassias (J P), his contributions to anatomy, II. 759.
INGULPUS, abbot, XII. 381.
Inhabitableness, XVII. 662.
INHERITITION, in law, XII. 381.
Inia, genus of mammalia, XIV. 220.
Innsfallen, lake, XIII. 73.
Injection of vessels, in anatomy, II. 762—organs capable and incapable of, 806—jections for domestic animals, XXI. 556, *n.* 2.
INJECTION, in law, XII. 382.
INK, XII. 382—black, ib. 383—blue, ib.—sympathetic, 384, VI. 492; VII. 545—lithographic, XIII. 510—for transfers, 512—of the ancients, VIII. 42—metallisable, XIV. 527—red, XII. 383; VIII. 287—printer's, XII. 384; XVIII. 545—Indian, XII. 383—modes of effacing, XIV. 427—of ancient palimpsests, XVII. 216—China ink, VI. 599—ink-bag of the cephalopod mollusks, XV. 397.
INKERMANN, XII. 384—battle of, ib.; XIX. 505
INLAND NAVIGATION, XII. 384. See *Navigation* (inland)
—letter office, XVIII. 404.
INN, river, XII. 384; IV. 516; XX. 888.
Innate ideas. See *Ideas* and *Locke*.
Inner Temple, XII. 384.
INNESLEYTHEN, in Peebles-shire, XII. 385; XVII. 261.
Innerloch, in Inverness-shire, XII. 437—battle of, V. 406.
Innervation, function of, XVII. 656, 668—diseases of, 697, 700.
Innes (Cosmo), his *Essay on the Ancient Inhabitants of Scotland*, XIX. 741, *n.* 1—on Scotland, 743 *et seq.*

INN-INS

Innis' filtering machine, IX. 582
Innisbofin, island, XIV. 370
Innisismurray, island, XX. 329.
Innispatrick, islet, VIII. 215
Innisturk, island, XIV. 370
INNOCENT, Pope so named, XII. 385
—III, XII. 385, 647—his proclamation of the fifth crusade, VII. 526—Inquisition established by, XII. 386—his dispute with King John, VIII. 676, 677—his proceedings against the Albigenes, II. 447, XII. 386; XXI. 508
—VIII, his bull against the Waldenses, XXI. 508
Innocent's day, VI. 541
INNS OF COURT, XII. 384, XIII. 672—of Chancery, XII. 384—in Dublin, VIII. 223
INNSBRUCK, or Inspruck, Austrian city, XII. 386—university of, XXI. 492.
Innuus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 141
Inoceramus, genus of mollusks, XV. 348—fossil, XVII. 106.
Inoculation, XXI. 503—Condamine on, VII. 230, 231—a remedy for pneumonia, XVIII. 666—its adoption in France, X. 37—introduced into England, XV. 505
Inoperculata, section of mollusks, XV. 373.
Inorganic bodies, II. 747—inorganic constituents of plants, 384.
Inosmic acid, IX. 758.
INQUEST, XII. 386. See *Coroner*.
INQUISITION, XII. 386—introduced into Portugal, XVIII. 353—in Spain, XX. 469, Lope de Vega, secretary to the Spanish, XII. 532—its sentence on Galileo, X. 379, *n.* 3—endeavours to introduce it into Holland, XI. 562, 564
Insalivation, XVII. 659—organs of, in the lower animals, III. 107. See *Saliva*.
Insane, treatment of, at the beginning of this century, XIV. 528—proportion of, to the population, 529—modern treatment of, 537—laws regarding, 538—pathology of, 535.
INSANITY, XII. 391; XVII. 700—its relation to genius and superstition, III. 320—in medical jurisprudence, XIV. 426—a bar to the execution of a criminal, 445—epilepsy with, 535—analogy between it and dreams, VIII. 176. See *Mental Diseases*.
Inscriptions, French Academy of, II. 69—founded by Colbert, VII. 98—characters of abbreviations in, VI. 419—Egyptian, VIII. 441—on coins, XVI. 356, 381.
Insectaria, XIV. 150—bones of, III. 80—dental system of, XVI. 450.
INSECTS, XII. 391—their use in scattering pollen, V. 153—their injuries to plants, 173—in amber, II. 666—of Africa, 218—Madeira, XIII. 800—of India, XI. 457—stings of, XIV. 440—means of preventing their injuries to fruit-trees, XI. 758—order of their appearance in the strata of the earth, XVII. 92—fossil, 100, 102—eyeless species of, 630—hybrids, XII. 63—insect puns, XVII. 713—reason of some kinds being able to walk on the surface of water, XX. 753—noxious species, XXI. 549. See *Entomology*.
Insectores, order of birds, XVI. 747
INSOLVENCY, XII. 391—of the American states, XXI. 441. See *Bankruptcy*.
Inspectors of registration, XVIII. 835.
INSPIRATION, XII. 391—of Scripture, XIX. 825; XXI. 217—was language originally given by? XIII. 187.
Inspirick, Austrian city, XII. 386.
Institute courts, II. 146.
INSTINCT, XII. 391; I. 404; IV. 576—Paley's view of, I. 225—weakened in animals by domestication, III. 175—in bees, IV. 576—in insects, IX. 55, pointers, XX. 218, 219.
Instinctive medicine, XIV. 449.
INSTITUTE (NATIONAL), OF FRANCE, XII. 389; II. 64; X. 99, 270—the Comptes Rendus, published by, III. 815—library of, XIII. 403; XVII. 282.
—of British Architects, III. 506.

INS-INT

Institutes of Justinian, VI. 746.
Institution (Roman Catholic), for the Propagation of the Faith, XV. 275.
INSTRUMENTATION, in music, XII. 392.
Instruments, musical, XV. 708—telegraphic, XXI. 99.
Insubria, Hannibal's invasion of, VI. 294.
Insular languages, XIII. 199, 217
Insulation of a line of telegraph, XXI. 97
Insulators, in electricity, VIII. 540, XXI. 95—in electric telegraphs, ib., 96.
INSURANCE, XII. 393—life, 394—fire, 416—marine, 419—at Lloyd's, XIII. 530—against fire, in London, 679—in book-keeping, V. 23—principle on which founded, XX. 552—average, IV. 323—in the Ionian islands, XII. 446. See *Annuities*, *Life*, *Probability*.
Inta, African tribes, IX. 352
Intaglio, XIX. 845, XVIII. 520.
INTEGRAL, or Integrant, XII. 424.
—calculus, IX. 714, 730.
Integration, problem of, I. 644, 645—improvements in, 807—theory of, 822—of binomial differentials, IX. 724—by series, 726—of logarithmic functions, 727—of angular or circular functions, 728.
Integrity of the Scriptures, XIX. 831.
Integruments of plants, V. 74.
Intellect, Aristotle on, III. 549.
Intellectual education, XV. 810.
—faculties, in phrenology, XVII. 563.
—theories on the foundation of moral rectitude, XV. 548
INTERAMMA, now Terni, XII. 424
INTERCALARY, XII. 424; VI. 77, 79, 665, 669 *et seq.*
Intercession of saints, XVIII. 337
Intercolumination, in architecture, III. 510
Intercommunion, letters of, V. 429 and *n.*
Intercostal muscles, their action in breathing, XVIII. 75.
INTERDICTION, XII. 424, 382.
INTERDICTION, XII. 424, 382
INTEREST, XII. 424; XV. 426, 427; XVIII. 217, *n.* 1—simple and compound, XII. 432—application of algebra to calculations of, II. 535—tables of increase of I. 1 at compound, III. 253, 254—calculation of, 596—on accounts current, V. 30—in ancient Athens, IV. 217—in Spain, XX. 491—Turkey, XXI. 384—impolicy of limiting the rate of, VII. 199—in the Ionian islands, XII. 446—China, VI. 591—on deposits in savings-banks, XIX. 606—on deposits, not allowed by the Bank of England, XV. 478.
Interference of light, XIII. 450; XVI. 598—fundamental law of, I. 897—of chemical rays, 922—of polarised light, XVI. 544—completes the theory of the rainbow, I. 898.
INTERIM, name of a document, XII. 436.
Interjections, in grammar, X. 788, 792.
INTERLACHIN, XII. 436.
INTERLOCUTOR, XII. 436.
Intermaxillary bones of the mammalia, III. 78.
Interment. See *Burial*.
INTERMITTENT FEVER, XII. 436; XVII. 690—cinchona a specific for the cure of, VI. 727.
International law, XIII. 253, 260—necessity for a code of, 282; its construction, 289—tribunal, ib.—copyright, VII. 360.
Internodes, in botany, V. 78.
Interregnum, XII. 436.
INTERREX, XII. 436.
Interrogation, point of, XVIII. 685.
—in rhetoric, XIX. 133.
Interval, in music, XV. 704.
Intestacy, law of, XVIII. 516.
Intestinal worms, III. 176; XXI. 974—Bloch on, IV. 782—intestinal concretions, XVII. 691
Intestines, anatomy of the, III. 60—in the lower animals, 110—their length in proportion to that of the body in different animals, ib.—digestion in the, XVII. 660—excretion from, 667—of in-

INT—IPO

sects, IX. 25—Oken's views as to the origin of, XVI. 499—obstruction of, in the domestic animals, XXI 568 See Ichthyology, Ornithology, &c.

INTONATION, in music, XII 438.

Intorecta (Père) on China, VI 570, 577.

Intoxication, VIII 196. See Drunkenness, Opium, Spirits, &c.

INTRENCHMENT, XII 438; IX. 805, 806.

INTUITION, XII 437; XIV. 556, 577—intuitive consciousness, 560—intuitive conception, 589

Intussusception, disease in the domestic animals, XVI 568

Inulina, V 72

Inundations of rivers, XVII 603, 606, 607, 608—In France, in 1843, X. 217—at Petersburg, XVII. 487—of the Ganges, IV 648; XVII 606—Nile, VIII 428; XVII. 600, 608; cause of, XVI 269 See Deluge

Invasion, means of defence against, XXI. 701

Invention, musical, XV 737.

Inverarity, mineral, XV 116.

INVERARY, Scotch town, XII 437—herring fishery at, III 526; IX. 640, 642.

INVERBERRY, Scotch town, XII 437; XIII. 839.

Inversick, XV. 744

INVERKITHING, town in Fife, XII 437; IX. 546.

INVERLOCHY, or Innerloch, in Inverness-shire, XII. 437—battle of, V. 406.

—castle, XII 439.

INVERNESS, XII 437—walled fort near, IX 791.

INVERNESS-SHIRE, XII 438—agricultural statistics, XIX. 796, 797, 798—population, 799.

Inverse problem, in perspective, XVII. 449.

Invetebata, characters of the, III 185—their organs of smell, 94—their use as food, IX. 765—no lacteals in, XII 27—order of their appearance in the strata of the earth, XVII. 92—fossil, 95.

INVERTED, in music, XII. 440.

INVERURY, Scotch town, XII 440; II. 34.

INVESTITURE, in law, XII 440—of a knight, VI. 615

Invoice and invoice-book, V. 20, 21.

Involucel, in botany, V. 114

Involucule, in botany, V. 114, 112

Involunt, in algebra, II. 495

Io, probably connected with Egyptian mythology, XI 385, n. 9.

Iodic acid, VI 470

Iodides, VI. 453, 470—of iron, 490—carbon, 474—mercury, 498—potassium, 485—sodium, 486—silver, 498—zinc, 491—lead, 497—phosphorus, 481. See Chemistry

IODINE, XII 440, VI. 469; XV. 64—in plants, V 97—Sir H. Davy on, I 969; VII. 671—poisonous quality of, XIV. 435.

Iodite, mineral, XV. 107.

Ioh, Egyptian deity, XI 383.

Iolite, mineral, XV. 88—optical properties of, XVI 666

IONA, island, XII 440; VII. 154, XIX. 744, 751.

IONIA, in Asia Minor, XII. 443—coins of, XVI 376.

IONIAN ISLANDS, XII. 444—weights and measures, XXI. 812

IONIC ORDER OF ARCHITECTURE, XII 458; III. 516—its origin, 442—columns, 436—modern Italian, 451, 477—Greek, 461, 465—Roman, 475—derived by the Greeks from Assyria, XVI 277.

IONTO sect of philosophers, XII 458. See Thales, Anaximander, &c.

IONTUM MARE, XII. 459.

IOWA, in North America, XII. 459; XXI. 419—debt of, 428—wines of, 888—river, XII. 460.

Ipecacuan, V. 196—an antidote to the sting of the scorpion, VIII. 423, n.

Ipek, town in Russia, XVII. 501.

IPHCARATES, Athenian general, XII. 451.

IPONOMEUTA, genus of insects, IX. 219.

IPS—IRE

Ipsamboul, II. 74—temple of, XVI. 349.

Ipsalanti (Prince), XI 23, 25.

Ipsilanti (Demetrius), XI. 25.

Ipswich, town in Suffolk, XII. 461, XX. 790, 791—proposal for a wool staple mart at, XXI 915

IRAK-ARABI, Persian province, XII. 461

IRAK-ARABI, in Asiatic Turkey, XII. 461.

Iran, plateau of, XVII. 597

Iranians, IX 346.

Irapuato, in Mexico, XIV. 724.

Irawadi, river See Irawadi

Irbat, Russian town, fair of, XIX. 543

IRELAND, XII 462—history of, ib—statistics, 503—Royal Irish Academy, II 67—Irish alphabet, 616—cromlechs, III. 433—bagpipe, IV 365—barons of, 470—attempts of James I. to civilise it, V. 386—rebellion of 1641, 398—under William and Mary, 441 et seq.—invaded by James II, 442—battle of the Boyne, ib; VIII 179—treaty of Limerick, V. 443—Irish House of Lords deprived of all right of final jurisdiction, 456—measures in Parliament relative to, in the reign of George III, 507, 516—Irish proceedings as to the regency question, 533—invaded by the French, 480; X. 104, 109—rebellion of 1798, V 563; XV. 528—union with Britain proposed, V 566; carried into effect, 572—disturbances in 1805, 624—discussions on Catholic emancipation, ib, 625, 631, 638, 640, 642, 652—distress and disturbances in 1822, 634—discussions in Parliament regarding, in 1823, 638, in 1824, 640; in 1825, 642—Catholic association, 641, 642, 647, 653, suppressed, 655—passing of the Emancipation Act, ib—disfranchisement of the forty-shilling freeholders, 656—repeal agitation in 1830, 659—passing of the Reform Act, 663—Coercion Bill, 663—measure regarding the Established Church in, 664—destitution in 1847 owing to disease in the potato crop, 670—Smith O'Brien's attempted rebellion, 674—Encumbered Estates Bill, ib—bankruptcy system of, IV. 417—corn-laws of, VII 384—agriculture, 385; improvement in, 392—Influence of exportation of corn to Britain from, 391—amount of the corn exported, 401—cornach, 412—effects of the minute subdivision of land, 429, n., 430—effects of the cottage system in, 431—Cromwell's proceedings in, 612—cotton manufacture, 457—Earl of Essex's expedition to, 762—emigration from, VIII. 651—value of imports into, 734, 735; of exports, 736—shipping, 739, 742—exchange between Britain and, IX. 433—fisheries, salmon, 618; sea, 628—horses, XI. 662—office of arms for, 321—royal arms of, 323—sewed muslin trade of, X. 650—rate of interest in, XII. 429—variation of the needle, XIV. 53—mill-tia, XV. 9—coal, XIII. 118; XV. 202—limestones, 147—Cambrian and Cambro-Silurian rocks, 196, 197—upper Silurian, 198—Devonian, 200—Carboniferous, 201, 202—Permian, 205—Triassic, 206—oolite, 208—chalk, 211—yield of its lead mines in 1854, 246—monarchy, 413—banks and banking, 487, 488—money, 435, XVI 388—education, XV. 826—early newspapers, XVI. 184; number current, in 1857, 192—libraries, XIII. 403—light-houses, 432—iron ore, XII. 540—parliament of, XVII 292—representative peers of, 293—franchise in, 294—heights of mountains in, 643—Pitt's policy towards, 740—police of, XVIII. 206—increase of population, 342—poor-laws, 298—post-office, 403—Presbyterianism, 491—registration, 841—prisons, 870—the Reformation in, 829—convicts in, 585—extent of railways in, 784—railway statistics, 786, 787 et seq.—Scots predominant in, XIX. 743—salt produced in, 585—savings-banks, 657—increase of the duties on spirits in, XXI. 73—quantity of spirits charged with consumption duties, 74—more fitted for

IRE—IRO

grazing than tillage, 678—wool of, 907—Ordinance survey, 333, 334 Map of, XII. Plate. See Dublin, Gt. Britain, O'Connell, Towers (Round), Cork, &c., &c.

Ireland (New). See New Ireland.

Ireth rocks, XV 198

IRENEUS (St), XII 535; IX. 492

—bishop of Lyon, ministers to the Valdenses in the Celtic tongue, XXI 506

Irene, planet, IV. 91.

IRESON (Henry), XII. 536—his proceedings in Ireland, 484.

Iridacea, nat order of plants, V 211

Iridescence, XV 58.

Iridina, genus of mollusks, XV 349.*

IRIDIUM, XII 536; VI 499, XV 113; XVII 622—specific gravity of, XII 88—discovery of, XXI. 154.

Iridosmium, XV. 113.

Iris of the eye, III 43, XIII. 461; XVII. 678—in the lower animals, III. 94

—planet, IV. 91.

—plant, XII. 536; V 212, XI 750

IRISCOPE, XVI 603

Irish, population in Glasgow, X. 649—in Canada, VI 145.

IRISH SEA, XII. 536—Irish cross-channel trade with Britain, 521.

Irite, mineral, XV 108

IRKUTSK, in Russia, XII 536, XIX. 521

IRON, XII 538; XV 66—nature, 114, XVII 620—in chemistry, VI. 488—general use of wrought-iron, I. 875—transmission of sound by, II 101—best kind for anchors, III 121—aqueduct pipes of, 337—canal aqueducts of, 338—bridges of, 414, V. 355 et seq.; XII. 575—its influence on early civilisation, III. 422—compounds of, VI 488—cast-iron, 489, 490—meteoric iron, 488; XVII 620—in ashes of plants and in the soil, V. 98—crystallization of ores of, VII 557 et seq.—cement for, VI 368—oxides of, as mordants, VIII 316—protochloride used for discharging colours, 317—for gun-barrels, XI 96—specific gravity of, XII. 88—manufacture of, 538, 544—ores of, 539—conversion of crude into malleable iron, 552—strength and other properties of, 566—iron-trade, 573—in construction, VII. 322—unfitness of cast-iron for gunders, 329—cast-iron cutlery, 602—magnetic power of, XIV 3, 9—attracted by magnets, 19—effect of masses of iron on the attractive force of a magnet, 20—effect of heat on its magnetic power, 35—production of, 283—restrictions on the importation of, ib—sparry iron, XV 99—iron salts, 100—green iron earth, 101—iron sunter, ib—specular, 108—mica-orens, ib—red, ib—meteoric, XIV. 632, 535—distribution of, XVII 621—iron roofs, XIX. 395—its first extensive use in ship-building, XX. 187—iron fastenings of timber, 174—for ship-building, ib—strength of, 174, 175, 177, 178—Spartan money made of, 503—durability of, 178—weight, 179—expediency of a duty on exports of, XXI. 61. See Iron Bridges, Iron Manufactures, Iron Mines, Iron Ships.

—BRIDGES, XII 575; III. 414; V. 355—at Sunderland, III 414—Menai Bridge, XIV. 494; I. 875—Britannia tubular, ib—article on, in this work, by Robert Stephenson, XX. 633.

—CROWN, XII. 536—Napoleon crowned with, XV 794.

—Manufacture, history of, XII 538—processes and machinery employed in, 544, 558—statistics, 573—manufactures of, in France, X. 254—Prussia, XVIII. 669—Birmingham, IV. 731—Brazil, V. 299—Glasgow, X. 650—Newcastle, XVI. 167—Pennsylvania, XVII 396—annealing of iron, III. 218—blueing, IV. 799—bronzing, V. 677—in Staffordshire, XX. 530—Spain, 490—Carron Iron-works, 708 (see that article)—Tennessee, XXI. 156—United States, 426. See Casting, Cutlery, Foundry, Gun-making, Hardware, Steel, &c.

IRO—ISH

IRON MASK, the man of the, XII 536

XIII 342.

—Mines of Bavaria, IV 517—Belgium 624—Brazil, V 292—Prussia, XVIII. 668—Europe, IX. 386—Scotland, XIX. 804—Malaga, XIV. 107—Derbyshire, VII. 754—Devonshire, 783—Cumberland, 577—Cockmannanshire, VI. 750—Mexico, XIV. 715—England, VIII. 726; XV. 219—Hindustan, XI. 457—France, X. 250—Monmouthshire, XV. 493—New York, XVI. 215—Norway, 322—Roscommon, XIX. 420—Russia, 543—Sweden, XX. 862—Switzerland, 889—Shropshire, 230—Sumatra, 804.

See the geographical articles generally

—Mountain, in Madagascar, XIII. 791

—period, in archaeology, III. 419.

—Ships, compared with wooden ones, XX. 183—destructive effects of shot on, XVI. 100, XX. 183—for purposes of war, ib.—details of building, 194—specifications for two iron ships, 197, 200.

—sulphate of. See Copperas.

Iron-alum, XV 97.

Iron-clay, XV. 83.

Iron-garnets, XV. 85.

Iron-pyrites, XV 115—its crystals, VII. 557.

Iron-smelters, diseases of, XIV. 443.

Iron-stone, clay, XV. 100.

Irony, improper in history, X. 615—much used in conversation by Socrates, XX. 400.

Irquois, tribes comprehended under that name, II. 680; IX. 347—language, XIII. 223.

IRRAWADDY, river, XII. 611; V. 778; IV. 312, XVI 87, XVII. 607, 647

IRRIGATION, XII. 611—in Afghanistan, II. 202—Arabia, III. 344—Cambridgeshire, VI. 114—Circass, 729—Chile, 543—China, 558—Delhi, VII. 704—Egypt, VIII. 427, 428—Lombardy, XII. 623; XIII. 648—Java, III. 705—Norway, XVI 325—Persia, XVII. 421.

Irritability of muscles, II. 822—of leaves, V. 108—Haller on, XI 196

IRRWIS, river, XII 623, XIX. 548.

IRVINE, town in Ayrshire, XII. 623—harbour, IV. 333.

—(Dr), on heat, XI. 273, 274; I. 761, 926, 927—discovery of specific heat inadvertently assigned to him, 927, n. 1.

IRVING (Dr David), XII. 402—his edition of Dempster's Ecclesiastical History, VII. 734—on Composition, XIX. 132, 133.

—(EDWARD), pulpit orator, XII. 623.

—(Washington), his Life of Columbus quoted, VII. 155 et seq.—his historical works compared with those of Robertson, XIX. 281, n.

Irwan, Russian town, IX. 325

Irwell, river, XIII. 177—aqueduct over, III 338.

Is, bituminous fountains of, IV. 786. See III.

Isaac (St), cathedral of, Petersburg, XVII. 490.

Isabella, queen of Edward II., VIII. 632.

—II. of Spain, XX. 478

—and Ferdinand, XX. 465

Isabnormal lines, chart of, XVII 611.

Isaurus, Attic orator, XII. 624.

Isaurus, Roman orator, XII. 624; XIV 95.

Isagoras, IV. 198.

ISAIAH, XII. 624—style of, XVIII. 98.

ISAURIA, XII 626.

ISCIIA, island, XII. 626.

ISCHI, town in Upper Austria, XII. 627.

Ischnosoma, genus of fishes, XII. 249.

Ischydon, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 342; XVII. 119.

Isco (Lago d'), XII. 637; XIII. 644.

Isar, river, IV. 517.

ISÈRE, in France, XII. 627.

—river, iron bridge over, XII. 598.

Iserne, XV. 109.

ISERLONN, Prussian town, XII. 627.

ISERNIA, town of Naples, XII. 627.

Iseum, temple of, VIII. 497.

Isir, in Scotch law, XII. 627.

ISMARI, XII. 627; XII. 261, II. 47.

ISH—ITA

- Ishnik, or Isnik, XII 628; XVI 241.
Isidorus of Charax, X 467.
— of Miletus, his plan for supporting the dome of St Sophia, XII 402.
— of Pelusium, XII 628 — of Sevilla, ib.
ISINGLASS, XII 628—as finings for beer, V 830—its use in clarifying, VII 755, 756.
Isis, Egyptian deity, XII 629, VIII 438, V 708; XI 321; VII 713—mysteries of, XV 752.
— English river, XVII 36.
— See Thames.
ISKANDAR, in Bulistan, XII 629.
Isle (De l'), his romance, XIX 286.
— DE PINOS, or Isle of Pines, XII 629.
— river, IX 782.
ISLAM, or Islamism, XII 629 See Mohammedanism.
Island, X 483—emergence of volcanic islands, IV 386, 387—lands of Europe, IX 385—in the Firth of Forth, 795.
Islands of the Blest, XII 26.
ISLAY, or Isla, island, XII 629; XI 278.
ISLE, L', town in France, XII 629.
— French province, X 276.
— of Fiance. See Mauritius.
— OF PINES, XII 629.
— of Wight. See Wight.
Islemge, Turkish town, XX 39.
Ismael Bey, VIII 488.
Ismaeliyah, Syrian sect, XIX 908.
ISMAIL, in Moldo-Wallachia, XII 629, VII 654, XIX 487.
— (Shah), XVII 438.
ISMID, in Asia Minor, XII 629.
Isnadi (F), his work on insects, IX 22.
Isni, in Egypt, VIII 513—zodiac at, ib.
Isoraia, genus of mollusks, XV 349—fossil, XVII 106.
Isocardia, genus of mollusks, XV 150.
Isochromism, in pendulums, VII 3.
ISOCRATES, XII 629; XVII 789; XX 379, 385.
Isodus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII 125.
Isogothermal lines, XIV 664.
Isola bella, V 54.
— Made, V 55.
ISOMERISM, XII 630, VI 450, 503.
ISOMORPHISM, XII 630; VI 448, 449; XV 62.
Isoperimetrical figures, I 643 and *n*—problems, V 38; IX 675, 678 — Bernoulli's problem of, IV 672.
Isopoda, crustacea, VII 542—fossil, XVII 102.
Isopyra, mineral, XV 82.
Isosceles triangle, X 507.
Isothermal and Isochermal lines, V 220; XIV 664; XVII 611.
ISOTHERMAL LINES, XII 630; V 220; XIV 664—Humboldt on, VI 771; I 993; VI Plate.
ISPAHAN, Persian city, XII 630, 461—bazaars of, IV 535.
ISRAEL, a name of Jacob, XII 631—land of, XVII 181.
ISRAELI (Isaac d'), XII 631.
Israelites, the date of their exodus, VIII 458—their passage through the Red Sea, XVIII 819—their proneness to idolatry, I 464 See Jews.
Issome, town of France, XII 632.
ISSOLDUT, town of France, XII 632, 377.
ISSUS, XII 632—battle of, XIII 767.
— genus of insects, XII 163.
ISTALIE, town of Afghanistan, XII 632.
ISTINIA, festival, XII 632 — Isthmian games, X 397, 398.
Isthmus, X 483.
Istrurus, genus of reptiles, XIX 32.
Istius, genus of fossil fishes, XII 347.
Istmo, in New Granada, X 797.
ISTRIA, XII 633; XIII 309.
Istms (Contt Capo d'). See Capo d'Istria (John).
Isurus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 345.
Itacolum, mountains, II 670, V 292.
Itala version of the Scriptures, XIX 840.
Italian bibles, IV 701—hours, VII 796.
Italians, their imaginative and reasoning powers, I 203—skulls, III 29.

ITA—IVY

- ITALY, XII 633, IX 403—metaphysical writers of eighteenth century, I 201—first European country that cultivated algebra, II 484—collections of bon-mots or Ana, 740—cultivation of anatomy, 785 *et seq*—modern architecture of, III 447, 449, 477, 517—pointed architecture, 448—domestic architecture, 473—influence of its architectural school, 453—commerce with Asia in the middle ages, 754—Austrian dominions in, IV 308, 309 — Bonaparte's campaigns, V 558; X 99 *et seq*; XV 788 *et seq* — effects of the French occupation of, V 636—Hannibal's invasion of, VI 293, XIX 310—cotton manufacture in, VII 440—insurance originated in, XII 394 — its condition at the time of the Crusades, VII 529—trade with England, VIII 732, 733—revival of the drama, 143—tragedy, 147—comedy, 148 — condition of the Jews in, XII 781, 783—historical writers, XI 548 — libraries, XII 410—fairs, IX 469—affairs of, in 1800, X 116—miocene rocks of, XV 214, pliocene, 215—metallic produce of, 248—monarchy in, 413 — M. Guizot's policy towards, X 230—newspapers of, VII 202—coins of, 358, 362, 387, 389—number of insane, compared with the population, XIV 536—schools of painting, III 709, XVII 61, 81—revival of classical studies in fourteenth century, 522—heights of mountains in, 643—poetry of, XVIII 109—political economists, 220—porcelain factories in, 438—the Reformation in, 828—sculpture, XIX 858 *et seq*—romance, 265, 284—revival of art in, 850—roads, 228—silk produced in, XX 278—surgeons, 819—masonry, 711—universities, XXI 448, 452, 492—wines, 886—woollen manufacture, 913—map of, XII Plate See Italian, Papal States, Two Sicilies, Lombardy, Rome, Naples, &c.
Itata, river, VI 543.
ITICH, XII 663—its connection with acam, III 387.
Itchin, river, XI 203.
ITHACA, island, XII 663, 452.
— town, XII 663.
Itineraries, ancient, X 463.
ITRUS PORTRUS, XII 663.
Itinerary, mineral, XV 75.
ITURBIDE (Angustin), XII 663, II 702, XIV 709—711—his death, 712.
ITURRU, one of the Kurile islands, XII 663.
ITZCOATL, Mexican king, XIV 701.
ITZEHOE, town of Denmark, XII 663.
Iulus, genus of myriapods, XV 748, 747.
IVAN VI, reign of, XIX 482.
— Vasilvitch, XIX 472.
— Vasilvitch, II. XIX 473.
Ivel, river, XI 359, VIII 111.
Ivelchester See Ilchester.
IVES (St), town in Rutlandshire, XII 663.
— in Cornwall, XII 663.
IVIZA, or Ivica, island, XII 663.
IVORX, XII 663; XVI 474, 476—skull of the Chinese in carving, VI 586—of different animals, III 105—specific gravity of, XII 89—mines, II 630—vegetable, V 214—photography on, XVII 551.
— BLACK, XII 665.
— Coast, II 227; XI 89.
— shells, XV 387.
— (JAMES), XII 665; I 823—his theorem on the attraction of ellipsoids, ib.—on atmospheric refraction, ib.—his estimate of the earth's ellipticity, 777—completed the demonstration of the earth's figure, IX 552—on the orbits of comets, VII 169—on the earth's figure as determined by hydrostatics, IX 565, 570—his death, I 824—character as a mathematician, ib.
IVREA, town and province in Northern Italy, XII 665; XIX 640.
Ivry-la-Bataille, XII 665.
IVRY-SUR-SEINE, French village, XII 665.
IVX, XII 665; V 195.

IVY—JAC

- Ivy, order of plants, V 195.
Ivan (Prince), VI 335.
IXION, XII 665.
Ixodes, genus of arachnides, XII 388.
Ixolyte, mineral, XV 124.
Ixos, genus of buds, XVI 752.
Izard, quadruped, among the Pyrenees, XVIII 700.
IZARN (Al), on meteorolites, XIV 633.
Izmud, XII 629.
- J**
- J, letter of the alphabet, XII 666.
Jabcock, river, XVII 188.
JABLONSKI (Paul Ernest), orientalist, XII 666—his Hebrew Bible, XIX 835.
Jablonsky (C. G.), his work on insects, IX 7.
JACA, Spanish city, XII 666.
Jacamar-alcyon, bird, XVI 774.
Jacamars, birds, XVI 774.
Jacamerops, genus of birds, XVI 774.
Jacana, bird, XVI 807.
Jacchus, genus of mammalia, XIV 144.
Jacini (Signor), his work on Lombardy, XII 646.
Jacinthus, genus of mollusks, XV 380—J. fragilis, ib.
Jack-fruit, V 206.
Jackal, XIV 164.
Jackdaw, XVI 764.
JACKSON (Andrew), president, XII 666, XXI 441.
— (Charles T.), on Lake Superior, VI 138—on the geology of the United States, XV 239.
— (JOHN), portrait-painter, XII 666.
— (Mr), his watches, VII 28.
— (Mr), on wood-engraving, XXI 908.
— (WILLIAM), musician, XII 667.
— (Port), IV. 271, 273; XX 895—shark, XVI 424.
— town, in Mississippi, XII 667; XV 278.
— town, in Michigan, XII 667—state prison at, XIV 740.
JACKSONVILLE, in Illinois, XII 667, 361, 363.
— in Florida, IX 667.
Jacob, son of Isaac, XVII 192.
— (Henry), early Independent, XII 369.
— on the precious metals, XVIII 459, 460, 466.
— (William), on the state of agriculture in Europe, II 252—on the foreign corn-trade, VII 402.
— (Sr), Swiss Hamlet, XII 667—battle of, XX 844.
Jacob's stone, XII 463.
JACOBI (C. G. I), mathematician, I 822, 823.
— (F HENRICH), XII 667.
— (M H), his application of the principle of the rheostat, I 984—his volta-type, 387; XXI 635—on the applications of electro-magnetism, 643, 641—on magneto-electricity, 645, 646—his agometer, 625.
Jacobism, X 122.
JACOBINS (the), XII 669, X 49 *et seq*; XIX 284, XXI 14.
— religious order, VIII 99.
JACOBITES, XII 669.
— or Syrians, religious sect, in Syria, XX 909.
Jacobs, on the precious metals, VII 191.
JACOBSON (Mr), on the lethargy of reptiles, XIX 15.
JACOBUS, gold coin, XII 669.
Jaconets, VII 449.
JACOTIN (M), on the superfcies of Egypt, VII 420.
Jacous, birds, XVI 785.
Jacquard (Joseph Marie), his career, XXI 785—description of his engine, 786—mode of setting it, ib.—his loom applied to lace-making, XIII 143; to net-making, XIX 94.

JAC—JAM

- JACQUETTE, XII 669, VI 619, X 19.
Jachuy, river, XII 176.
JADE, ornamental stone, XII 669; XV 82.
Jaeger (Prof), on a fossil reptile, XVII 137.
— (M), on the electric pile, XXI 619.
JAEN, in Spain, XII 670; III 124, XX 493.
JAFFA, or Yaffa, XII 670, XVII 197—taken by Mohammed Bey, VIII 498—massacre of, XV 792, *n*, XVII 198.
Jaffier (Meer), XI 484, 486.
JAFNA, city in Ceylon, XII 670.
JAFNAPATAM, district in Ceylon, XII 670.
Jager (B), his work on insects, IX 13.
JAGERNDORF, Austrian town, XII 670.
Jagers, birds, XVI 813.
Jagery, Indian sugar, XX 798, 796.
Jaggard (Isaac), printer, XVIII 538.
JAGHIRE, XII 670, XI 513.
Jago Cock, XVI 789.
Jaguar, XIV 169; V 294, XVII 632—represents the tiger of the Old World, 630.
Jahan (Shah), garden of, XVIII 690.
Jahanju, mausoleum of, XVIII 690.
Jahrejahs, Indian tribe, XI 92—their practice of infanticide, ib.
JAIS, race of Hindus, XII 670, XI 468.
— temples in Gujerat, 92, VI 112; and at Ajmeei, XI 477—in Canara, VI 162.
Jalalean era, XVII 437.
Jalandar Dosh, in the Punjab, XVIII 687—city, 690.
JALAPA, XII 671, V 201.
JALAPA, Mexican town, XII 671; XIV 726.
Jalapine, XII 671.
Jahso, Mexican state, XIV 724, 718.
JAMATCA, XII 672—state of, in 1795, V 557—thunder-storms in, XIV 663—pepper, XVII 710—attempts to grow mulberry-trees and produce silk in, XX 295—its condition since the abolition of slavery, 327—Sloane's Natural History of, XX 333.
Jamb, in architecture, III 510.
Jamb-lings, in joinery, V 752.
JAMES, son of Alphaeus, XII 683.
— son of Zebedee and Salome, XII 683.
— Epistle of, XII 683.
— (St), of the Sword, XII 683.
— (St), palace of, XII 668.
— (St), park, XIII 668.
— I of Scotland, XII 683; XIX 757—assassination of, 758—archery encouraged by, III 425—his poetry, XVII 120.
— II of Scotland, XII 683; XIX 758—his attachment to Edinburgh, VIII 390.
— III of Scotland, XII 683; XIX 760—Edinburgh in the reign of, VIII 390.
— IV of Scotland, XII 683; XIX 763—Edinburgh in the reign of, VIII 391—his adventure at Crarnod, VII 479—large ship built by, XX 126—his death at Flodden, IX 665; VIII 698.
— V. of Scotland, XII 683; XIX 766—his knowledge of Latin, IV 633, *n*. 6—Edinburgh in the reign of, VIII 391.
— VI. of Scotland and I. of England, XII 683; XIX 784, 786—his visit to Tycho Brahe, V 265 — G. Buchanan preceptor to, 718—Calderwood's interview with, VI 72—University of Edinburgh founded by, VIII 399; XXI 481—Edinburgh in the reign of, VIII 391—his visit to that city in 1617, 391—free-masonry under, XIV 338. See next article.
— I of England, and VI. of Scotland—reign of, V 381—character of, 388—Archbishop Abbot's flattery of, II 15—archery in his reign, III 425—architecture, 454—creation of baronets, IV 469; VI 623—translation of Bible, IV 708—his Irish policy, XII 479, 480—his treatment of Calderwood, VI 72—his

JAM—JAR

navy, XVI 92—state of naval affairs in the reign of, XX 127—his embassy to Sweden, 848 See the preceding article
 James II of England, XII 689—his reign, V 434—abdication, 439—expedition to Ireland, 442, XII 489—death, V 445—his residence in Edinburgh when Duke of York, VII 629, VIII 392—appointed Lord High Admiral, 85—his Parliament in Dublin, 218—his Irish policy, XII 488—his navy, XX 131
 —(G. P. K.), novels of, XIX 281
 —(Mr), notice of his mission to Ashantee, III 795
 —(Mr), his History of the Worsted Manufacture, XXI 939, 918.
 —(St Henry), superintendent of the Ordnance Map Office, XX 452—on the use of zincography and photography in preparing the maps, XXI 336, 337.
 —RIVEN, in United States, XII 689, XXI 597—James River Canal, 754
 Jameson (Dr), on the tea-plant in India, XXI 81.
 —(GEORGE), painter, XII 634
 —(ROBERT), professor of natural history in the University of Edinburgh, XII 684—pupil of Werner, XXI 834—on the Trepang of the Chinese, 985
 Jamesonite, mineral, XV 119
 JAMESTOWN, in St Helena, XII 685, XI 287
 JAMESON (Dr), XII 685—on the songs of northern nations, IV 396—on the Scottish language, VIII 797—on Barbour, IV 433, 434—his definition of black-mail, 740.
 Jamin (M), on the polarisation of light, I 920—on optics, XVI 550, 605, 680, 687—his improvements on flint-glass * for telescopes, XXI 122.
 JAMIN (Amadis), French poet, XII 685
 Janassa, genus of fossil fishes, XII 342.
 Janeiro. See Rio Janeiro.
 JANSVILLE, town in Wisconsin, XII 685.
 Jani, his character of Alexander Cunningham, VII 586.
 Janiculum Hill, in Rome, XIX 356, 357
 JANUARIES, XII 686; III 656—institution of the, II 735—origin of the name, XXI 368—their instruction in European tactics, 373—destruction of, 374.
 JANSEN (Cornelius), XII 686
 —(Zachary), alleged inventor of the telescope, II 87, n. 3; XIII 449, XVI 527—compound microscope, constructed by, 529
 Jansenists, their opinions on predestination, XVIII 479.
 JANSEN (Cornelius), painter, XII 687.
 JANSENS (Abraham), painter, XII 687.
 —(Victor Honorius), painter, XII 687.
 JANUARIUS (St), XII 687—liquefaction of his blood, IV 789.
 JANUARY, XII 687, VI 77 *et seq.*—gardening calendar for, XI 758.
 JANUS and JANA, Roman deities, XII 687—temple of, 688; XIX 332.
 JAPAN, XII 638—temples and idols, VII 716, 718—monarchy in, XV 413—language, XII 217—peacock of, XVI 786—Kämpfer's History of, XIII 31—paper, XVII 250—serpents of, 634—height of mountains in, 645, 646—silk, XX 277—tea in, XXI 81, 88, 89—weights and measures, 811.
 JAPANING, XII 689.
 Japheth, son of Noah, sons of, VIII 45.
 Jaquielot (Mr), on Leibnitz's theory of pre-established harmony, I 194.
 Jar, electrical, I 737; VIII 526, 611.
 Jarbas, VI 280.
 Jardine (James), his Edinburgh water-works, III 337; XII 136—on the temperature of Scottish lakes at different depths, VI 777—on hydrodynamics, XII 76—on determining the point where a river ends and a firth begins, IX 600.
 —(Sir William), on the great lake trout, III 156, n. 2, 157—his technology of Annandale, XV 205; XVII 153—on

JAR—JEK

birds, XVI 733, 753—on the Vendace, XII 243
 Jaigon of Ceylon, specific gravity of, XII 88
 Jariyas, Nepalese tribe, XVI 144.
 Jarmuck, river, XVII 188
 JARNACK, town in France, XII 699
 Jarnowick, musician, X 631
 JAROSLAV, or Yaroslaff, in Russia, XII 699, XIX 521
 JAROSLAVI, town of Russia, XII 700.
 JAROSLAW, XII 700
 Jaria-war-nang, bud, XVI 743.
 Jarrah, timber tree, XX 173, XXI 278.
 JASHER (Book of), XII 700.
 Jasmnaceæ, nat order of plants, V 199
 Jasmine flowers, in pyrotechny, XVIII 707.
 Jason, XIV 420; XIII 117—statue of, VIII Plate
 Jaspei, XV 69—opal-jasper, lb
 Jassus, genus of insects, IX 170.
 JASSY, Moldavian city, XII 700
 JASZ-APATHI, town of Hungary, XII 701
 JASZ-BERENY, town of Hungary, XII 701.
 Jatiobdella, genus of annelides, XI 806
 JAUER, town of Prussian Silesia, XII 701.
 Jaundice, disease among cattle, XXI 570
 JAUTS, XII 701, XI 464—of Beykaneer, IV 690—of Bhurtpole, 693—of Sindh, XX 305
 JAVA, XII 702—spiders' webs in, III 375—commerce of, 757—bats of, XIV 147—vessels of, 158—Hindu temples in, V 275—extraordinary cloud in, VII 39—language, XIII 207—number of volcanoes in, XVII 589, XXI 608—flora of, V 228; XVII 628—number of serpents in, 634—height of mountains in, 645, 646—reptiles, XIX 53 *et seq.*—sugar of, XX 796—trade with Sumatra, 806—weights and measures, XXI 811—Little island, IV 395.
 Javan and descendants, XII 45.
 —poison, XIV 438
 Jaw-bones, in man, III 21, 23—in the mammalia, 78, 79—in birds, 85—muscles of the, 39.
 Jawar Dagh, Syrian mountains, XX 902.
 Jaws, of insects, IX 32—of fishes, XII 223.
 —tumours of the, XX 834
 JAKARTES, river, XII 711, XIII 77, XIX 649.
 Jay (John), American chief-justice, XXI 438—his mission to England, 758
 —(WILLIAM, D D), XII 711
 Jays, birds, XVI 764.
 JEAN D'ANGELY (St), French town, XII 712.
 Jean-le-blanc, bird, XVI 743
 Jeakes' patent grate, XX 354
 JEBAIL, XII 712. See Dyebail.
 Jebb (Sir Joshua), XVIII 582.
 Jebel Assoud, IX 528.
 Jed, river, XIX 453.
 JEDBURGH, Scotch town, XII 712; XIX 453.
 Jedda, massacre at, in 1858, XXI 876
 Jeddo, or Jedo, Japanese town, XII 712, 690, 692—earthquake at, 689
 JEFFERSON (Thomas), XII 712; XXI 438, 439, 766 *et seq.*
 —CITY, XII 715.
 Jeffersomite, mineral, XV 81.
 Jeffery's marine glue, X 634; XX 190.
 JEFFREY (Francis), Lord Jeffrey, XII 715—on Keats' Endymion, XIII 57—on Campbell's poetical genius, VI 126—his quarrel with Moore, V 530—his review of Wordsworth's poetry, XXI 931—on the character of Watt, 777.
 —(Mr), on Hawick moat, XI 246—his history of Roxburghshire, XIX 462, n.
 JEFFREYS (George), Lord, judge, XII 719; V 435—his trial of Richard Baxter, IV 521—his "bloody assize," VIII 107.
 Jegher, wood-engraver, XXI 904.
 Jehan (Shah), XI 479; VII 706.
 Jehangher, mausoleum of, XIII 158.
 Jehoshaphat (Valley of), XII 736.
 Jehovah, XXI 188.
 Jejunum, III 60.
 Jekaterinoslav, VIII 520.

JEL—JES

JELALABAD, city of Seistan, XII 719
 —town of Afghanistan, XII 719—defence of, by Sir R Sale, V 668, XI 509
 JELATMA, Russian town, XII 719.
 JELFTZ, Russian town, XII 719
 Jelzabetpol in Georgia, VIII 634.
 Jelzabetgrad, in Southern Russia, VIII 634
 Jelum, or Jilam, river in the Punjab, XII 63, XVIII 687, 688
 Jellachich (Bam), IV 307
 Jelly, X 445—sea-jellies, XXI 995
 Jemaladdin, Arabian author, VI 242
 JEMALABAD, town and fortress in India, XII 719
 JEMIMATES, XII 719—battle of, V 544, X 71
 JENA, German town, XII 719—battle of, X 143—university of, 592, XXI 492
 Jenison-Walworth (R von), his works on insects, IX 18
 Jenkin (F.), on electric telegraphs, XXI 95, 97, 114, n.
 Jenkins (William), his coal-burning locomotives, XX 858
 Jenkinson. See Liverpool, Earls of
 JENNER (Dr), XII 720—pupil of J Hunter, 27—his discovery of vaccination, XXI 500; held that cow-pox was small-pox modified, ib.
 —on intestinal worms, XXI 976.
 Jennings' lock, XII 539
 —diamond pipes, VIII 129, n.
 Jenny, spinning, III 609; VII 441; XX 510—mule, VII 445; XX 510
 Jenour (Mr), wire-cartridges invented by, XX 214.
 —(Mr), on the lizard, XIX 30
 Jensen's marine governor, XX 654
 Jensen (Nicholas), printer, XVIII 532
 JENYNS (Soame), XII 720—Dr Johnson's review of his Inquiry, 798
 Jer-falcon, XVI 745
 Jerboa, in zoology, XIV 184
 JEREMIAH, prophet, XII 726, XVIII 98.
 Jerecz, wine district of, XX 489
 JERICHO, XII 727—plain of, XVII 156
 Jeringham (Capt), his anchor, XIII 445.
 JEROME (St), XII 727—alphabet of, II 614—his arguments against the superiority of bishops to presbyters, XVIII 483—his version of the Bible, IV 701, XIX 840
 —of Pragnie, XII 728, 59
 JERSEY, XII 728—breed of cattle, II 342—harbour of refuge at, XI 222—attacked by the British in 1779, V 488.
 —CITY, in New Jersey, XII 731
 Jerubbah, X 621
 JERUSALEM, XII 731—taken by Antiochus, 769; XVII 193; by Pompey, 770; 194—destroyed by the Romans, XII 774, XIX 339; XVII 194—rebuilt by Hadrian, XII 775, XIX 343—Julian's attempt to rebuild the temple, II 644; XII 776, XVII 195—taken by the Persians, ib.; by Omar, 196; by the Crusaders, ib., VII 525; by Saladin, ib.; VIII 481, XVII 196—retaken by the Crusaders, 197—sacked by the Khazimians, ib.—taken by the Mamelukes, ib.—under Selim I, 198—patrimony of, XI 36—monarchy in, XV 413—walls of, IX 814—return of the Jews to, XII 767—kings who reigned in, XVII 193—itinerary, X 463 See Crusades, Temple of Jerusalem.
 —cotton, IV 525.
 —Talmud, XXI 15, 16—Targum, 23
 Jerusalem Archoke, XI 739; II 321; IX 760.
 JERVIS (Sir John), earl St Vincent, XII 749—his naval victory, V 559.
 JESS, Italian city, XII 749.
 Jesse (Mr), on eels, XII 230.
 JESSELMER, in Hindustan, XII 749.
 Jesses, in falconry, XI 248.
 Jessop (Mr), his account of peas-blossom damp, VII 643.
 JESSORE, in Bengal, XII 749; IV 651
 Jessup's iron bridges, XII 682

JES—JEW

JESUITISM, XII 749—in Brazil, V 281 *et seq.*—in Peru, XVII 471—Paraguay, II 691, 692, XVII 268—Japan, XII 697—Polynesia, XVIII 269—suppression of, in France, X 36, 37—Pascal's exposure of, XVII 330 See Jesuits.
 Jesuits, their method of reducing the indigenous Americans to a settled mode of life, II 687, 691—then opposition to Pascal's discoveries, IV 450, 451—proceedings in France in reference to, X 223—their influence in France, in the reign of Charles X, 189—founders of the society of, XII 750—its early fathers, 751—their opinions on predestination, XVIII 479—their missionary exertions, XV 273. See Jesuitism, Jansenites
 Jesuit's bark. See Cinchona.
 Jests, XII 757—alleged letter of to Abgar, II 40—date of his birth, VI 667, 669—years between Adam and the birth of, 669—demons cast out by, VII 618—Gnostic conception of, X 687—pictures of, XVII 59, XII 764, 765—opinions of Mahomedan regarding, XV 303—the Messiah, XXI 207—the person of, 208—reference to, by Josephus, XIII 9—doctrines he taught, I 481—his person the temple of the Lord, 483—understood by the Jews to lay claim to a divine character, 486 See Christ, Messiah, Theology
 —Order, or Society of. See Jesuitism.
 —the son of Suach, XII 765, VIII 372
 Jesus' College, Cambridge, XXI 465—its foundation, II 453—Oxford, XXI 459.
 Jet, XV 123.
 Jets of water, XII 129, 156—jets of fire, XVIII 707.
 Jetsam, IX 668
 Jettes, in rivers, XVI 67
 Jetzei, tragic fate of, VIII 100
 JEWEL (John), bishop, XII 765.
 —See Gem and Jewellery
 Jewellery, manufacture of, in France, X 255—cements for uniting articles of, VI 368—universal use of, in India, XVIII 470.
 Jews, XII 766—history of, XVII 193—belief of a future state among, I 475, 476—their expectation of the Messiah, 480—notion of their national pre-eminence, 485, 488—distinguishing features of the gospel very unlikely to occur to, 489—frivolous regulations regarding worship, 497—in the different countries of Europe, IX 305, in Abyssinia, II 56, Alexandria, ancient and modern, 470, 473, Arabia, III 362, Austria, IV 217; Algiers, II 569, Bulkhua, V 758, the Crimea, VII 504; Egypt, VIII 449, 472, England, 675; XII 428; Germany, X 588, Frankfurt, 288; Greece, XI 20; India, 464, Holland, 588; Ionian Islands, XII 447; Italy, 634, Morocco, XV 597; Hamburg, XI 199; Jerusalem, XII 747, in the Two Sicilies, XX 255; Poland, XVIII 100—agriculture, II 249—punishment of adultery, 156—their altars, 631; III 433—analogy of Jewish and Mexican cosmogonies, II 695—their assistance to Demetrius, III 273—demonology, 321—architecture, 439—baptism, IV 422, 423—beard, 527—use of bells, 628—bibles, 694 *et seq.*—burials, V 774—Babylonish captivity, VI 226—Canalites, 228; VII 504—the Chinese not descended from, VI 557—were they long ignorant of a future state? 637, 638—their enmity to the Christians, 640—their year and ages, 669—months, 670—circumcision, 732—coins, VII 66—diversity of complexion in different parts of the world, 225—hours, 796—house built by Henry III. for converts, 338—weights and measures, 580—Jellief in demonia possession, 617; and magic, XII 701—dancing, VII 645—their connection with Egypt, VII 458; exodus thence, ib.; policy towards, 459—

JEW—JOH

law of divorce, 67—places of worship in England and Wales, 745—severities of Ptolemy Philopater towards them, 469—then fasts, IX. 489—funeral rites, X. 343—geometry, 503—burning of incense, XII. 366—Josephus's History and Antiquities of, XIII. 10—jubilee, 14—libraries, 382—treatment of the hair, XI. 182—mourning, XV. 667—oaths, XVI. 398—oracles, 699—monachies, XV. 413—ancient art, XVII. 47—severities of Antiochus Epiphanes towards, 193—art of writing among the ancient, 401—philology among, 521—passover, 333—patnarchs, 342—their admission into parliament, V. 672; XVII. 295—primogeniture among, XVIII. 515—in Prussia, 664—poetry of, 97—law concerning rape, 806—persecuted by Trajan, XIX. 342—conquest of, by Hadrian, 343—sanhedrum, 600—emancipation of, in Russia, 492, number in that kingdom, 529, 528—manner of observing the Sabbath, 561, 562—their care in preserving the integrity of Old Testament Scriptures, 881—their expulsion from Spain, XX. 465—Dr Spencer on their ritual, 504—synagogues, 898; I. 490—slavery, 319—their surgery, XX. 809, 816—in Syria, 909—in Turkey, XXI. 378—tabernacle, 1—Talmud, 15—measures, 804 See Hebrew, Jerusalem, Mosaic Dispensation, Carates, Talmudists.

JEW'S-HAIR, XII. 784

JEXPOOR, in Hindustan, XII. 784.

JEZIREH-EL-OMAR, town in Asiatic Turkey, XII. 784

JEZREEL, town of Issachar, XII. 784—valley of, XVII. 183

JHALAWAN, in Beloochistan, XII. 784.

JHANSI, town in Hindustan, XII. 784; V. 763—sepooy insurrection at, XVI. 310.

Jharejah Rajpoots, VII. 598.

JHUJHUR, in Hindustan, XII. 784

JHYJUM, or Jelum, river, XII. 785.

JIDDA, or Djidda, Arabian seaport, XII. 785—commerce of, III. 355; XVIII. 818.

Jig, dance tune, X. 622.

Jihon. See Oxus

Jilam, in the Punjab, XVIII. 680, 691. See Jhyllum.

JIONPOOR, in Hindustan, XII. 785.

JITOMIR, Russian town, XII. 786

Jochaim, I and II, electors of Brandenburg, XVIII. 647.

JOAN OF ARC, XII. 787; III. 389; X. 23; XVI. 722.

—of Kent, VII. 483.

—(Pope), XII. 786.

JOANNES, island, XII. 787.

Joaquin (San), river, VI. 96.

JOB, Book of, XII. 787; XVIII. 98—scene of, XII. 359—his description of the war-horse, XI. 656—Targums on, XXI. 24.

Joceline, bishop, X. 646

Jochanan (R.), Jerusalem Gemara said to have been written by, XXI. 15.

Jockey, XI. 686 *et seq.*

Jockeyship, XI. 686.

JOEL, the prophet, XII. 788—style of, XVIII. 98.

Joffed, abbot of Croyland, XXI. 460.

Joggles in beams, XII. 767.

JOHIS, religious sect, XII. 788

JOGURS, Hindu eras, XII. 788.

JOHANNIA, island, XII. 789

JOHANNISBERG, German village, XII. 789—vineyards of, XV. 801; XXI. 885—qualities of their wine, *ib.*

Johannite, mineral, XV. 98.

JOHN THE BAPTIST, XII. 789—death of, III. 275.

—(Don) of Austria, Turkish fleet destroyed by, at Lepanto, XXI. 369

—emperor of the East, VII. 316.

—king of England, XII. 792: VIII. 676—his proceedings in Ireland, XII. 469—his fleet, XVI. 89; XX. 120

—king of France, XII. 792; X. 18.

—name of, 23 Popes, XII. 791.

JOH—JOI

John of Ardern, XX. 817.

—of Gaddesden, XX. 816.

—of Salisbury, XII. 792

—I, II, kings of Castile and Leon, XII. 792.

—I, II, III, IV, V, VI, kings of Portugal, XII. 792; XVIII. 382, 383, 386, 388, 389

—I, II, III, kings of Sweden, XII. 792; XX. 847

—VI. (Don), V. 286

—(Presbyter), XIX. 98.

—(St) the Apostle, XII. 790—Gospel of, *ib.*—Epistles of, 791—Apocalypse, or Revelation of, III. 297, XIX. 98

—(St), knights of, XIII. 114, XIX. 148

John's (St), College, Oxford, XXI. 459—Cambridge, 466

—(St), in Newfoundland, XVI. 171

—(St), town in New Brunswick, XVI. 164—river, 162, 163.

—(St) wort, nat oiden of plants, V. 166.

JOHN, or JAN (St), West Indian island, XII. 792

Johnus, genus of fishes, XII. 285

Johnson (E C.), on typography for the blind, IV. 781

—(Dr George), his work on mollusca, XV. 238—his article on zoophytes in the seventh edition of this work, XXI. 974—his work on British zoophytes, 1002, *n.*—on sponges, 1008—on the annelides, XI. 300, *n.* 2

—(Dr James), instance of coincidence in discovery related by, XX. 811, *n.* (Henry), his logographic printing, XVI. 187.

—(Hester), XX. 871, 878.

—(John), on woollen manufactures, XXI. 915

—(Kath), his physical atlas, XVII. 613, 614, 617, 642—on the distribution of birds, 633.

—(Mrs), her novels, XIX. 282.

—(SAMUEL), XII. 799—his opinion of Rochefoucauld's maxims, I. 54—his characters of Akenade, II. 434, Sir Thomas Browne, V. 687, Burman, 788, 787, 788, Denham, VII. 737; Cowley, 471; Dryden, VIII. 204; Jenyns, XII. 726; Bolingbroke, IV. 816—on Hector Boyce, V. 252; Mallet, XIV. 111, Fenton, IX. 509; Edmund Smith, XX. 346; Thomson, XXI. 234, 235, 236—Boswell's life of, V. 64—Dr Bucklesby's kindness to, 674—his friendship with Garrick, X. 408, Goldsmith, 706 *et seq.*; Mrs Piozzi, XVII. 714; Sir J. Reynolds, XIX. 101—on the poetry of the Duke of Buckingham, XX. 99—on Lord Hailes's Annals of Scotland, VII. 634—works of Congreve, 248—on Iona, XII. 441—his tour in the Hebrides, V. 64—his opinion of the newspapers of 1758, XVI. 184—on Ossian, XVII. 6; Roscommon, XIX. 423—his tales, 275—on Rowe's plays, 461—his translation of Lobos's history of Ethiopia, XIII. 531—his alleged meeting with Adam Smith, XX. 348, *n.* 2—his antipathy to Swift, 878 and *n.* 2—his fondness for tea, XXI. 88

Johnson's catalogue of stars, IV. 95.

JOHNSTON (Arthur), XII. 803.

—(Cuthbert W.), on goats, II. 854.

—(John), on animals, XIV. 125—on birds, XVI. 725.

—(Prof.), his analysis of bailey-flour, V. 321.

Johnstone (Charles), novels of, XIX. 275.

—(ROBERT), historian, XII. 804.

—(Sir W. Pulteney), chair of agriculture in university of Edinburgh founded by, XX. 388, *n.* 2

—in Renfrewshire, XII. 804.

JOHORE, Malay town, XII. 804.

JOHORY, town of France, XII. 804.

Joiners, distinguished from carpenters, V. 746—work of, in building, 750—qualifications of, XII. 800—measuring and

JOI—JON

valuing joiners' work, V. 753—health of, XIV. 442

JOINERY, XII. 804—not much practised among the Romans, III. 445 See Roof.

JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES, XII. 817, VII. 218; XVII. 316—defective state of the law regarding, 317—undertakings which may be successfully carried on by, 317.

—Banks. See Banks

Jointedfir order of plants, V. 201.

Joints, in carpentry, VI. 280, XII. 809—in stratified rocks, XV. 163—universal joint, XIV. 389—of arches, XX. 728 *et seq.*

—of bones, II. 830—of the spine, III. 4 *et seq.*, shoulder, elbow, wrist, and fingers, 34, hip, 36, knee and ankle, 37—diseases of, in cattle, XXI. 558—surgical treatment of diseases of the, XX. 823—resection of, 825.

JOINVILLE, French town, XII. 819

—(JUDAS) SIRE DE, XII. 819—his Memoirs quoted, VI. 621; VII. 534

—(Prince de), his expedition to St Helena, X. 215—marriage, 219—bombardment of Tangier, 221—his letter to the Duke de Nemours, 230

Joists, construction of, V. 748—the strongest not those which contain the greatest quantity of timber, XX. 766—to form them of uniform strength, 769

Joktan, III. 361

JOINBA, XII. 820; II. 210. See Niger

Joliba, African people, XX. 50. See Yolofo

Joly (Abraham), on mortality at Geneva, XV. 622

Jolyffe, his discovery of the distinction between the lacteals and lymphatics, II. 761, 803

JOIELLI (Nicolo), XII. 820

Jomini (Baion), on the military character of the French, 639, 642, Spaniards, 643; Russians, 649, *n.* 4; Prussians, 646, *n.* 4; British, 667—on war, XXI. 698, 700, *et seq.*—on the English infantry at Talavera, 823.

JONAS, XIII. 1—alleged tomb of, XVI. 273, 275.

Jonathan Ben Uzziel, his Targum, XIX. 839; XXI. 23

Jondisabour, in Chorassan, medical school at, XX. 814, 815

Jones (Col.), on piers for harbours of refuge, XI. 218

—(David), on life assurance, XII. 404

—(Edward Thomas), on book-keeping, V. 15, 27.

—(INGO), XIII. 2—his architectural works, III. 454—on Stonehenge, XX. 709.

—(Jenkin), his tables of annuities, &c, XII. 402

—(Jeremiah), on the Apocryphal books, VII. 298.

—(John Gale), V. 607.

—(JOHN PAUL), XIII. 2; V. 495 *n.*

—(Sir John), on sieges, IX. 824, 825—on Torres Vedras, 806

—(Richard R.), linguist, XIX. 419.

—(Rymer), on the earthworm, XI. 301—on leeches, 304.

—(Sir WILLIAM), XIII. 3—his reply to Anquetil du Perron, III. 259—on the Asiatic races, 747—on Buddhism, V. 725—on the Hindu origin of chess, VI. 587—on the Chinese, 557, 558—his character of Lord Ashburton, VIII. 260—on language, XIII. 207, 208—on absorption, as one of the doctrines of the Vedanta school, I. 147, *n.*—on the law of evidence, VIII. 790

—(Thomas), his optograph, VI. 119—his mural circle, IV. 155.

—(Wharton), on the blood of fishes, II. 785.

—(WILLIAM), divine, XIII. 3.

Jones's hydrometer, XII. 86.

—Historical Sketch of the Electric telegraph, XXI. 107.

JONKOPING, in Sweden, XIII. 5; XX. 804.

Jonne's (Col. Moreau de), his account of a species of serpent, XIX. 67, 68.

JON—JUD

JONSON (Ben), XIII. 5—on Bacon's forensic eloquence, I. 239—his admiration of Bacon, *ib.*—his merits as a dramatist, XVII. 158—his visit to Drummond, 191—epitaph on the Countess of Pembroke, IX. 283—poetry of, XVIII. 122—his notice of Spenser, XV. 506.

—actor, XXI. 175.

JOORIA, seaport in Hindustan, XIII. 7

JOFFA, XIII. 7. See Jaffa.

—genus of insects, IX. 188.

Joravko (P.), his work on insects, IX. 22.

JORDAENS (Jacob), painter, XIII. 7; XVII. 75

JORDAN, river, XIII. 8; XVII. 184, 186, 591, 647

Jornandes, Gothic author, X. 729.

JORTIN (John, D.D.), XIII. 8—on the style of Erasmus, IX. 323—on the work of Erasmus, De libero arbitrio, 321

JORULLO, volcano, XIII. 8; II. 674, XIV. 714, 724; XXI. 605.

JOSEPH I., emperor of Germany, XIII. 8

—II. emperor of Germany, XIII. 8; IV. 304, 595—his plan for exchanging the Austrian Netherlands for Bavaria, V. 516

—I of Portugal, XVIII. 386

—the Blind, his Targum, XXI. 23

—son of Jacob, XVII. 192—date of his becoming governor of Egypt, VIII. 453

—tribe of, XII. 767

Josephine, empress of France, her marriage with Napoleon, V. 755—crowned, X. 134—divorce, 153

JOSEPHUS (Flavius), Jewish historian, XIII. 8—his reference to Christ, XII. 760—his account of Jerusalem, 736—his account of the Essenes, IX. 334, 335; of the Pharisees, XVII. 505.

JOSHUA, XIII. 10; XII. 766.

Josiah, king of Judah, his engagement with Neko, VIII. 464

Josika (Baron), Hungarian author, XII. 20.

Jotapata, in Galilee, XIII. 9

Joannetta, fossil molluscs, XVII. 108.

Joubert (General), X. 104, 113 *et seq.*

—on the manufacture of tobacco, XXI. 296.

JOUNPOOR, in Hindustan, XIII. 10

JOUFFROY (Theodore-Simon), XIII. 10—on the limits of psychology and physiology, XIV. 556, *n.* 2

—(Marquis de), his steam-boat, XX. 637.

Joule (Mr), on the mechanical effect of heat, I. 943; XI. 276—on atomic volumes, VI. 449—his "equivalent," XIV. 408; XX. 618—on the use of electricity and magnetism in mechanics, 418—on the relation of heat and work, 561—on the application of electro-magnetism, XXI. 443

Jourdan (General), X. 88 *et seq.*—his campaign of 1796, V. 563; XI. 276.

Journal, in book-keeping, V. 16, 18, 21—collective entries in, 28.

—of a ship, XVI. 25.

JOVELLANOS (G. Melchior de), XIII. 11; IV. 156; XVII. 28, 29

JOVIANTUS (F. Claudius), Roman emperor, XIII. 12; VII. 809.

JOVITS (Paulus), historian, XIII. 12.

Joy, death from excess of, VIII. 192, *n.* 1.

Joyce's country, in Galway, X. 388, 389.

Juan (Don), of Austria, XI. 569, 570.

—(Don Jorge), his secret report to the Spanish government, IV. 880.

—FERNANDES, island, XIII. 13.

—II. of Aragon, XX. 464

—(San), river in Nicaragua, XVI. 242, 243

JUBA I., king of Numidia, XIII. 13; XVI. 350.

—II. XIII. 13.

Jubbulpore, in India, Sepoy insurrection at, XVI. 311.

JUBILER, XIII. 14—in Paris, X. 192.

Juckes's patent furnace, XX. 856.

Judah, XII. 767—country of, XVII. 184.

JUDAS MACCABEUS, XIII. 14, XII. 769, 783.

JUD—JUN

- Judas trees, XVII 763.
 JUDE, XIII 14—epistle of, 15
 JUDEA, XIII 15; XII 763, XVII 183—
 coins of, XVI 879
 JUDENBURG, in Styria, XIII 15.
 Judge-legislation, XIII 268, 269.
 Judges, duties of, according to the econ-
 omists, VIII 381—their character in
 former times, 774
 Judgment, in metaphysics, XIV 591—
 necessary, 597—right of private judg-
 ment in religious matters, I 540—an
 unavoidable necessity for the exercise
 of it, 541—responsibility of, ib
 —, in law, VIII 791
 —, in logic, XIII 568—Kant on, 51
 necessary to the character of a poet,
 XVIII 94
 —, last XXI 219.
 Judicature, XIII 275
 Judicial proceedings in England, VIII
 788; XIII 274
 —evidence, IX 418
 —combat, VI 611—power in Eng-
 land, VIII 772
 Judiciary of the United States, XXI 429
 Judson (Mr), American missionary, V
 782.
 JUDDULUK, in Afghanistan, XIII 15.
 JUGGERNATE, XIII 15; VII 602, XI
 470.
 Jugglers, Hindu, IV 525.
 Juglandaceae, nat. ord. of plants, V 208
 Jugulares, fishes—their fins and pelvis,
 III 90, 91
 JUJURTHA, king of Numidia, XIII 15;
 XVI 350—his war with the Romans,
 XIX 818.
 Juice of plants See Sap
 —of the sugar cane, XX 792
 Jujubes, V 189
 Jujuy, in La Plata, XVII 779
 Julia, XIX 333
 —, lex, XIX 320
 Julian Alps, II 624
 —CALANDAR, XIII 16; VI 77, 81,
 665.
 —era, VI 672
 —period, VI 81, 665
 —(Port San), XVII 335.
 JULIANUS (F. Claudius), Emperor, XIII
 16; VII 305 *et seq*—apparition seen
 by, III 811—his attempts to rebuild the
 temple at Jerusalem, II 644, XII 776,
 734, 744, XVII 195
 —(Didius), XIX 346.
 JULICH, Prussian city, XIII 17
 Julien (M) his translation of a Chinese
 work on the silk-worm, XX 287
 JULINDER DOOAB, in India, XIII 17
 Julis, genus of fishes, XII 267
 JULIUS I (Pope), XIII 18
 —II (Pope), XIII 18; XVII 64.
 —III (Pope), XIII 18.
 —, martyr, II 4.
 July, VI 77—gardening calendar for, XI
 759.
 JUMBASTER, town in Hindustan, XIII
 19.
 JUMILLA, Spanish town, XIII 19
 JUMNA, river, XIII 19; XI 448, 450; X
 400; XVII 647.
 Jumper, for boring rocks, IV 755
 JUNAAGUR, town in Hindustan, XIII 19.
 Juncaceae, nat. ord. of plants, V 213.
 Juncaginaceae, nat. ord. of plants, V 214.
 June, gardening calendar for, XI 759
 Jung Bahadur, XVI 149, 314, 815
 Juncaginaceae, sub-order of plants,
 V 217.
 JUNGFRAU, Swiss mountain, XIII 19,
 XXI 504—height of, XVII 642.
 Jungle cock, XVI 789.
 JUNIEN (St), French town, XIII 19
 JUNIPER, XIII 19; V 209—oil of, XVI
 496
 JUNIUS (Franciscus), XIII 19.
 —(Hadrian), on the invention of
 printing, XVIII 524
 —, Letters of, XIII 20, 754; X 285,
 286; XI 59—in the public advertiser,
 XVI 185.
 Junkerte, mineral, XV 100

JUN—JUS

- JUNKSEYLOX, island, XIII 20
 JUNO, Roman divinity, XIII 20
 —, planet, IV 68; III 808
 Junot (Marshal), V 603, X 189, 149—
 anecdote of, XV 783, *n*—his invasion
 of Portugal, XVIII 887—Spain, XXI
 820, 821
 JUPITER, Roman deity, XIII 20—Phidias'
 statue of, XVII 508
 —Ammon, II 718, 724—temple of,
 XVI 897—Alexander the Great's visit
 to, XIII 768.
 —stator, temple of, III 474, 475.
 —, planet, IV 69, 91—belts of, IV
 69—inequalities of, III 812, I 815—
 variations in its orbit, IV 107—periods
 of revolution, I 816
 —(satellites of), III. 800, 813, IV
 70, 73, 75—discovery of four by Galileo,
 I 607; III 800—theory of their mo-
 tions, I 785—Laplace's theory, 785,
 815—their disturbances by action on
 one another, IV. 103—Lagrange on,
 XIII 152, 156—mode of finding the
 longitude by their eclipses, 688
 Jupon, XI 322
 JURA, island, XIII 20, XI 278—whirl-
 pool of Coryvreckan, near, VII 422
 —, department of France, XIII 20
 —MOUNTAINS, XIII 21; XX 887;
 XXI 581
 JURASSIC period, in geology, XV 206—in
 Russia, XIX. 517—fishes of, XII 848,
 849, 350, 352
 JURIEU (Pierre) XIII 21—his quarrel
 with Bayle, IV 523
 Jurn (Dr) his theory of capillary action,
 VI 212
 Jurne (Louis) his works on insects, IX
 12—on the circulation of the blood in
 crustaceans, XV 356
 JURSPUDENCE, XIII 274, 267—Bacon on,
 I 36—Grotius on, 86—origin of the
 law of nature and the law of nations,
 89—opinions of different philosophers,
 90, and *n*—good effects of the alliance
 between the law of nature and the law of
 nations, ib—*a* third and distinct idea of,
 sanctioned by Adam Smith, 91—abstract
 code of laws unphilosophical, 93—rea-
 sons why the Roman law should be
 taken as a standard, ib—Bentham's
 writings on, 394—and legislation, dif-
 ferent senses in which the words are
 used, XIII 267—what belongs to it in
 common with moral philosophy, XV
 587, I. 400—Norwegian, XVI 380—
 medical, XIV. 422, 468. See Law,
 Medical Jurisprudence
 JURY TRIAL, XIII 22—trial of civil
 causes by, in Scotland, II 127—in Eng-
 land, VIII 787—in France, X 282—
 application of the theory of probability
 to the decisions of juries, XVIII 609—
 Smellie on, XX 337
 Jus maris, XII 53—jus naturale, XIII
 265
 JUSSEU (A. Laurent de), XIII 25—his
 classification of plants, V 179
 —(Bernard de), on the wax of flowers,
 IV. 572—on mesmerism, XX 419, 420,
 421.
 Justice—circumstances which distinguish
 it from other virtues, I. 87—the rules
 of, not enumerated by ancient moralists,
 ib—origin of the sense of, 883—Aristo-
 tle on, III 562—duty of observing,
 XV. 567—one of the ends of govern-
 ment, X 732—an attribute of God,
 XXI 192. See Ethical Philosophy,
 Virtue.
 —CLERK of Scotland, XIII 26
 —, College of, VII. 114; VIII 895.
 —, Courts of, in England, VIII 785
 —France, X. 281.
 —General (the Lord), XIX 810
 —OF THE PEACE, XIII 26; XVIII
 191
 JUSTICIAR, or Justice-General, XIII 27,
 XIX 810
 Justiciary, Court of, in Scotland, XIX
 810.
 Justification, in theology, XXI. 218.

JUS—KAM

- JUSTIN MARTYR, XIII 27; IX 491.
 Justina, II 663, 664
 JUSTINIAN I (Flavius Amicus), XIII 28,
 VII 312, 813—aqueduct of, III 835—
 his buildings in Jerusalem, XII 784—
 Egypt under, VIII 474—his code, VI
 745, VII 52; XVIII. 565—his treat-
 ment of Behsarus, IV. 627
 —II (Rhinotmetus), XIII 28, VII.
 313
 JUSTINUS, Latin historian, XIII 29
 —I, emperor of the East, XIII 29;
 VII 312.
 —II emperor of the East, XIII 29.
 Jute, or jute hemp, V 185
 JUTERBOCK, Prussian city, XIII 30
 Jutha, or Hutha, quadruped peculiar to
 Cuba, VII 565
 Jutland, VII 746
 JUVENALIS (Decimus Junius), satirist,
 XIII 30—poetry of, XVIII. 105—Gif-
 ford's translation, X 622—Dussault's
 French translation, XVII 269.
 Juxon, Bishop, V 412.

K

- K, letter of the alphabet, XIII 31—in
 abbreviations, II. 19
 Kaaba of Mecca, VI 44; XIV. 878, 879.
 Kabbala See Cabbala
 Kabyles, African people, II 219, 566
 Kacho, VI 49.
 Kady, oriental judge, III 851.
 Kadyak, island, II 465; XIII 129
 KAEMPFER (Engelbert), XIII 31—on
 Japan, XII. 688, 689 *et seq*—on the
 Japanese and Chinese gods, VII. 716,
 717
 KAFFA, or Caffa, XIII 31; IV. 744; VII
 505.
 Kafir or Kaffir, XIII 32 See Caffres.
 KAFIRISTAN, XIII 37
 Káfoor, king of Egypt, VIII 477
 KAFURIA, XIII 32
 Kahlamba mountains, in Natal, XV. 802,
 803.
 Kahoelawe, island, XVIII 270
 Kads on sheep, II. 349
 Kanechos, Egyptian king, VIII. 454
 Karlas mountains, XI 441
 Kaimacani, VI 60
 Kain (M le), his proposal for testing the
 merits of dramatic pieces, XXI 172.
 Kainozoic epoch, in geology, XV 195
 KAIRA, in Hindustan, XIII 37.
 KAIBAWAN, in Tunis, XIII 37.
 KAISARIYEH or Kaisariah, in Asia Minor,
 XIII 37.
 Kaiserburg, palace, XXI 583.
 KAISERSLAUTERN, XIII 37.
 Kakodyle, VI 518.
 Kakoxene, mineral, XV. 101.
 Kakundy, African river, XVI 393.
 Kalabeshe, temple of, XVI 349.
 KALAMATKA, Hungarian dance, XIII 37.
 KALBE, Prussian town, XIII 37
 Kale, culture of, XI 737—sea-kale, 742.
 KALEIDOSCOPE, XIII, 37; XVI 556.
 KALENDS, or Calends, XIII 40; VI. 76.
 KALISZ, or Kalisz, Polish city, XIII 40
 Kal-yug, era of, VI 676.
 KALLIBENJUR, XIII 40. See Callinger.
 Kalmar, in Sweden, VI 104
 Kalmucks, or Calmucs—skull of, III 29.
 KALOOSA, Hungarian town, XIII 40.
 Kaltenbach (J H), his work on insects,
 IX 22.
 KALUGA, in Russia, XIII 40; XIX. 521.
 Kaluschi, II. 680
 KAMA, river, XIII 40.
 Kames (Lord) See Home (Henry)
 Kamichi, bird, XVI 807.
 KAMINETZ, town in Russian Poland,
 XIII 40—government of, XIX. 621
 KAMIS, in Japanese mythology, VI. 131.
 KAMISHIN, Russian town, XIII 40.
 Kammerente, mineral, XV 80.
 Kampylite, mineral, XV. 106
 KAMTSCHATKA, XIII 40, XIX. 521—
 height of mountains, XVII 648, 644

KAM—KAR

- Kamtz, his isobarometric lines, XIV. 664
 —on meteorology, 649 *et seq*
 KANAWHA, river, XIII 41
 KANDAHAR, XIII 41 See Candahar
 Kandake, VI 168
 Kandian country, VI 996
 KANDY, city in Ceylon, XIII 41, VI 391,
 398
 Kane (Dr), his northern voyage in 1858,
 XI 40, 41, XVIII 175—raised beach
 described by, XVII 585—on the source
 of the Mary Minturn river, 576, *n*—an
 extreme temperature recorded by, 613
 —(Sir Robert), on the fall of rain in
 Ireland, XII 504—on gold in Ireland,
 506—on the inland navigation of Leir-
 trum, XIII 329
 Kanelstein, XV 85.
 Kangaroo, XIV 176; IV. 260; XXI 31—
 teeth of, XVI 483—homologies of the
 teeth of, 484—its organs of voice, III.
 101—stomach, 108—fossil, XVII 174,
 175, 688
 —rats, XIV. 176—dentation of,
 XVI 449
 —ISLAND, XIII 41, IV 293
 Kangra Valley, in the Punjab, XVIII, 687
 KANGRAH, fort in the Punjab, XIII 41
 KANO, town in Houssa, XIII 41; XI.
 777, II 229; XIX 565
 KANOGA, in Hindustan, XIII 41
 KANSAS, XIII 41; XXI 419—river, XIII.
 42, XV 281.
 —Nebraska Act of the United States,
 XXI 442
 Kanstatt, mineral springs of, XXI 938.
 KANSUI, in China, XIII 48.
 KANT (Immanuel), XIII 43; XI. 282—
 his critique of pure reason, and the
 idea he annexed to the title, I 189—
 outline of the doctrines in that work,
 XIII 46—Madame de Staël's notice of
 it, I 190—apparent identity of his doc-
 trine with that of Cudworth, 43, *n* 2,
 191, *n* 1, 194, 195—on Hume's theory of
 causation, 193—his claims to originality
 ill founded, 194—on general ideas not
 derived from experience, 279—on time
 and space, 195, 280, 281—his argument
 for free will, 196—his principle called
practical reason, 107, 429—Remhold on
 his doctrines, and the impression pro-
 duced by them, 198—Prevost on, 199—
 decline of his system, ib—schools that
 have emanated from his, 200—its op-
 ponents, 201—evils resulting from his
 writings, 283—his definition of logic,
 XIII. 671 *n*—his ethical system framed
 for the purpose of guarding certain
 principles not sufficiently clear or well
 founded, I 428—the performance of
 duty regarded by him as the chief end
 of man, ib—on our *a priori* principles
 of knowledge, XI. 282—his rejection of
 experience as a source of knowledge,
 284—on universal history, 644—his
 house and tomb, XIII. 129—his cate-
 gories or forms of thought, XIV 586,
 and *n*—his four forms of judgment,
 592, *n* 2—on syllogisms, 593, *n* 2
 —critical philosophy of, 606—on meta-
 physics, 616, *n* 2 *et seq*—on moral obli-
 gations, XV. 563—his practical rule of
 virtue, 564—his classification of duties,
 565—duty to God, 570—his definition
 of happiness, 572—goodness and hap-
 piness distinct, 574—on the character
 of rational psychology, XIV 604, *n* 3—
 on the antinomies of pure reason,
 618—his notion of beauty, 623, *n* 9
 —his use of the word *reason*, XVIII.
 815—Jacobi on, XII 668—on the moral
 proof of the existence of God, XXI. 187;
 on the proof from design, 188
 KANTEMIR, XIII 52, XIX 547.
 KANTURK, town in Cork, XIII 62
 Kaolin, porcelain clay, XV. 83, VI 393;
 XIII 489; XVIII 439
 Kapnite, mineral, XV. 100.
 Kara, sea of, XIX 516
 Karachi, town in Oudh, XX. 805.
 Karates, or Carates, VI 223; VII. 504,
 505.

KAR—KEB

KARAK, island, XIII 52.
 Kara-kerman, IV 742.
 Karakorum mountains, XI 441.
 KARAMANIA, XIII 52. See Caramania.
 KARANSIN (N. Mikhaelovitch), historian, XIII 52; XIX 547.
 Karasubazar, in the Crimea, VII 505.
 Karens, Indian race, XXI 151, 152.
 KARICAL, town in Hindustan, XIII 52.
 Karim Khan, XVII 440, 441.
 Karlsbad. See Carlsbad.
 Karlstadt. See Carlsbad.
 Karmatees, their invasion of Egypt, VII 477.
 Karmot, fish, XII 260.
 KARN (el), lake, VIII 429, 503.
 KARN'AK, XIII 52, VIII 507. See Carnac (Temple of).
 KARNATA, XIII 52.
 KARNOV, Austrian town, XII 670.
 KARNTEN, XIII 52.
 Karpholite, mineral, XV 73.
 Karposidente, mineral, XV 101.
 Karrakorum, III 753.
 KARS, town in Asiatic Turkey, XIII 52—General Williams' defence of, 53; XIX 511.
 Karslake's aids to the study of Logic, XIII 577.
 Karstenite, mineral, XV 96.
 KÄRÜN, Persian river, XVII 420.
 KASAN, XIII 58; XIX 521—university of, XIX 532; XXI 493.
 KASCHAU, Hungarian city, XIII 54.
 KASHAN, VI 212, n.
 KASHGAR, or Cashgar, XIII 54.
 Kashna, XI 778.
 Kashrood, river, II 202.
 Kaskaskia, in Illinois, XII 362, 363.
 KASMARK, in Hungary, XIII 54.
 KASSIMOW, Russian city, XVII 54.
 KASTAMOUNI, town in Anatolia, XIII 54.
 Kastoi, mineral, XV 72.
 Kat, river settlement, XIII 84.
 Katagum, XI 776, 777.
 Kater (Captain Henry), I 852—his pendulum, 776, 852—his collimator, 852, VII 127—his hygrometer, XII 186—on the method of making artificial magnets, XIV 77—on the needle, 78—his azimuth-compass, 79—his pendulum observations, IX 573; XXI 800, 801.
 Katharine (St) docks, London, XIII 661.
 Kathetometer, XX 560.
 KATRINE (Loch), XIII 54; XVII 456, XIX 794—its temperature at different depths, VI 777—water for the supply of Glasgow from, X 649.
 Katsena, province of Houssa, XI 776.
 KATTYWAR, in Hindustan, XIII 54.
 Kauai, island, XVIII 270.
 Kaung-hee, Chinese dictionary of, VI 577, 578—antedote of, VI 595.
 Kaup (Dr), on fishes, XII 230, 233 et seq., 338—on the teeth of animals, XVI 472, 483—on fossil cervidae, XVII 170.
 Kaun, or Cowdee pine, XVII 629; V 209; XVI 233—as timber, XXI 275.
 KAVALA, Turkish town, XIII 55.
 Kawaia, African river, II 214. See Niger.
 Kay (John) physician, XIV 460. See Caus.
 Kays (Dr), on the miracles of the early Christians, VI 688.
 —(John), of Bury, his invention of the fly shuttle, VII 441; XX 508.
 KAYNS, Asiatic tribe, XIII 55.
 KAZEROON, Persian town, XIII 55.
 Kazmosy (Francis), XII 19.
 Kea, lough, XIX 420.
 KEAN (Edmund), tragedian, XIII 55; XXI 176.
 —(Charles), his management of Drury Lane Theatre, XXI 174.
 Keane (Sir John), V 667—Ghana stormed by, X 608.
 KEATS (John), XIII 55—poetry of, XVIII 127; Jeffrey's opinion of, XII 717.
 Keays (Christopher), on the produce of the Irish salmon fisheries, IX 624, 625.
 Kebbi, in Houssa, XI 777.
 Kebles' Christian Year, XII 189.

KEC—KEM

Kecho, VI 49.
 KEDARNATH, in Hindustan, XIII 57.
 Kedje anchor, III 116.
 KEDGEREE, town in Bengal, XIII 57.
 KEDINE, in Beloochistan, XIII 57.
 Kedleston Park, VII 754.
 —, sulphurous spring at, VII 755.
 Kedous, river, XI 353.
 Kedron, river, XVII 188. See Kidron.
 Keel, of ships, XX 185—of iron ships, 194—launching on the, 205.
 Keel-birds, XVI 779.
 KEELING, islands, XIII 57.
 Keelson, XX 194.
 Keelwa, in Zaquebar, XVIII 735.
 Keene's marble cement, XX 715.
 Keep of a castle, VI 327.
 Keeyeff, Russian government, XIX 521.
 Keeri, lake, XIX 549.
 KEFEL, village of Irak Arabi, XIII 57.
 KEHL, town in Baden, XIII 57.
 KEIGHTLEY, town in Yorkshire, XIII 57—its worsted manufactures, XXI 918, 958.
 Keightley (Thos.), on the date of Spenser's birth, XX 505, n.
 Keilhaute, mineral, XV 91.
 Keill (John), on Newton's claim to be regarded as the inventor of the calculus, IX 672—his challenge to John Bernoulli, IX 675.
 Keinton, battle of, V 403.
 Keir (Sir William), his expedition against Rao Bharmuljee, VII 599.
 Keir's hydrostatic lamp, XIII 171.
 KEITH, town in Banffshire, XIII 58.
 —(Bishop), his history of affairs in Scotland, XXI 897.
 —(J. F. E.), field-marshal, XVIII 661—game invented by, VI 538.
 —(Dr), his photographic process, XVIII 549.
 Keith's siphon barometer, IV 461.
 Kelaart's *Flora Calpensia*, X 619.
 Kelenonesians, in ethnology, IX 347.
 KELAT, city of Asia, XIII 58, IV 640, 641.
 —valley in Persia, XIII 58.
 Kelch, his work on insects, IX 23.
 Kelland (Prof.), on waves, I 889; XII 76—his theory of heat, I 952.
 KELLERMAN (François-Christophe), Duke of Valmy, XIII 58; V 674; X 70, 119, and n.
 Kellet (Capt.), X 474; XVIII 172.
 Kellgren, Swedish poet, XIX 698.
 Kella, genus of mollusks, V 350—fossil, XVII 107.
 Kellie (Dr), on the amount of fluids in the cranium, XVII 698.
 KELLS, Irish town, XIII 59; XIV 877.
 Kelly (Sir Fitzroy), on bribery, V 842—on the reduction of the statute law, XIII 273, n.
 —(William), his machinery for mule spinning, VII 445.
 —(John), on the carboniferous rocks of Ireland, XV 200.
 Kellystown, VI 240.
 KEMP, XIII 59—manufacture of, X 661, 662; in Orkney, XVI 721—Shetland XX 114—Hebrides, XI 279—jodine obtained from, VI 499—its use in glass-making, X 661.
 Kelpies, I 464.
 KERSO, XIII 59—burnt by the English in 1642, XI 781.
 Kells, spawned salmon, IX 590, 616, XII 239.
 —IX 351. See Celts.
 Kelvin aqueduct, III 338.
 KEMAON, in Hindustan, XIII 59—height of mountains, XVII 643—geology of, XI 443.
 KEMBLE (John Philip), tragedian, XIII 60, 65, XXI 174, 176—his burial place, XIII 250.
 —(T. M.), his contributions to philology, XVII 528.
 Kemp (Edward), on architectural gardening, XVII 774.
 Kempelen (M. de), his automaton chess-player, XII 188.

KEM—KER

Kempenfelt (Admiral), V 501.
 KEMPIS (Thomas à), XIII 61, XI 590.
 KEMPTEN, town of Bavaria, XIII 62.
 KEN (Thomas), bishop, XIII 62.
 KENDAL, XIII 62; XXI 843—group of rocks, XV 193.
 KENEH, in Upper Egypt, XIII 62, VIII 506.
 KENILWORTH, XIII 62.
 KENMARE, Irish town, XIII 63.
 —river, VII 372, XIII 73.
 KENMORE, in Perthshire, XIII 63.
 Kennard (T. W.), his design for the Crumlin viaduct, XII 597.
 Kennebec, river in Maine, XIV 98.
 Kennedy (Col. Vans), on the origin of languages, II 616—on the Celtic language, VI 366.
 —(Mr), his discoveries in Australia, IV 257.
 —(Walter), his "Flying" with Dunbar, VIII 250.
 —(Bishop), XIX 759, 760—St Salvatore's College, St Andrews, founded by, XXI 473.
 Kennel management, XI 768, XII 37.
 KENNEDY, river, XIII 63.
 —(White), bishop, XIII 63—his account of Hobbes, XI 551.
 Kenneth Macalpine, XIX 744.
 —Scottish kings so named, XIX 749.
 KENNICOTT (Benjamin), XIII 63—on the Pentateuch, IV 696—his edition of the Hebrew Bible, 697, XIX 835.
 Kennington Park, XIII 668.
 Kensington, XIII 660—palace, 668, South Kensington museums, XXI 324.
 KENT, XIII 64—garden seeds grown in, II 337—its hops, 333; V 324—its orchards, II 337—population and value of property, VIII 754—disturbances there in 1830, V 659—inheritance of land in, XVIII 510—wool of, XXI 911, 912—paper making in, XVII 259.
 —(WILLIAM), landscape-gardener, XIII 68.
 —in Rhode island, XIX 147.
 Kentgern, III 721, X 645.
 Kentish rag, fossils of, XVII 93—as a building stone, XX 712.
 Kent's Grammar of Heraldry, XI 839, n.
 KENTUCKY, XIII 60, XXI 419—debt of, 428—wines, 888.
 —Coffee tree, XVII 763.
 Kenworthy and Bullough's power looms, XXI 739.
 KENTON (Lloyd, Lord), XIII 70.
 KEPNER (John), XIII 71, I 604—on the formation of a new star, 842—his tract on stereometry, 554—introduced the idea of infinitely great and infinitely small quantities in geometry, Ib—on circles, Ib—on inertia and motion, 600—was the first to analyse the structure of the eye, 625—his telescope, II 87; XVI 529—his astronomical discoveries, I 579, 488 et seq., III 799—his problem to determine the sun's place in its orbit, IV 19—transit of Mercury predicted by, I 611—his three laws, 579, IV 60; III 799—on attraction, I 674, IV 220—on the cometary orbits, VII 107—on the mensuration of round solids, IX 670—on geometry, X 505—on light, XIII 449—his *Dioptrics*, I 627—his obligations to Tycho Brahe, V 286—on logarithms, XIII 559—on ice crystals, VII 103—on optics, XVI 529—telescopes improved by, XXI 118—on the tides, 250.
 Keppel (Admiral), V 465, 484, VIII 261—his engagement with the French fleet, V 485—his dispute with Sir Hugh Palliser, 486—his trial and acquittal, 487—his resignation, Ib.
 Kerasan. See Keresoon.
 Kerate, mineral, XV 107.
 KERBELA, city in Asiatic Turkey, XIII 71, XIV 546.
 Kerckringus, anatomist, II 763.
 KERESOON, Turkish port, VIII 71.
 KERGUENEN LAND, XIII 71; IV 268—plants of, XVII 629.

KER—KHO

Keris, genus of fishes, XII 304.
 Kerka, river, VII 627.
 KERROOK, Turkish town, XIII 71.
 KERMAN or Kirman, XIII 71.
 KERMANSHAW, in Persia, XIII 71.
 KERMES, insect, XIII 71, IX 172—its use in dyeing, VIII 284—in Greece, XI 16—mineral, XV 122.
 Kernell (T. E.) his work on insects, IX 71.
 Kerrels, or lymphatic glands, II 806—of seeds, V 140.
 Kerolite, mineral, XV 84.
 Kerona, genus of animalcules, III 203.
 KEROWLEN, town in Hindustan, XIII 71.
 KERRY, Irish county, XIII 72, XII 515, 517—effects of the cottage system in, VII 481.
 Kersanton rock, XV 135.
 Kessseboom (William), on the rate of mortality in Holland, XV 601, 631, XII 398.
 KETCH, in the Crimea, XIII 75; IV 744; VII 504, 505.
 Kestrel bird, XVI 745.
 KESWICK, XIII 75—lake, VII 578.
 KESZTHELY, Hungarian town, XIII 75.
 Ketengus, genus of fishes, XII 262.
 KETSEMET, Hungarian town, XIII 75.
 Kettle-drums, VIII 190, XV 713.
 KETTERING, in Northamptonshire, XIII 75.
 Ketton building stone, XX 712.
 Ketupa, genus of birds, XVI 746.
 Keuper, group of rocks, XV 205, X 584—fossil fishes of, XII 348.
 Keverburg (Baron de) on Belgium, IV 599, 600, 601.
 KEW, in Surrey, XIII 75—gardens at, II 430—Aiton's *Hortus Kewensis*, II 431, VIII 201.
 Kewley (Mr), his syphon for hot-houses, XI 728.
 Kew-lung-kuang, river, VII 48.
 KEXAL (Olaf), Swedish dramatist, XIX 699.
 Key. See Lock.
 Key, an apparatus in electric telegraphs, XXI 99.
 KEY ISLAND, XIII 75—in music, XV 706—seed of trees, XVII 768.
 KEY ISLANDS, XIII 76, 79.
 Keys, house of, in the Isle of Man, XIV 245.
 Key stone, III 401 et seq. See Bridge.
 KEY-WEST, island, XIII 76.
 KEYNSEAM, in Somersetshire, XIII 76.
 Khadedsha, province of Houssa, XI 776.
 KHAFALUN, town in Tibet, XIII 76.
 Kharpur, town in Oudh, XX 805.
 Khaled, III 362.
 Khalif. See Caliph.
 KHALKAS, Mongolian race, XIII 76; XV 435.
 Khamzin wind, II 216.
 Khan, title, VI 408.
 KHANDLER, in Hindustan, XIII 76—had in, XIV 659.
 KHANIA, in Candia, XIII 76; VI 172.
 Kharesmees, VIII 482.
 Khansmans, their invasion of Palestine, XVII 197.
 KHARKOV, in European Russia, XIII 70; XIX 521—university of, 491, 532, XXI 492.
 KHARTOUM or Khartum, XIII 76; XVI 268, 269, II 224, 225; XX 51.
 Khasyah mountains, XVII 598.
 KEATMANDU, XIII 76. See Catmandoo.
 Khazar, traditional Jewish kingdom, XII 777.
 Khem, Egyptian deity, VIII 436.
 KHERSON, XIII 70, XIX 521—coasts and ports of, IV 742.
 Khio. See Scio.
 Khurgues, steppe of the, III 732. See Kirghiz.
 KHIVA, XIII 77; V 759.
 KHOR, Persian town, XIII 77.
 KHOJEND, XIII 77.
 KHOKAN, XIII 77.
 KHOLOOM, XIII 77.
 KHORASAN, in Persia, XIII 78—pastoral tribes of, XVII 430.
 Khorsabad, ruins at, XVI 274, 275.

KHO—KIL

KHOSRU, or Khosrew I, king of Persia, XIII 78
 Khumarawayh, king of Egypt, VIII 476
 Khuns, Egyptian deity, VIII 486
 KHURD-ASHU, in Afghanistan, XIII 78
 Khursheed, Pascha, VIII 491
 KHUSRAU PARVIZ, king of Persia, XVII 486
 —Nushirvan, king of Persia, XVII 485
 Khusruf (Mohammed) Pasha, VIII 489
 KHUZISTAN, in Persia, XIII 78
 KHYRPOOR, town in Hindustan, XIII 79
 Ki, or Key islands, XIII 79
 KIACHTI or Kiakhita, town of Siberia, XIII 79—trade of, VI 591; XIX 551
 Kiangning Fu See Nanking
 KIANGSEE, in China, XIII 79
 KIANG-SU, in China, XIII 79
 Kid, flesh of, IX 762—kid-skin leather, XIII 105
 Kidd (John, M D) his Bridgewater treatise, V 864
 —(Mr), on the principles of reasoning, XIII 577
 KIDDERMINSTER, XIII 79
 —carpets, VI 271, XXI 918
 KIDDERFORD, XIII 79
 Kidney-bean, culture of, XI 788
 Kidneys of man, III 67—of brutes, 113—excretion from, XVII 666—worms in, XXI 974
 Kidron, XII 737 *et seq.*
 KIDWELLY, in Wales, XIII 79, VI 53
 KIEFF, Kiev or Kiow, in European Russia, XIII 79, XIX 469 *et seq.*
 KIEL, Danish sea-port, XIII 80—canal of, VII 748
 Kiessenn (F C), his work on insects, IX 17
 Kiener (L C) his work on the mollusca, V 327
 Kieser (Dr) of Jena, his system of tellurism, XX 445
 Kiesewetter, instance of fanaticism related by, IX 481
 Kiffin (William), XVII 392
 KIL, XIII 80
 Kilbagie distillery, VI 750
 KILBARCHAN, in Renfrewshire, XIII 80
 KILBURNIE, in Ayrshire, XIII 80
 Kilbrickenite, mineral, XV 119
 Kilburn Castle, ruins of, IV 830
 KILBOGGAN, XIII 80
 KILDA (St), Island, XIII 80
 KILDARE, Irish county, XIII 80; agricultural statistics of, XII 515, 517
 —Barl of, XII 474
 Kildin, island, XIII 242
 Kildrummy, castle of, II 33
 Kilhamites, methodists, IX 694
 Kilha, mouth of the Danube, VII 654; VI 749
 KILIMANDJARO, African mountain, XIII 84; II 211; X 477; XVII 600, 644
 Kilimane, XV 600
 KILKENNY, Irish county, XIII 84—coal, VII 118—agricultural statistics of, XII 515, 517—statute of, 471
 —CITY, XIII 87—taken by Cromwell, XII 484
 KILLALA, Inish town, XIII 87, XIV 870, 871
 KILLALOE, in Clare, XIII 87, VI 754
 KILLARNEY, in Ireland, XIII 88, 72, 75—lakes of, XII 505, XIII 78, 88; salmon in, IX 620
 Killas, or clay-slate, XV 245
 Killcranke, IV 751—battle of, V 441
 Killinite, mineral, XV 72
 KILMALLOCK, Inish town, XIII 88, 489—battle of, XII 477
 KILMARNOCK, in Ayrshire, XIII 88—woollen manufacturers of, IV 838—railways to, 1b
 Kilm, XVIII 80—maltster's, V 828—brick-maker's, V 845—glass-maker's, X 664
 KILOGRAMME, Kilolitre, and Kilometre, XIII 88; X 284
 Kilpatrick hills, XIX 791
 KILRENNY, in Fifehire, XIII 88
 KILRUSH, Irish town, XIII 88; VI 754, 755
 Kilsby tunnel, XVIII 760; XX 688

KIL—KIN

KILSYTH, XIII 88—battle of, V 407—coal and copper at, XX 702
 Kilwarden (Lord), V 624
 KILWINNING, town in Ayrshire, XIII 88—mason lodge, XIV 837
 KIMBOLTON, in Huntingdonshire, XIII 88
 KIMOHI (David), rabbi, XIII 88
 Kimmeridge clay, XV 208
 KINBURN, Russian fortress, XIII 89, IV 743; XIX 510
 Kincaid (Sir John), on the effects of separate confinement in prisons, XVIII 582
 KINCARDINE, in Perthshire, XIII 89
 KINCARDINESHIRE, XIII 80—agricultural statistics, XIX 796, 797, 798—population, 799
 Kinchijunga, one of the Himalayas, XI 438, 441; XVII 598, 648—its geological composition, 441
 Kindred, VII 296
 Kiné, in Egypt, VIII 506
 King, doctrine of the divine right of, V 718—coming, a prerogative of, VII 73—his precedence in the British legislature, VIII 706—list of kings who have abdicated, II 24. See Monarchy
 —George's war in the United States, XXI 484
 —(WILLIAM, D.D.), XIII 90—his work on the origin of evil, I 170
 —(Dr), principal of St Mary's Hall, Oxford, XXI 784
 —(Capin), governor of Australia, IV 271—on the specific gravity of sea-water, XVII 573
 —(Gregory), on human mortality, XV 601
 —(Sir J Dashwood), his improved breed of harners, XI 771
 —(Dr), on fossil foot-prints of reptiles, XVII 132
 King-bird, XVI 749
 Kingdoms in Europe, IX 397
 King-fishers, XVI 772 See Alcedo
 KINGHORN, in Fifeshire, XIII 93—ferry, IX 769
 Kingly office of Christ, XXI 215
 Kingo (Thomas), Danish poet, XIX 692
 King-post, in carpentry, XIX 383
 Kings-of-arms, XI 310
 King's Advocate, or Lord Advocate, II 158
 KING'S BENCH (Court of), XIII 90, VIII 785, 788
 KINGS, BOOKS OF THE, XIII 90
 Kingsborough (Lord), his work on the antiquities of Mexico, III 502, n
 KINGSBRIDGE, in Devon, XIII 93
 King's College, London, XXI 470
 —Aberdeen, XXI 478
 KING'S COUNTY, XIII 90—agricultural statistics of, XII 515, 517
 King's Cross railway station, XVIII 773; Plate
 King's Evil See Scrofula
 Kingsley (Rev. C), on the cure of stammering, XX 534
 Kingsmill, group of islands, XVIII 270
 King's Sedgemoor, measurement of a trigonometrical base on, XXI 831
 KINGSTON, in Jamaica, XIII 98; XII 680
 —in Canada, XIII 93; VI 144
 —upon-Hull, XI 794
 —UPON-THAMES, XIII 93
 —(John), on the strength of copper bolts, XI 174
 KINGSTOWN, in county of Dublin, XIII 94, VIII 214
 Kinic acid, VI 515
 Kinkajon, in zoology, XIV 155
 KINNAIRD'S HEAD, XIII 94
 Kinnerley on electricity, VIII 529—his electrical air thermometer, 626
 Kinniburgh (Robert), VII 686
 Kinnoull Hill, XVII 450, 457
 Kino, V 190
 KINOSS, XIII 94
 KINROSS-SHIRE, XIII 94—agricultural statistics, XIX 796, 797, 798—population, 799—Ordnance survey, XXI 888

KIN—KIT

KINSALE, Inish town, XIII 95—harbour, VII 371—taken by William III 490
 KINTORE, in Aberdeenshire, XIII 95, II 84
 KINTYRE or Cantyre, XIII 95, VI 202
 KIOGA, town in Denmark, XIII 95
 KIOLÉN, or Kjölen mountains, XIII 95, XVI 820
 KIONG-TOUO, XIII 96
 Kippers, IX 616
 KIPPS (Andrew, D.D.), XIII 96—his edition of Lardner's works, 245
 Kirauea, volcano, XVIII 270, 271
 Kirb-roof, XIX 881, 883
 KIRBY (William), XIII 96—his works on insects, IX 11—his Bridgewater treatise, V 384—his co-operation with Mr Spence, XX 504—on the entozoa, XXI 977—on the edmi, 988, 990, 998
 —and Spence, their introduction to entomology, IX 11, XIII 96—on the number seven, III 191—on the orders of the arachnides, 370—their defence of entomology from the charge of cruelty, 177—on the insensibility of insects to pain, 1b—on the webs of spiders, 375—on Lamarck's views regarding the development of animals, 189, n—on the *aranea aquatica*, 880—on the maxillæ of insects, IX 32—on the metamorphosis of insects, 54—insect seasons, 78
 Kirohbaumer, his work on insects, IX 23
 KIRCHHEIM, in Wurtemberg, XIII 97
 KIRCHUM (Athanassius), XIII 97—on Archimedes's burning glasses, VI 4, 5—on animal magnetism, XX 415—on the speaking trumpet, XXI 360
 KIRGHIZ, Steppe of the, XIII 98, III 732
 Kulkaldy (David), his experiments on the strength of iron and steel, XX 779
 KIRKBY, XIII 101
 —Kendal, XIII 62
 —LONSDALE, XIII 101
 —Stephen, XXI 843
 —Thore, XXI 843
 KIRKCALDY, XIII 97
 —of Gange, XIX 781, 787
 KIRKCOUBBRIGHTSHIRE, XIII 98—town, 100, 101—agricultural statistics, XIX 796, 797, 798—population, 799—Ordnance survey of, XXI 332, 333
 Kuke (Colonel), V 435
 Kirk-of-Field, XIX 785—Edinburgh College built on, XXI 481
 Kirkdale cave, fossil bones in, XVII 639
 KIRKHAM, XIII 101
 KIRKINTILLOCH, XIII 101; VIII 285
 KIRK-KLISE, in European Turkey, XIII 101
 KIRKOSWALD, in Ayrshire, XIII 101
 Kirkpatrick (Col.), on Nepal, XVI 142, 143 *et seq.*
 Kirk-session, XVIII 498
 KIRKWALL, in Orkney, XIII 102
 KIRKHAMPTON, in Forfarshire, XIII 102
 Kirsch-wasser, XXI 672
 KIRWAN (Richard), XIII 102—his chemical views and experiments, VI 352, 353—his method of calculating the point of perpetual congelation, 772
 Kirwante, mineral, XV 73
 KISCHNEFF or Kischenaw, in Russia, XIII 102
 KISFALUDY, two Hungarian poets, XIII 102, XII 19, 20
 KISHENAGUR, in Hindustan, XIII 102
 KISEM, island, XIII 102
 Kishon, river, XVII 188
 Kishom (Joah), XIX 795
 KISHTEWAR, in Hindustan, XIII 102
 KISHINGON, in Bavaria, XIII 103
 Kistic language, XIII 216
 KISTNAE, river, XIII 108; XI 450; XVII 647
 KIT-CAR-OLUB, XIII 108; XXI 519
 Kitchen-garden, XII 697, 737—calendar, 758
 Kites, birds, XVI 748, 744
 —electrical, VIII 527, 608
 KITTO (John), XIII 103

KIT—KNI

Kitts' (St) See Christophers' (St).
 Kitumaha language, XIII 220
 KITZINGEN, in Bavaria, XIII 104
 KIU-SIU, XIII 104, XII 688
 KIZILERMAK, river, XIII 104, XI 197
 KIZLIER, Russian town, XIII 104
 Kladova, X 641, VII 653
 KLAGENFURT, Austrian town, XIII 104
 KLAPROTH (Julius Heinrich von), onentalist, XIII 104; XVII 533, 535
 —(MARTIN HEINRICH), XII 106—on the chemical properties of the water of the Dead Sea, III 761
 KLARENZA, in the Moesa, XIII 106
 KLAUSENBURG, Austrian town, XIII 106
 KLAUSTHAL, in Hanover, XIII 106, XI 211
 Klüber (General), V 568, 574; X 119—his conduct in Egypt, VIII 489—assassinated, 1b, X 119
 Klemarts (Nicholas), VI 762
 Kleist (Edward C), his tales, XIX 293
 Kleptomania, XIV 532
 Klinecock (Dr), on the electrophorus, VIII 607
 Klingert's diving apparatus, VIII 57, 58
 Klineclase, mineral, XV 108
 KLOSTER (Friedrich Gottlieb), XIII 107; XIX 717, 718—poetry of, XVIII 119
 Klotz on the potato disease, V 172
 Kling (Francis, M D), his works on insects, IX 13
 Klinge (Prof), his work on animal magnetism, XX 425, 443
 Knapp, on the heating powers of fuel, XII 543
 KNARESBOROUGH, town in Yorkshire, XIII 107, XXI 959
 Knebellite, mineral, XV 89
 Knee, diseases of, in domestic animals, XXI 559
 Knee-pan, III 35
 Knees, in ship-building, XX 186
 KNELLER (Sir Godfrey), XIII 107—his portraits, III 714
 Kneph, Egyptian deity, VIII 435—temple of, 508
 Knife, VII 600, 601 See Cutlery
 Knife-grinders, diseases of, XIV 442
 KNIGHT (Richard Payne), XIII 107—on the Greek alphabet, II 612—his theory of beauty, IV 840, 550—on the beauty of certain pictures, 552
 —(Charles), his chronological table of Shakespeare's plays, XX 90
 —(James), expedition of discovery under, XVIII 169
 —(T A.), on the swarming of bees, IV 581—his idea that plants can be permanently continued only from seed, V 168, XI 702—on the contraction of wood, XII 816—on the propagation of plants, XI 694, 695—his portable furnace, X 357—his theory of acclimation, XI 702—on horticulture, 703, 708, 711, 719—on the physiology of trees, XXI 207—on the sap of trees, 268
 —(Dr Gowing), his method of making artificial magnets, XIV 68—his paste magnets, 73—his magnet, XXI 646
 —(Mrs), actress, XXI 174
 —Banneret, VI 621—knight bachelor, 620
 Knight-errantry, origin of, VII 536
 KNIGHTHOOD, XIII 108—how conferred, VI 615—arms and privileges of, 616—different orders of, 619—degradation from, 623, VII 699—use of the various orders of, XVII 196—Portuguese orders of, XVIII 895—Russian, XIX 524 See Chivalry, Knights
 KNIGHTON, town in Radnorshire, XIII 108
 KNIGHTS and KNIGHTHOOD, XIII 108
 —of the Bath, IV 498, XI 340
 —of the Garter, X 407; XI 840—of Malta, XIV 114—Teutonic knights, XVIII 648—of the Thistle, XXI 228. See Knighthood
 Knittel, his publication of Ulphilas's translation of the Epistle to the Romans, XVII 209

KNO—KOL

Knock (J. W.), his work on insects, IX 10
Knockmahon, Copper-mine of, XXI 769
Knockmaldon mountains, XXI 285, 768
Knolles (Richard), XIII 123.
Knoring (Baroness), Swedish novelist, XIX 702
Knot, on a log-line, XIII 551; XVI 11—bend knot, XIX 90.
Knot bud, XVI 804.
Knotwort, order of plants, V 193
Knout, or knoot, use of abolished in Russia, XIX 525
Knowledge, division of the objects of, by Bacon, D'Alembert, and Locke, I 1, 3, 8—causes which combined to accelerate its progress after the revival of letters, 16, 19—its diffusion has improved the science of government, 24—its progress favoured by the Crusades, VII 538—what is implied in, I 477—two kinds of, yielded by consciousness, XIX 111—Plato's views on, XVII 804—of God, sources of, XXI 185
Knowles (Admiral), his quarrel with Smollet, XX 382
—(Sir Robert), VI 618; XIII 113.
—(Mr), on fastenings in ship-building, XVI 97—on ships in ordinary, 99—on preserving timber, 99—on the larch plantations of the Duke of Atholl, XXI 275, 276
Knox (John), XIII 133; XIX 778 *et seq*—Dr M'Crie's life of, XIII 758—his liturgy, XII 516—birthplace, XI 176, 178—established the doctrine of predestination in Scotland, XVIII 479.
—(Dr) on the herring, XIV 235—on a species of whale, XIV 236—on the ova of echinoderms, XXI 994.
—(Mr), of Belfast, on the colours of double plates, VI 647, XVI 621.
Knockville, in Tennessee, XXI 156.
Knutsford, town in Cheshire, XIII 129
Koala, marsupial animal, XIV 177—denotation of, XVI 449.
Kobalteschlag, mineral, XV 104.
Kobell (von), his scale of fusibility in minerals, XV 68
Kobellite, mineral, XV 130.
Koch (C. L.), his work on insects, IX 24
—(Gabriel), his work on insects, IX 24
Kochanowski (John and Peter), Polish poets, XVIII 159.
Kochlin (J.), his work on insects, IX 15
Kook (Paul de), his novels, XIX 289
KODIAK, island, XIII 129. See Kadyak.
Kochlin's turbine wheel, XII 171.
Koolin mountains, XIII 934. See Koolin.
Koleuterna paniculata, XVII 762.
Koenig on bees' cells, IV 578.
Koeperstein (Wolfgang Fabricius). See Capito
Koerner (Theodore), his poetry, XVIII 119.
Koh See Hindu Coosh
Kohat, in the Punjab, XVIII 687.
Koh-i-noor, diamond, VIII 3, 4.
Kohl-Rabi, culture of, II 821; XI 737.
Kohl's description of a Russian bath, IV 506
Kokum, or Cokum oil, XVI 496
Kola, in Russian Lapland, XIII 242, 243—destroyed by an English squadron, XIX 507.
Kolenat (F. A.), his work on insects, IX 22.
Kollin, battle of, XVIII 653.
Kolnaki sable, X 348.
Kolk (Vander), on morbid growths, XVII 696
Kollar (Vincent), his works on insects, IX 17.
—(G. G.), his work on insects, IX 18.
Kolle (Mr), on the African languages, XIII 227.
Kolliker (Dr A.), his work on microscopical anatomy, II 770—on the cylinder axis, 810—on the nerves, 812—on muscular filament, 821—on the cuttle-fish, XV 402.
Kollyrite, mineral, XV 84.
Kolobeng, in Africa, II 211.

KOL—KRA

KOLOMNA, Russian town, XIII 129
Kologhies, people in Algeria, II 560
Kolpoda, genus of animalcules, III 201
Kolreuter on the pollen of flowers, V 154
Koturi. See Salamis
Kolish language, XIII 220
KOMORN, Hungarian city, XIII 129
KONGSBERG, town in Norway, XIII 129
—silver mines of, XV 236, XVI 822, VI 778
KONIAH, city in Asia Minor, XIII 129; XII 856
KONIGGRATZ, town in Bohemia, XIII 129.
KONIGSBERG, in Prussia, XIII 129—observatory of, III 819—university of, XVIII 648, 673, XXI 492—climate, XVIII 662—railway, 670
Kongsmarck (Count), siege of Athens by, IV 173
Konig's printing-machine, XVIII 558
KONIGSTEIN, in Saxony, XIII 130, XIX 684.
Koninckia, fossil mollusks, XVII 104
Konlite, mineral, XV 125.
Kookies, XI 467.
KOOM, Persian town, XIII 180
KOONDOOZ, in Turkistan, XIII 130
Koordistan, XIII 135
Koorak, in Russia, XIX 521.
Koosum, oil, XVI 495
Kootais, in Russia, XIX 521.
KORABIS (Diamantes), XIII 130
Korah, sons of, XVIII 679
—in Hindustan, VII 363.
Koran, XV 302—Maracan's edition of, XIV 814; XV 303—Sales', II 456, XV 303—character of, I 491. See Alcoran
KORDOFAN, in Africa, XIII 131; II 225
Koreish, Arab tribe, III 348, 351—Koran written in the dialect of, II 454.
Koraks, XIII 41—language, 217.
KORNER (Theodor), XIII 131.
Koron, in Messenia, VII 410
KOROTSCH, Russian town, XIII 131.
Korusko, desert of, XVI 268.
KOSCRUSCO (Thaddeus), XIII 131; V 543, XVIII 151, XIX 487
KOSFELD, Prussian town, XIII 132
KOSLIN, Prussian town, XIII 132.
Kosloff. See Kozloos
Kossacks. See Cossacs.
Kossuth (Louis), provisional governor of Hungary, IV 308; XII 25—as a journalist, 20, 23—his proposal to dethrone the Hapsburg dynasty, 24—finds refuge in Turkey, XXI 374.
Kostendje, XIII 137
KOSTER (Laurence), XIII 132, IV 706, 707; XVIII 524
KOSTROMA, in European Russia, XIII 132; XIX 521.
KOSZEG, Hungarian town, XIII 133
KOTA, in Hindustan, XIII 133—sepoys' insurrection at, XVI 311
KOTHEB, German town, XIII 133.
Kotbol, island, XVII 568.
Koties, Indian tribe, XI 467.
Kotigite, mineral, XV 104
Kotline, island, VII 517; XIX 552.
KOTTEB, Prussian town, XIII 133.
KOTZEBUS (A. F. Ferdinand von), XIII 133, VII 167, 168—the Emperor Paul's challenge translated by, XIX 489.
—(Laut.) his voyage of discovery, XVIII 170—his visit to Guahan, 269.
Kouban, IV 745.
Kouenlin mountains, XI 436 n. 2 *et seq*; XVII 598.
KODLI-KHAN, XIII 134. See Nadir Shah.
Koupholite, mineral, XV 73
KOURLAND, or Courland, Russian province, XIII 134; XIX 521.
KOUTSK, in European Russia, XIII 134
Kouyunjuk, ruins at, XVI 273, 274, 275.
Kovno, Russian province, XIII 521.
Kowala, genus of fishes, XII 287.
Kow-bird, XVI 778
Kozlov, or Kozlov, XIII 135; IV 743; VII 605. See Eupatoma.
Kozzacks. See Cossacks.
Krablute, mineral, XV 70.
Krafft (Prof.), his experiments on the

KRA—KYA

reflection of cold, VII 100—on the Baltic, IV 408—on magnetism, XIV 7
—on mortality at Petersburg, XV 605
Krafft, island. See Saghalien
KRAIN, or Carniola, XIII 135, IV 311
Kramericaceae, nat. ord. of plants, V 183
KRANTZ (Albert), XIII 135
Krapacks. See Carpathian mountains
KRASNOE, XIII 135, X 159
KRASNOE-SELO, XIII 135
KRASNOE-YARSK, in Siberia, XIII 135.
Kratzenstein on evaporation, IX 407—on fogs, XIV 654
Krause, his handbook of anatomy, II 769
—on the dimensions of the organs of the human body, III 3
Kray (General), X 117
Kreatine, IX 757
Kreil (Dr), on the moon's influence on the magnetic needle, XIV 19
Kreitnitzer, mineral, XV 87
KREMENTZSCH, Russian town, XIII 135
Kremlin, XV 654.
KREMENTZ, town in Hungary, XIII 135
KREMS, in Lower Austria, XIII 135.
Krentzin (Captn.), voyage of, II 494
KREUTZ, in Bavaria, XIII 135
KREUTZNACH, Prussian town, XIII 135—springs rich in bromides, VI 469
Kris, eastern dagger, XII 706; XX 805
Krisnah, XIII 103
Krohnus, genus of fishes, XII 804
Krokoti, mineral, XV 106
Krokydolite, mineral, XV 82
KRONSTADT, XIII 135; VII 517
KROZOSZY, Prussian town, XIII 135.
KROUT (sour), IX 760
KRUHMORN, musical instrument, XIII 135
Krumitz on cookery, VIII 26
Krusse, novels of, XIX 293.
Krusenstem's voyage, II 465; XIX 491
Kuang-si, in China, XVIII 724
Kuang-tung, in China, XVIII 724.
KUBAN or Kuba, river, XIII 135; VI 840, 841; XIX 515.
—coast of the, IV 745
Kublai-khan, VI 561.
Kugellan (J. G.), his work on insects, IX 8
Kuhl on parrots, XVI 733
Kuhn's edition of Greek medical writers, XX 813, n. 2.
Kuka, African town, X 478
KULM, village in Bohemia, XIII 135—Vendamme defeated at, X 163
Kumaon, XIII 59. See Kemaon.
Kumbur, IV 689
Kunersdorf, battle of, XVIII 654
Kunste (G.), his work on insects, IX 12
Kupferindig, mineral, XV 118.
Kupffer on magnetism, XIV 12, 13, 23, 37, 38, 55—his isotherm lines, 664, 672—on the climate of Russia, XIX 519.
KUR, river, XIII 135; XXI 92.
KURDISTAN, XIII 135.
Kurds, XIII 136; III 779; XXI 878—their language, XIII 208
Kur-Hessen, or Hesse-Cassel, XI 302
KURILE ISLANDS, XIII 136, XIX 562.
KURNUL, in Hindustan, XIII 136.
KURRAOCHIE, in Hindustan, XIII 136—pearl fishery of, XVII 357
Kurrul oil, XVI 496
Kurtus, genus of fishes, XII 298
KUSSTER, Turkish musical instrument, XIII 137.
KUSTENDJI, in European Turkey, XIII 137.
KUSTER (Ludolf), XIII 137—his edition of Suidas, X 801.
—(H. C.), his work on insects, IX 23.
KUTSIN, Prussian town, XIII 137.
KUTAJAH, Turkish town, XIII 137.
Kutas, XIX 551.
KUTSBERG, in Bohemia, XIII 137.
Kutusof (General), X 138, 156 *et seq*.
KUPP (Albert), landscape painter, XIII 137; XVII 75.
Kwora, river. See Niger
Kyan (J. H.), his method of preserving

KYA—LAC

wood, V 173; XX 167; XXI 279—ropes, XIX 412
Kyanite, mineral, electricity of, VIII 538
Kyle, district, IV 332.
Kyloes, west highland cattle, II 842.
Kyzosite, XV 115.

L
L, letter of the alphabet, XIII 138—in abbreviations, II 19
LAALAND, island, XIII 138, VII 746
Laason bridge, in lower Silesia, XII 579
LABADIE (Jean), XIII 138—Labadists, ib.
LABARUM, Roman standard, XIII 138
Label, in architecture, III 510—in heraldry, XI 326
LABEO (C. Antistius), Roman lawyer, XIII 138.
—, genus of fishes, XII 257
Labeobarbus, genus of fishes, XII 257
LABERIUS (Decimus), Roman knight, XIII 138
Labiate, nat. order of plants, V 202—region of, 227; XVII 627
Labiate corolla, V 124
Labiatiflorae, nat. order of plants, V 197
Labridus, genus of insects, IX 194
Labillardiere (Monsieur), on the natives of New Caledonia, IV 266
LA BORDE (Jean Benjamin de), XIII 139
Labour, Coulomb on daily, VII 464—proper duration of daily labour for men and animals, XIV 417—wages of, VII 376, n.; difference of, in Manchester and Glasgow, XIV 253—the only source of wealth, XVIII 224—means of increasing its productive power, 227—combinations to raise the price of, VII 162—natural price of, XXI 47. See Wages
—(division of), VI 316; VII 429; XIV 274; XVIII 228—its effects on mental character, III 707—its advantages, VII 195—its disadvantages, 457—limited in agriculture, admits of greatest extension in manufactures, 192.
—, in prison discipline, XVIII 572, 573
Labourers and their employers, laws relating to, XIV 346—number of farm labourers in England, VII 725—agricultural labourers, health of, XIV 442—taxes on the articles consumed by labourers, XXI 49—improved condition of, 678—wages of, 679.
Labphak, ruins of, II 697.
LABRADOR, XIII 139
—, felspar, XIII 140—rock, XV 135. See Labradorite.
Labradorite, mineral, XV 71.
Labram (J. D.), his work on insects, IX 20.
Labrax, genus of fishes, XII 275—fossil, 343.
Labroides, family of fossil fishes, XII 346
Labrus, genus of fishes, XII 260—fossil, 346—section of a tooth of, XVI 411—pharyngeal bone and teeth, 421.
LA BRUYERE, XIII 141. See Bruyere.
LABUAN, Borneo island, XIII 141; V 49, 50
Laburnum, XVII 759, 762.
LABYRINTH, XIII 141—Egyptian, III 487, VIII 503—of Cnosus, VII 41—tomb of Persenna, ib.—of the ear, III 46; XVII 679.
Labyrinthibranchida, family of fishes, XII 289
Labyrinthodon, fossil reptile, XVII 137, 138; XXI 738—teeth of, XVI 412, 431; XVII 137
Labyrinthodontia, fossil reptiles, XVII 138.
LAC, XIII 141, 147; IX 173; VIII 285, 290—its use in electrical experiments, 540—lac-varnish, XII 699; XXI 526—in Siam, XX 238—in making sealing wax, XXI 779.

LAC-LAF

- LA CAITLLE, XIII 141. See Caille
 LACADRYES, islands, XIII 141; XVII 588
 LACE, XIII 142—weaving of, XXI 780—gold and silver, XIII 145—manufacture of, VII 451—at Tyverton, 764—of England, VIII 782—Ireland, XII 521—Brussels, V 700—Mechlin, XIV 418—Neuchâtel, XVI 158—Nottingham, 888
 LACE-BARK-TREE, V. 205
 LACEDÆMON, XIII 145, 147. See Sparta
 LACÉPÈDE (B G Ehenne, Comte de), XIII 145—on reptiles, XIX 16, n 2, 82—on the frog, 75—on the pike, XII 254
 Lacerta, genus of reptiles, XIX 28
 Lacerta, reptiles, teeth of, XVI 438
 Lacertilia, fossil reptiles, XVII 158—geological distribution of, 154
 Lacertinidae, family of reptiles, XIX 27
 LACHESIS, XIII 146, XVII 272
 Lachlan, river, XV 697
 LACHMANN (Karl), XIII 146, XVII 596—his edition of the New Testament, XIX 887—on Homer, XI 600, 601
 Lachnolaimus, genus of fishes, XII 287
 Lachryma Christi, wine, XXI 159, 889
 Lachrymal bone, III 22—orifices, 45—gland, 45—in brutes, 97
 LACHRYMATORY, XIII 147
 Lacistemaceæ, natural order of plants, V. 207
 LACKER or Lacquer, XIII 147, XXI 526—of Japan, XII 694—lacquering furniture, X. 356
 LA CONDAMINE, XIII 147. See Condamine
 LACONIA, XIII 147; XI 13; XX 499 *et seq*
 LACONICISM, XIII 148
 LACORDAIRE (J T), his work on insects, IX 18
 Lacquer. See Lacker
 Lacroix's differential calculus introduced at Cambridge, I 807—on Euler, V 38
 LACTANTIUS (L C Firmianus), XIII 148
 Lactanus, genus of fishes, XII 298
 Lactation, XIV 441
 Lacticals, II 808; III 62—discovery of, II 761—wanting in the invertebrata, XII 27
 LACTHO, in India, XIII 148
 Lactic acid, VI 512, 516; IX. 758
 Lactiferous vessels, in plants, V 71, 72
 Lactuca verosa, a poison, XIV 487, 488
 Lactucarium, opiate, XI. 748; XIV. 487
 Lacunar, in architecture, III. 610
 LADAK, in Asia, XIII 149
 Ladanum, V 183; XVI 121
 Ladies of the household, XI 776—of the bedchamber, *ib*—Sir Robert Peel's proposal to displace, XVII 864—orders of knighthood for, XIII. 123
 Ladikiyeh, or Latakia, XIII 246
 Ladislaus (Posthumus), XII 18
 LADOGA, Russian lake, XIII 150; IX 584, XVII 492, XIX. 516
 LADRONE ISLANDS, XIII 150; XVIII 268
 LADY, XIII 150—lady's horse, XI. 658
 Lady-bird, insect, IX 152
 LADY-DAY, XIII 150
 LÆLIUS SAPIENS (C), XIII 150
 Læmargus, sub-genus of fishes, XII 325
 Læmopoda, genus of Crustacea, VII 542
 Læna, genus of insects, IX. 132
 LÆNENRO (R T. Hyacinthe), XIII 150—stethoscope invented by, XX 694
 LESTRYGONES, fabulous giants, XIII. 151
 Laet (De), on birds, XVI 725
 LAFAYETTE (Gilbert Mottier), XIII 151; X. 51 *et seq*, 122, 196—death of, 210—his aid to the Americans, V. 438; XXI. 437—his friendship with Washington, 759—(Madame), XXI. 759—town in North America, XIII. 151
 Lafitte (M), X. 200 *et seq*, 204.

LAF-LAK

- Lafreinsage (Baron F. de), his work on insects, IX 15
 Lagamine, echinoderms, XXI 991
 Lagry, on the quadrature of the circle, I 700, XX. 523
 Lagoa dos Patos, lake in Brazil, XIX 176
 LAGO-MAGGIORE, XIII 151, 644, 810, XII 687; XIX 638; XXI 248—lands in, V 54—temperature of, VI 777
 Lagomys, genus of mammalia, XIV 188
 LAGONEGRO, in Naples, XIII 151
 LAGOON, XIII 151—on the shores of the Adriatic, 644
 Lagopus, genus of birds, XVI 791
 LAGOS, Portuguese town, XIII 151—*in* Western Africa, XIII 151
 LAGOSTA, island, XIII 151
 Lagostomus, fossil species of, XVII 173
 Lagothrix, genus of mammalia, XIV 142
 LAGRANGE (Joseph Louis), XIII 152, I 809, 810—his application of continued fractions to the solution of numerical equations, 706—on the calculus of variations, 716, 785—sketched the theory of derivative functions, 601—discussed the chief difficulties of the theory of hydrodynamics, 728—on the lunar and planetary motions, 735—his solution of the problem of disturbing forces, 736—compared with Laplace, 821—on the voluminous nature of mathematical literature, 804, n 2—his writings, 813—his private character, 814—on waves, XII. 73—on the calculus of sines, II. 555—his astronomical discoveries, III 811—on the strength of columns, VI. 250—on the orbits of comets, VII 168—on the propagation of sound, II 104—on dynamics, VIII 865—on equations, IX 289, 299, 306, 308—on fluxions, 677
 Lagria, genus of insects, IX. 138
 Lagrarias, family of insects, IX. 138
 LAGUNA, in Tenerife, XIII 157, VI 166—de Bay, lake, XIII 742
 Lagunes, XVII 588. See Lagoons
 Lahire. See Hire (Philippe de la)
 LAHORE, in Hindustan, XIII 157; V 870; XI 509; XVIII 690—railway, 689—climate, *ib*—meteoric stone in, XIV. 629—rock salt of, XI 457—captured by the Sikhs in 1756, XVIII 692
 Lacharting (N. de), his work on insects, IX. 7
 Laidlaw (William), XI. 556
 LAIGLE, French town, XIII 158
 LAING (Malcolm), historian, XIII 158—his memoirs of Dunbar, VIII 245 *et seq*
 —on Osman, XVII. 6—his character of Spotswood, XX. 618
 —(Mr), on the agriculture of Denmark, VII 747—his account of Norway, XVI 320 *et seq*
 —(Major), his travels in Africa, II 210—reaches Timbuctoo, X 477.
 —(Captain), III. 726
 Lair (Pierre-Aimé), on Cherbourg docks, V 305, 306
 Laird (Macgregor), his expedition to the Tchadda branch of the Niger, XVI 266—his iron steam-vessels, XX. 137
 Laire on early printed books, IV. 708
 LAIRRESSE (Gerard), painter, XIII 158
 Lake, (Lord), XI. 604 *et seq*—his attack on Bhurtpore, IV 698—his capture of Allyghur, II. 595—his victory at Laswarae, XIII. 246
 —OF THE THOUSAND ISLES, in North America, XIII 158
 —OF THE WOODS, in North America, XIII 159
 —pigment, VIII. 284.
 —trout, III. 156.
 Lakes, X. 438; XVII. 591—influence of the sun's rays on, VI. 777—height of, among the Alps, II. 625—their temperature at different depths, VI. 777—in landscape gardening, XVII. 772—in Scotland, XIX. 794—sea lochs in, *ib*—in Cumberland, VII. 578—of England, VIII. 716—of Europe, IX. 385—of Egypt, VIII. 428—of Canada, VI 136 *et seq*—

LAK-LAM

- salt-lakes, XVII 591—lake basins, *ib*—tepid lakes in Portugal, XVIII 393
 See the different Countries of the World
 Lakono, kung of Bary, XVI 270, 271
 LALANDE (J J Lefrançois de), XIII 159—his astronomical labours, III 806—on the sun's motion, IV 28, and spots, 80—on the diminution of the obliquity of the ecliptic, 18—his catalogue of stars, 95, I 836—spiders swallowed by, III 379—on a fall of meteoric stones, XIV. 630
 —(Leon), his work on the Lepidoptera of France, IX. 16
 Lally (Count), XI. 485
 Lama, XIV. 205. See Llama
 Lamalmon mountains, in Abyssinia, II. 55
 LAMARCK (J B P Antoine de Monnet), XIII 162—his classification of the mollusca, III 138—of animals, 175, 176—of the infusoria, 194—first made the arachnides a separate class, 367—his system, 369—on the relations between comparative organizations, 187—on the appendiculated infusoria, 202—on the eyes of the cerata, 203—on the crustacea, VII 540—his division of the annelides, XI 294—absurdity of his views regarding the development of different forms of animals, III 189, n—on the brain, XVII 560—on zoophytes, XXI 976 *et seq*—his arrangement of the echinoderms, 986
 Lamarque (General), X. 207
 Lamartine, X 197, 232—on the use of coffee in the East, VII 54—his History of the Restoration, X. 187—on the conduct of Charles X., 193—his poetry, XVIII 117
 LAMAS, Buddhist priests, XIII 163—religion of, in Ladak, 149
 LAMB (Charles), XIII 163—Talfourd's Life of, XXI 7—his criticism on Hogarth, XI 555—on Haywood, 366.
 —(Wm.), Lord Melbourne, XIII. 164—his administration, V. 664—*and* Sumner's superheating apparatus, XX 650—their patent sheet-iron boilers, 651
 LAMBALLE, French town, XIII 164.
 —(Princess de), X. 67, 69.
 Lambay, island, VIII 214, 215
 Lambdoidal surface, III 27
 LAMBERT (John), XIII 164.
 —(Daniel), VII 414
 —(JOHANN HEINRICH), XIII. 165—his character as a philosopher, I 189, and n 8—*incommensurability* of the circle first demonstrated by, 700—his treatise entitled *Photometria*, 754—on the orbit of comets, VII 168—his Theorem, *ib*, 175—his dial, 792—his *Pyrometrie*, I. 946—on breast-wheels, XII 165—on heat, I. 946; XI. 262—on magnetism, XIV. 5—on the height of the atmosphere, 719—on mortality, XV 633—on optics, XVI. 535—photometry, XVII 555—on acoustics, XXI. 360—*painter*, XVII. 79.
 Lambertini (Prosper), IV. 645.
 Lambert, XIII. 660; XX 886, 887—palace, XIII 669—founded by Baldwin, IV 394—library, XIII 395
 Lamberti's work on the organ of printing, IV 707
 LAMBORN (Chipping), town in Berks, XIII. 168
 Lambs, management of, II. 353—lambling season, 348, 352—flesh of, IX. 762—leather from the skins of, XIII 805.
 Lambton (Col.), his measurement of an arc of meridian, I 775, 853; IX. 552.
 —(Mr), his reform bill, V. 632.
 LAMEGO, Portuguese town, XIII 168.
 Lamellari, genus of Mollusks, XV. 834.
 Lamellibranchiata, class of Mollusks, XV. 340, 322—fossil, XVII 105—classification of, XV. 847—generation and development of, 854
 Lamellicornes, family of insects, IX 117.
 Lamellirostres, family of birds, XVI 815.

LAM-LAN

- LAMENNAIS (Felicité Robert), Abbe de, XIII 168
 LAMIA, town in Greece, XIII. 168
 —, genus of insects, IX 146
 Lamiaceæ, nat ord of plants, V 202
 Lamiaræ, family of insects, IX 145
 Laminated structure in volcanoes, XXI. 604
 Lamination, in rocks, XV. 154, 156, 158
 Lamias, in Arran, III. 676; VI. 27.
 LAMMAS, XIII 163
 Lammer-geyer, bird, XVI 740; II 626
 LAMMERMOOR HILLS, XIII 169, IV. 679; XI 177.
 Lamna, genus of fishes, XII 322, 324—fossil, 341—section of tooth of, XVI 411—jaw and teeth of, 422
 Lamnida, family of fishes, XII 322, 324
 Lamnodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 337
 Lamoral (Count Egmont), XI. 563, 566.
 LAMOTTE-FOUQUE (F H K, baron de), XIII 169
 LAMP, XIII 169—manufacture of, at Birmingham, IV. 732—aphlogistic, or flameless, III 294—Davy's safety-lamp, VII 124, 671. See Safety-lamps
 Argand, III 524—electrical, VIII 635—lighthouse lamps, XIII 409 *et seq*—Fresnel's mechanical lamp, 473—for microscopes, XIV. 798—lamps for railway signals, XVIII 778
 Lampa, in Peru, XVIII. 695.
 LAMPADEPHORIA, XIII 173
 Lampangs, people of Sumatra, XX 805
 Lampas, an affection in horses, XXI 564
 LAMP-BLACK, XIII 173; XII 665
 LAMPEDUSA, or Lampedosa, island, XIII. 173, V. 594; XX 240
 Lampen, fish, XII, 228
 LAMPETER, in Wales, XIII 173—College, founded by Bishop Burgess, V. 772
 Lamp-micrometer, XIV. 757.
 Lampong, in Sumatra, XX 806
 Lamprey, fish, XII 228—its respiratory organs, III 118—as food, IX 703—Dr Gray's arrangement of the Lampreys, XII 229.
 LAMPFRIDUS (Ælius), historian, XIII 173.
 Lampyrina, genus of insects, IX. 123
 Lampiris, genus of fishes, XII 299
 Lamprosoma, genus of insects, IX 149.
 Lamprotomus, genus of birds, XVI. 752.
 LAMPUSCUS, or Lamsacum, XIII. 173—coins of, XVI 874
 Lamp-shells, XV 336, 337—fossil, XVII. 103.
 Lampugus, genus of fishes, XII 298
 Lampyridae, family of insects, IX 107.
 Lampyrus, genus of insects, IX. 107—*L. noctiluca*; see Glow-worm
 Lana (F.) on aeronautics, II. 168; IX. 748
 Lanai, island, XVIII 270.
 LANARK, XIII 173—New Lanark, 174—cotton mill at, VII 215
 Lanarkite, mineral, XV. 105.
 LANARKSHIRE, XIII 174—cotton factories in, VII 451—horses of, II 338, XI. 662—iron ores of, XII 540—agricultural statistics, XIX. 796, 797, 798—population, 799
 LANCASHIRE, XIII 176; VIII 754—method of working coal, VII 121—of making butter, 623—number of mills in, XIV. 252—and power-looms, *ib*—silk mills, 254—culture of gooseberries in, XI. 718—paper-making in, XVII. 259
 LANCASTER, XIII 180—Chancellor of the Duchy of, VI 411
 —, in Pennsylvania, XIII 180.
 —, in Ohio, XIII 180
 —(SIR JAMES), XIII 180.
 —(JOSEPH), XIII. 181—his schools, XV. 822.
 —(Mr), his gun, XI. 128.
 —SOUND, XIII 181; X. 473; XVIII. 168, 171 *et seq*.

LAN—LAN

Lancaster Canal, XIX, 11, 12, XIII 180
 Lance, spear, III 685
 Lancelot, fish, XII 205, 227, 208
 Lancelotus (J. P.), Institutes of, VI 190
 Lancelote, leaf, V 90
 Lancers, British, III 665
 Lancet-arch, III 481, 510, XX 733
 Lancaster, Roman station, VIII 267
 LANCIANO, town of Naples, XIII 181
 Land, yielding no rent, XVIII 244—best lands not always first cultivated, 245—evil effects of a minute subdivision of among tenants, VII 427; and proprietors, 432—tenure of, in Egypt, VIII 428—rent of, in England, 734—land-measures, foreign, II 115—formation and reclamation of, from rivers, XVI 83—as a recipient and communicant of heat, XIV 643—in physical geography, XVII 584
 Landamman, XXI 494, 496.
 LANDAU, in Bavaria, XIII 181.
 Land-breeze, III 737.
 LANDEN (John), XIII 181—his life, writings, and contributions to mathematics, I 717, and n. 2, 3—on fluxions, IX 677.
 LANDER (Richard), XIII 181—his discovery of the termination of the Niger, X 477; XVI 266—his second African expedition, II 210—accompanies Clapperton in his second expedition, VI 753—his death, XVI 266—his account of Catrup, XI 778
 LANDERNEAU, town in France, XIII 181.
 LANDES (Les), in France, XIII 181, X 632.
 LANDGRAVE, XIII 182
 Landings, in building, V. 739—in stair-cases, XX 732
 LONDON (Letitia Elizabeth), XIII 182.
 Land-presser, II 273.
 Land-rail See Corn-crake.
 Landreches, X 87
 LANDSBERG, Prussian town, XIII 182.
 Landscape gardening, XVII 771—painting, VIII 174
 Landscapes, beauty of, IV 543
 Landskorona, battle of, XX 852
 LANDSEER (John), engraver, XIII 182
 LANDSIED, XIII 182
 LANDSHUT, town in Bavaria, XIII 182; IV 518
 Land-soles, XV 374.
 Land-tax, XXI 43 *et seq.*, 47—its disastrous influence, 44—in India, XI 514—act authorising the redemption of, V 562—in Scotland, XIX 809—in England, XXI 45—France, 47
 Lane (E. W.), his work on the modern Egyptians, VIII 444—his description of a Turkish bath, IV 506—on the extent of cultivated land on Egypt, VIII 421—on the Egyptians, 444, 446, 447, 452—his treatment of Dysentery and Ophthalmia, 423—on Osiris, 488—on the Vocal Memnon, XIV 492
 Lane's discharging electrometer, VIII 621
 Laneham, his description of a minstrel, XV 253—on the morris-dance, 598
 LANFRANCO (Archbishop), XIII 182; VIII 668, 669
 Lang (James), his rope-machinery, XIX 411
 Langdale (Lord), on bastardy, IV 493.
 LANGELAND, island, XIII 188
 LANGENSALZA, in Prussian Saxony, XIII 183
 LANGENSCHWALBACH, in Nassau, XIII 188
 LANGHOLM, XIII 183; VIII 288—Telford's bequest to, XXI 146.
 LANGHORNE (John), XIII 188
 LANGLAND (Robert), XIII 184; VI 434—quotation from, VIII 795.
 Langley (Batty) on pointed architecture, III 457.
 LANGON, in France, XIII 184.
 LANGRES, in France, XIII 184.
 LANGSIDE, XIII 184—battle of, XIX 786
 Langstaff (Mr.), on the luminousness of the sea, XIII 469.

LAN—LAO

Langstroth (L. L.), his work on bees, IX 23
 LANGTON (Stephen), Archbishop, XIII 184; VIII 676, 677—division of the Old Testament into chapters ascribed to, IV 695
 LANGUAGE, XIII 185—probably imparted to our first parents by revelation, I 449—confusion of, at Babel, 465, 466—improvement of, the means of advancing science and learning, 39—Rousseau and others on the origin and history of, 174, 176, n—superiority of English over French as an instrument of thought, 229, n 2—value of German, in some points of view, 311—Leibnitz on the etymological study of, 136, 262—inadequacy of ordinary language for the purposes of philosophy, 310—academies of languages, II 70—proposals for a universal, 611—affinities of, 775, 776—antennal language of ants, III 263—Aristotle on, 552—of brutes, V 704.
 XIII 185—deductions as to the origin and descent of nations from analogies of, VI 365—metaphorical, IV 547—figurative, VII 219—Condillac's theory of its necessity to the development of ideas, 234—on the parts of speech, 235—teaching of, to the deaf and dumb, 675—by gestures, 677, 680—origin of, X 744; XIV 559—all languages referable to a common origin, IX 354—of falconry, XI 248—languages of the Scriptures, XIX 833—purpose and properties of, 141—African, II 221—American languages, 678—Anglo-Saxon, III 165—Arabia, 359—Celtic, VI 365, 366—Chinese, 571—Coptic, VIII 441, 447, XI 410 *et seq.*—Cormish, VII 408—Danish, 750—Dutch, XI 591—Egyptian, VIII 441, XI 409, 412—Etruscan, IX 360, 356—European, 389—Italian, XII 659—Javanese, 707—Lapland, XIII 244—Magyar, XII 18—Malay, III 749—Manx, XIV 246—Norse, VII 750—Osmanli, XXI 832—Peruvian, II 689—Romanian, XX 890—Russian, XIX 545—Sanskrit, III 749; I 204—Tartar, III 1b.—Thibet, 747—Zend, 1b.—faculty of, XVII 563. See Grammar, Philology, Alphabet, English, French, Greek, Latin, Sanscrit, &c.
 LANGUEDOC, in France, XIII 229; X 277—canal of 243, XVI 54.
 Langunia, genus of insects, IX 151
 Lanham, in Suffolk, XII 252
 Lanus, genus of birds, XVI 748
 Lannes (Marshal), X 187 *et seq.*, 152.
 LANNION, in France, XIII 229.
 LANSBERG (Philip), III 678, 801.
 Lansdowne MSS., XIII 802.
 Lantanum, a metal, VI 488
 LANTAO, island, XIII 229
 Lantern, in architecture, III 510—of Demosthenes, 442, 462, IV 164—magic, XVI 696
 —pumpions, in clock-making, VII 36, 37.
 Lantern-fly, IX 169
 —shells, XV 850
 Lanterns, feast of, VI 570.
 Lanthamite, mineral, XV 100.
 Lantoir (Banda), IV 409
 LANUVIUM, now Civita Lavinia, XIII 229.
 LANZAROTE, island, XIII 229; VI 167
 LANZI (Luigi), XIII 229
 —on the character of Albani as a painter, II 441—on Domenichino, VIII. 98—on the Etruscans, IX 856—on painting, XVII 49 *et seq.*
 LAOCOON, XIII 230, VII 175; XIX 309
 Laodamus, geometer, X 499
 Laodice, VI 222.
 LAODICEA, XIII 230—medical school at, XIV 453
 —AD MARE, XIII 231, 246.
 —Scabiosa, Syrian province, XX 904
 LAON, in France, XII 281; X 167.
 Laophis, fossil serpents, XVII 153
 LAOS, in Asia, XIII 231; X 735; III 785; XX 231, 233
 Lao-kun, Chinese sectary, XV 761

LAP—LAR

Laphria, genus of insects, IX 234
 LAPIDARY, XIII 231—lapidary's compasses, VII 221—saws, XIX 678
 LAPIS-LAZULI, XIII 232; XV 75—in Badakshan, IV 359—Chih, VI 549—Asturias, IV 156—Tibet, XXI 247
 Lapithæ, their battle with the Centaurs, VI 871, XIII 232
 LAPITHES, XIII 232, VI 371
 LAPLACE (P. S., Marquis de), XIII 232, I 814, 822—on the advantages of learned societies, 47—his *Mécanique Celeste*, 800, 821; XIII 233—on probabilities, I 223, 814, 819, XVIII 590—on capillary action, I 732; VI 210, 211, 215, XII 95, 97, 99—on the moon's secular equation, I 788—his improvements in the lunar theory, 814, on the moon's acceleration, 814, II 74, III 812—his theory of Jupiter's satellites, I 815, 786, IV 73, 74—his discovery of the causes of the great inequalities of Jupiter and Saturn's motions, I 814, 815, III 812—his share in the discovery of the stability of the major axes, I 812—on the limits of eccentricities and inclinations of the planetary orbits, 812—on the inequalities of the moon's orbit, IV 105—on the earth's attraction, I 851, n—his theory of the tides, 816; XXI 250—on adhesion, II 140—on the propagation of sound, 105; his correction of the theory of, I 891—his nebula hypothesis, 848—on the values of annuities, III 231—on the utility of logarithms, 801—his astronomical discoveries, 812—on barometrical measurements, IV 465—on cohesion, VII 57, 58, 59—on the orbits of comets, 168—on electricity, VIII 531—on meteorites, XIV 633—on the diminution of evidence by being transmitted, XV 266—on heat, XI 273—on Lagrange, XIII 154—his excessive love of calculation, 157—on the pendulum, XVII 380—his character as a physicist and author, I 820—compared with Lagrange, 821—his public character, 1b—love of analytical display, 1b—his *Système du Monde*, 822—his formula expressive of the relation of the pressure, and temperature of steam, XX 564
 LAPLAND, XIII 233; IX. 386, 387—Linnaeus's tour in, XIII 498—mission established in, XV 271—rein-deer of, XIV 206
 Laplanders, IX 387, 389—in Sweden, XX 804—their bows, V. 251—language, IX 390; XIII 215
 Lap machine, VII 443
 Lapostolle (Mons.), paragres proposed by, VIII 586
 Lapwing, VII 797—shooting of, XX 216.
 LAR, Persian town, XIII 244
 LARCHE (Pierre-Henri), XIII 244.
 Larch-bark, used in tanning, XIII 306.
 Larch-amber, XVI 101; XXI 275—durability of, XVII 755—specific gravity of, XII 89—its use in joinery, 817—in ship-building, 173
 Larch-tree, XVII 756, 765—introduction of into Perthshire, XVII 459.
 Lard, XVI 493
 Lardizabalaceæ, nat. ord of plants, V 181.
 LARDNER (Nathaniel, D. D.), XIII 244—Kippis's edition of his works, 96.
 —(Dr), on the planet Saturn, IV 92—on evaporation, IX 408, 409—on smoke, XX 352
 LARES, XII 245; XVII 875; I 514.
 Largo Bay, IX 794
 LARGES, village in Ayrshire, XIII 245
 Larkhanah, town in Oudh, XX 305
 Larks, XVI 759—of Dunstable, VIII 262—net for catching, XIX 98—shooting of, XX 216
 Larimus, genus of fishes, XII 285.
 LARISSA, in European Turkey, XIII 245.
 LARISMAN, in Persia, XIII 245
 LARNE, in Antrim, XIII 245.
 LARNICA, town in Cyprus, XIII 245.

LAR—LAT

Larra, genus of insects, IX 195
 Larrates, family of insects, IX 185
 Larus, genus of birds, XVI 812
 Larva of insects, IX 53 *et seq.*—of bees, IV 580
 Larynx, XVII 679—muscles of, III 89—atomy of, 50—comparative anatomy of, 102—diseases of the, among cattle, XXI 571
 LASCARIS (Constantine), XIII 245
 —(Andreas Joannes), XIII 245
 Las Casas (Bartolommeo de), VI 306.
 Lasco (John à), XVIII 456.
 Laserna (General), IV 833
 Lasiocampa, genus of insects, IX 213
 Lasionite, mineral, XV 74
 Lasiopoda, genus of insects, IX 236
 LAS PALMAS, XIII 246, or Palma, VI 166
 Laspeyres (J. H.), his works on insects, IX 10
 LASSA or H'Lassa, capital of Tibet, XIII 246
 Lassel (Mr), his observatory near Liverpool, I 860—his discovery of a satellite of Neptune, and one of Saturn, 860, IV 92, 94—on the satellites of Uranus, I 860; IV 98—on Saturn and his rings, 92—his telescopes, XXI 123
 Lassen (Christian), his philological researches, XVII 529, 534
 LASUS or Lassus, Greek poet, XIII 246
 LASWARREE, in Hindustan, XIII 246
 LATAKIA, port in the Levant, XIII 246
 Latch locks, XIII 541
 Latent heat, XI 269, 271; XX 555—Regnault on, I 958—absorbed in melting ice, 926—Dr Black's discovery of, 760, 926; IV 788—of vapour, I 926—of steam, XX 566, 567, 568, 571—Cavendish's experiments on, I 980—phenomena explained by, XI 270, 271; I 926—Lavoisier on, 932
 LATERAN, XIII 247—councils, VII 456.
 —(St John), basilica, XIX 368
 Lates, genus of fishes, XII 275—fossil, 843.
 LATHAM (John, M. D.), ornithologist, XIII 247—his works, XVI 729
 —(Dr R. Gordon), on language, XIII 195 *et seq.*—his contributions to philology, XVII 523
 —(Dr) his edition of Sydenham's works, XX 893
 Lathe for turning, XXI 390.
 Lathrobium, genus of insects, IX 108.
 Laths, plastering on, V 741, 742
 LATIOLAVE, XIII 247, III 167
 Lathius, genus of fishes, XII 278
 LATIMER (Hugh), XIII 247; VIII 708
 —his account of cloth-making, XXI 921
 Latin church, VI 712—mysticism in, XV. 755—its claim to the guardianship of the holy places, XIX 500.
 —language, XIII 215, IX 390—its inflections, XIII 189 *et seq.*—affinities, 213—its want of the article, X 752—grammars and lexicons, XVII 598—Bibles, IV 701; XIX 840—historical writers in, XI 548—editions of the classics, IV 709—moods and tenses, X 765 *et seq.*, 769—papyri, XVII 265—Latin poetry, XVIII 103
 Latins, XIX 235—Constantinople taken by, VII 818.
 Latistellati, echinoderms, XXI 991.
 Latitude, in astronomy, IV. 6—method of reducing geocentric to heliocentric, 57—tables for the moon's latitude in eclipses, 129, 130
 —, in geography, X 480; XVI 7, 10, 28—mode of finding, IX 113; XVI 40—on globes, X 436—ratio of fertility to, II 710—as given by Ptolemy, X, 487, 473—distribution of volcanoes in, XXI 603, 604—in connection with the trigonometrical survey, 385.
 LATITUDINARIANS, XIII 248.
 LATIUM, XIII 248.
 LATMUS, mountain, XIII 248.
 Latopolis, in Egypt, VIII 513
 La-tour-du-Pin, in France, XII 627.

LAT—LAV

- LATREILLE (Pierre-André), XIII 248—his entomological works, IX 8, 9, 10—his classification of insects, 9—on entomology, 82 *et seq.*—on the geographical distribution of insects, 67—on ants, III 261 *et seq.*—his classification of the arachnids, 307, 370, 371—his assistance to Cuvier in the *Règne animal*, VII 605
- LATRIDIUS, genus of insects, IX 142
- LATRIS, genus of fishes, XII 278
- La Trobe (Mr), governor of Tasmania, XXI 32
- Latrobite, mineral, XV 71
- LATRUNCULI, XIII 248.
- Latter-day Saints See Mormonism.
- Lattice-windows, X 670
- LAUBAN, Prussian city, XIII 248
- LAUD (William), archbishop, XIII 249—his ecclesiastical and political conduct, V 398—ascendency over Charles I., 393—accused of high treason, 398—executed, 405—his treatment of Archbishop Leighton, XIII 322—tutor system introduced at Oxford by, XXI 455—his constitution for Dublin university, 486
- LAUDER (Sir Thomas Dick), XIII 250—on curing herring, IX 639
- town in Berwickshire, XIII 250
- Lauderdale (Duke of), his administration in Scotland, V 429; VII 699
- LAUDON (G. Ernest), Baron Von, Field-Marshal, XIII 250; XVIII 653 *et seq.* See Laudon.
- Landon (Marshal), XXI. 371. See Laudon.
- LAUBENBURG (Duchy of), XIII. 250, VII 746
- Laughing-gas. See Nitrous Oxide
- Laughter, death from, VIII 192, n 1
- Lauromite, mineral, XV 77.
- LAUNCESTON, town in Cornwall, XII 250—mining of tin at, VII. 407.
- in Tasmania, XXI 31.
- Launch, boat, IV 800.
- Launching of ships, XX. 205.
- LAURA, XIII. 250
- Laureacea, nat. ord. of plants, V 204.
- Laurel, order of plants, V. 204.
- trees, XVII 761
- Laurence (Archbishop), on the books of Esdras, IX. 332
- LAURENCEKIRK, XIII. 250, 89
- Laurentian library, IX 668, XIV 447
- LAURENTUM, town of Latium, XIII. 250, 248.
- LAURIA, town of Naples, XIII 250
- Laure's floating mattresses, XIII 440.
- Laurus on aeronautics, II 168.
- LAURVIK, town in Norway, XIII 250.
- LAUSANNE, in Switzerland, XIII 250; XX 882; XXI 531—library at, XIII 424
- Lauterbourg (Mr and Mrs), mesmerists, XX. 431.
- Lauth (Dr T.), his History of Anatomy, II. 777—on the lymphatics, 804
- LAUXANIA, genus of insects, IX 251
- Lava, its difference from trap, XV 190—of Aetna, II 192—Vesuvius, 192, n—Iceland, XII 202—lava streams, XXI 605—dykes and veins of, XV. 191—feldspathic, augitic, and intermediate, 132, 133
- LAVAL, in France, XIII 251—linen manufactures of, X. 254.
- LAVATER (Johann Caspar), XIII 251—on magnetic somnambulism, XX. 442.
- LAVAUX, town in France, XIII 252
- LAVENTER, XIII 252; V 202, XI. 745—oil of, XVI 497
- Lavendulan, mineral, XV. 104
- LAVENTHAM or Lanham, in Suffolk, XIII. 252.
- Laverna, goddess of thieves, I 459
- LAVIETUM, city of Latium, XIII. 252, 248.
- LA VOISIER (Antoine Laurent), XIII 252; I. 982—on heat, 982; XI 273—his chemical theory of combustion and oxidation, I. 982—on the composition of the atmosphere, IV. 180—his air-pump, XVIII. 42—on electricity, VIII.

LAV—LAY

- 531—his death, I 933, X 85—his memoir on heat, in common with Laplace, I 820—his theory of combustion modified by Sir H. Davy, 871
- LAVORO, Terra di, XIII 252, XII 636; XX. 236
- LAW, XIII 253—Athenian, IV. 213, 215—English, VIII 779—French, X. 182, 280—Lombardy, XIII 645—Egyptian, VIII 440—Mosaic, IV 694; I 467 *et seq.*—Chinese, VI. 564—Hindu, XI 476—Scottish, XIX 750; its difference from that of England, 811—Venetian maritime, VII 538—Academies of, II 69—the Economists on, VIII 379—Institution connected with, in London, XIII 672—Courts of, in Edinburgh, VIII 395—constitutional, 781—of the relations of private life, 1b—Roman actions at, II. 119—capitulares, VI 220—Jury trial, XIII 22—law language and literature, 271—laws regarding the insane, XIV 538—martial law, XV 5—duty of obedience to, 570—maritime, declaration respecting, XVI 157—Plato on, XVII 810, 811—taxes on law proceedings, XXI. 65—Schools of, in United States, 494 See Canon Law, Civil Law, Code, Courts, Crime, Feudal Law, Jurisprudence, Law of Nations, Law of Nature, Legislation, Medical Jurisprudence, Police, Prisons, Punishment, etc
- making, XIII 207
- Mosaic See Mosaic
- of Nations, XIII 279—blockade, IV 786—are all treaties annulled by war? V 588 See Balance of Power
- of Nature, XIII 253, 254
- (John), projector, XIII 292; X 85—his schemes opposed by d'Aguesseau, II 429
- (Edmund), bishop, XIII 295—his notes to his translation of Archbishop King's work on the Origin of Evil, I 170—his speculations on space and time, 1b, n 2—his ethical works, 171-2
- (William), XIII 296
- Laws of the Twelve Tables, VI 739, XIX. 801.
- Lawburrows, taken out by Charles II against his Scottish subjects, V 429
- Lavers (Ben), mountain, botany of, XVII 458
- Laves (Mr), his agricultural practice, II 233, 309
- LAWN, XIII 296, 495.
- LAWRENCE (Sir Thomas), painter, XIII 296, XVII 56
- (Sir Henry), XVI. 807.
- (Sir John), XVI 303, 309; XVIII 604
- (Sir James), on nobility, XVI 281
- (Mr), his mode of preparing varnish for etching, VIII. 811
- town in Massachusetts, XIII 297.
- (Sr), Gulf of, XIII 297
- (Sr), river, XIII 298; II 675; VI 133, 140; XV. 521; XVI 214, XVII 600, 605, 647—shores of, VI 132, 133—trade of, 148-9—canals, XV. 522; VI 155
- Lawson (Messrs), on grasses and pasture plants, II 824—on the varieties of the potato, 315
- Lawyers, diseases of, XIV 442
- Laxford (Loch), XIX 794
- Layard (A. H.), on the buildings of Assyria and Babylonia, III. 499 *et seq.*—on the honeysuckle ornament in architecture, 501—on the ruins of Babylon, IV 348—magnifying lens found at Nimroud by, XIV 763—his discoveries at Nineveh, XVI. 274—on impressions on Assyrian bricks and tablets, XVIII 521
- LAYBACH, Austrian town, XIII 298—congress at, V 631; XII 655
- Laycock (Prof.), on the action of the brain, XVII 580
- Layers, propagating by, XI 604, 703; V 167; XVII 767.
- Laying-off, in ship-building, XX. 183

LAY—LEA

- Layne (James), Jesuit, XIII 751.
- Layon, canal of, XVI 6, n
- Lazaretto, XIV 445—Howard's examination of, XI. 765, 786—at Marseille, XIV 317
- LAZARITES (The), priests, XIII. 298.
- Lazaries, coast of the, IV 744.
- Lazulite, mineral, XV 73
- LAZZARONI, XIII 298—of Naples, X. 110
- Le or Leh, in central Asia, XIII. 298
- Lea, river, XI 359
- (Isaac), on the American Naiades and species of Unio, XV 349, 323
- Leach (Dr), on the crustacea, VII 540, 544—on the myriopoda, XV. 747—his contributions to entomology, IX. 13
- Leachia, genus of mollusks, XV 400
- LEAD, XIII. 298; VI. 497, XV 63, 114—its use in assaying, III 770—sheet-lead, V. 755—compounds of, VI 497—use of its salts in calico-printing, &c, 497—its protoxide as a mordant, VIII. 280—chromate of, used in dyeing, 297, 318—window-frames of, X 670—specific gravity of, XII 88—its poisonous quality, XIV 433—produce in Great Britain, XV 242—exports from Newcastle, XVI 167—culinary utensils made of, XIV 440—distribution of, XVII 621—silver in Europe, mostly obtained from, XVIII 462—as a covering for roofs, XIX 874—action of water on, 617—cohesion of, XX 737—white lead, XIII 310, specific gravity of, XII 88—black-lead, see Plumbago—red-lead, XIII 302 See Lead mines
- glance, XV. 117
- mill, X. 670
- mines, in Britain, XIII 298; XV. 242, 243, 244—Cardiganshire, VI 233—Cumberland, VII 577, XVI 167—Derbyshire, VII 754—Durham, VIII 266—England, 727—Clare, VI 759—Hindustan, XI 457—Ireland, XII 506—Europe, IX 387; XV 242—Illinois, XIII 302—United States, XV 241—Montgomeryshire, 518—Missouri, 280—of Wanlockhead and Leadhills, VIII 238; XIII 176; XV. 246; XIX. 790—Scotland, 804—Shropshire, XX 229—Spain, 459. See the Geographical Articles
- Leadenhall market, XIII 664
- Leadhillite, mineral, XV 105
- LEADHILLS, XIII 302, 174, XIX 700—minerals found in, XIII 175—gold obtained from, XV. 233.
- Lead-ochre, XV. 112.
- Lead-salts, XV. 104.
- Lead-spar, XV. 105
- Leadwort, order of plants, V 208
- Leaf See Leaves
- eating bees, IX 199
- stalk, V 92
- LEAGUE, measure, XIII 302
- or alliance, French Catholic, X 83
- Solemn League and Covenant, V 404, VII 409—Anti-corn-law, 833; XIV 256—Amphictyonic and Achaean, IX 497; II 727
- Leake (Col.), on the topography of Athens, IV 161 *et seq.*—on Laodicea, XIII. 230—on Laconia, 148—on the means of reaching the sources of the Nile, XVI 269—on Greek coins, 359, 360.
- (Richard), XIII 302
- (Sir John), English admiral, XIII 302.
- LEAMINGTON, in Warwickshire, XIII 302; XXI. 789—its mineral waters, XV 87.
- Lean (Captain Joel), his plan for ascertaining engine duty, XV. 227
- LEANDER, XIII 303, XI. 354
- Leao-Tong, Chinese province, XX 116
- LEAF, in music, XIII 158.
- Leap-year, VI 77
- Leaping, action of the muscles in, III. 42—of horses, XI. 650, 662.
- Lear (Mr), on parrots, XVI 733
- LEARCHUS, Greek sculptor, XIII 303, XIX 562
- Learning, revival of, in Europe, VII. 535;

LEA—LEE

- I 14; XIII 387-8—scholastic, XVII 521—patronage of ancient, in fifteenth century, 522
- LEASH, XIII 303—during the middle ages, II 252—in ancient Attica, IV 218.—(agricultural), VII 725—advantages and duration of, II 365, in Scotland, XIX 799—in Ireland, XII 513—in Prussia, XVIII 665
- LEATHER, XIII 303—currying of, VII. 595—manufacture of, in England, VIII 730—France, X. 256—Morocco, XV. 595
- Leaven, in baking, IV. 830
- Leaves of plants, V 85—vernation of, 86—atomy or structure of, 87—vascular system of, 88—venation, conformation, and transformations of, 88, 89, 93—physiology of, 102—absorption and exhalation by, 103—their influence on vegetable secretions, 106—effects of gases upon, 1b—coloration of, 107—irritability and contractility of, 108—defoliation, 109, VII 698—time of unfolding, in different latitudes, V 220—propagation by single, XI 694—functions of, XXI 268
- LEBADEA, town in Boeotia, XIII 311
- Leballif's spheroscope, XIV 89—his electric multiplier, XXI 642
- Lebanon, XIII 355; XVII 182; XX 902—inhabitants of, 904—climate, 906—cedar of, V. 209, XVII 750, 757, 760.
- fossil fishes of, XII 354, 355
- Lebia, genus of insects, IX 82
- Lebiasina, genus of fishes, XII 251.
- Leblanc on crystallization, VII 546, 548
- Lebon, X. 93, n 1.
- Lebreux (F. L.), his work on insects, IX. 15
- LEBRIVA, town in Spain, XIII 311
- Le Brun See Brun (Charles le)
- Lecanu (Louis René), on the blood, II 731.
- LECCE, town of Naples, XIII 311.
- Lecco, in Austrian Italy, XIII 311
- Lech, Prince of Poland, XVIII 187.
- Lechevalier, on the site of Troy, XXI. 356, 357, 358.
- Lechler on the Presbyterian church, XVIII. 485 *et seq.*
- Lechuga (Christobal), his classification of cannon, XI 186
- Lecomte's attempt on the life of Louis Philippe, X. 224
- Leconte (J. L.), his works on insects, IX 23
- Leconte (Mr), on magnetism, XIV 41.
- LECTISTERNIUM, XIII 311.
- LECTOURE, town in France, XIII 311
- LECTURE, XIII 312—right of publishing lectures, VII 359
- Leeythidaceae, natural order of plants, V 192
- LEDA, XIII 312; VIII. 38.
- fossil mollusks, XVII 106
- LEDGERS, in Herefordshire, XIII 312; XI 349, 350.
- Lederite, mineral, XV 77
- Ledger, V. 23—balancing of, 27—size and index to, 28.
- Ledges of ships, XX 187
- Ledra, genus of insects, IX 170
- Lee, river in county of Cork, VII 871
- (Sir H.), saved by a dog, V 704
- (Mr) his process for bleaching flax, IV 768
- (NATHANIEL), XIII 312.
- (John, D D), XXI. 432.
- (SAMUEL, D D), XIII 312.
- (Farrist), her novels, XIX 270
- (William) alleged inventor of the stocking frame, XX 706.
- LEECHES, XIII 312; XI 303, 305—green leech 305—bleeding of, 304—horse-leech, 306—land leeches, 302 n; in Assam, III. 784—American, XI. 305, n. 2—among the Himalayas, 444—absurd practice of applying them to bruised parts, XX. 880—fossil leeches, XVII 118.
- LEEDS, town in Yorkshire, XIII. 312—

LEE—LEI

"Mercury," newspaper, XVI. 186—rule for estimating horse power in steam-engine, XX 602—woollen manufactures, XXI 918, 919—wages, ib
LEEK, in Staffordshire, XIII 816
 —, plant, V. 79, 88—culture of XI. 741.
Leemans (Dr.) on the demotic characters of a papyrus, XI 377.
LEER, town of Hanover, XIII 816
LEEUWARDEN, town of Holland, XIII 816
Leeuwenhoek. See **Leuwenhoek**
LEEUWARD ISLANDS, XIII 816
Leeway, XVI 18, XX 4
Lefebvre (A.), his works on insects, IX 15
Lefebvre (Marshall), X 154
Lefevre (Tannegui), IX 526
LEFKOSIA, in Cyprus, XIII 816, XVI. 255
Lefroy (Lieut Col.), his tables of ranges for ordnance, XI 146
Leg, muscles of the, III 89—station on, 41—motions of, 42—legs of insects, IX 42.
Legacy—duties, XXI 64—objection to, 67
Legaspe (Lopez de), his visits to the Ladrones islands, XVIII 288.
Legate, XVI 392.
LEGATION, XIII 816. See **Diplomacy**, **Ambassador**.
Legat (F.), on engraving, VIII 805.
LEGATUS, XIII 816
Leg-bone, III 85—in the mammalia, 82—in birds, 86
LEGENDRE (Adrien Marie), XIII 816, I 822—his researches on elliptical functions, ib—on the attraction of ellipsoids, 828—his method of least squares, 819, XVIII 635—on the orbits of comets, VII 169, 170, 176—on the figure of the earth, IX 552, 565—his work on geometry, X 505.
Leg-evil in sheep, XXI 568.
LEGROUX, XIII 816—improved by Sir Robert Dudley, VIII 229.
 —bonnets, XI 243
LEGION (Roman), XIII 818, III 630—its mobility, III 634—the thundering legion, III 280, n.; XIX 344
 —of Honour, X 126, 280, XV. 793
Legislation, XIII 262—of Draco and Solon, IV 213—limits of its action, XIII 264—over-legislation, 265—and jurisprudence, different senses of the terms, 267—medical, XIV 45—for railways, XVIII 796; reform in, 797
Legislature, XIII 267—of the United States, XXI 429.
LEGITIMACY, XIII 818—by subsequent marriage, XVII 274
Legume, V 186
Leguminosae, nat. ord. of plants, V. 190
Leguminous plants, V. 186, 190—culture of, XI 738—crops, II 812—used as food, IX 760—seeds of, XVII 769.
Lehmann (J. G.) on the papillae of the nerves, II 816.
Lehrbachite, mineral, XV 117.
Lehnutte, mineral, XV 75
Leia, in the Punjab, XVIII 690, 691
 —genus of insects, IX 229
Leiananthus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 840, XVII 117
LEIBNITZ (Gottfried Wilhelm), XIII 818—on the merits of Descartes, Hobbes, Bacon, and Campanella, I 26—his objection to Malebranche's views regarding cause and effect, 78—his veneration for the Roman law, 92—his misapprehension of Locke's doctrines on the origin of knowledge, 118—his school, and its distinction from that of Locke, 122—effects of his comprehensive correspondence, 128—on the expediency of literary intercourse among men of science, 128, n—coincidence between him and Cudworth concerning innate ideas, 128—the metaphysical theories to which he chiefly directed his attention, 124—the doctrines of pre-established harmony, 124, 125—contrast between his speculations and the philosophy of Locke,

LEI—LEI

126—his scheme of optimism, 127—his work entitled *Theodicaea*, 126, 127, n, 129 and n 4—maintained necessity, but opposed materialism, 128—on the soul, 128—injurious influence of the doctrine of fatalism, as treated by him, 129—on the principle of a sufficient reason, 180, 652, 658—his theory of monads, 181, 255; VIII 327—on the law of continuity, I 182, 257-8, 653—on the states of rest and motion of bodies, 257—on the existence of the soul after death, 259—his habits of thinking biased by geometry, 259—extension of his principle regarding the law of continuity by Helvetius, 185—on the etymology of languages, 186, 262—his proposition that all proper names were at first appellatives, 260—his genius, 137—credulity, 138, 261—value of his speculations in advancing knowledge, 138—estimate of his character by Bailly, 262—great variety of subjects on which he wrote, 262—his controversy with Dr Clarke, 189; VI 758—on space and time, I 142 n—small progress of his doctrines in France, 185, 186—contrast between the form of his writings and the character of his mind, 353—favourite maxim of, 353—his ethical principles, where to be found 353—citations from, on ethics, 353, 438, 439—on disinterested affections, 354—egregious fallacy contained in a statement of, 354, 355—his correspondence with Newton on geometry, 686—was the second inventor of the new infinitesimal analysis, ib; IX. 671—rapid spread of his geometry on the continent I 686—controversy regarding the new calculus, 687, IX 672; XVI 206—his rejection of the higher powers of the differences of the variable quantities objectionable, 642—comparison between him and Newton, 687—his algebraical discoveries, 711—great promoter of the Berlin Academy of Sciences, II 65—an algebraical discovery of James Gregory claimed by, 559—hydrostatical fancy of, IV 459—his classification of books, 715—inactivity of matter denied by, VIII 327—on the laws of motion, 338, 341, 343—his envious detraction of Sir Isaac Newton, 354—on a universal character, VI 417—his project for remodelling the Pandects, VII 586—on the distinction between intuitive and symbolical cognition, XIV 585, and n 4—on evil, IX 420—on music, XV 701—problem proposed by, in 1687, IX. 676—on metaphysics, 557 n, et seq—on the force and velocity of moving bodies, I 654—philology advanced by, XVII 528—on the strength of materials, XX. 763—on the cosmological argument for the existence of God, XXI 186
LEICESTER, XIII 819—population, 321—medieval roofs at, XIX 392, 393
 —Earl of, VIII. 719; XI 571
LEICESTERSHIRE, XIII 320; VIII 754—sheep, II 263, 345—poor-rates in, XVIII 809 n 1—lace manufacture, XIII 145—wool, XXI 905.
Leichhardt (Ludwig), his explorations in Australia, IV. 267.
LEIGH (Edward), XIII 321.
 —town in Lancaster, XIII 321
Leighs (Joch) in Cavan, VI 348
LEIGHTON (Robert), Archbishop, XIII 321.
 —(Robert) Archbishop, XIII 822; XX. 840.
LEIGHTON-BUZZARD, XIII 324; IV. 569.
LEINER, river, XIII 324
LEINSTER, in Ireland, XIII 324.
Lenodes, genus of insects, IX 181.
Lenodon, fossil reptiles, XVII 168
Leiodonta, fossil mollusks, XVII 110
Leiodontomys, genus of fishes, XII 285
LEIPZIG or **Leipzig**, XIII 324—fairs of, IX. 468; X. 590; XIX 685—battles of,

LEI—LEN

X 164, 580; XVIII 657, XX 850—taken by Tilly, XX 349—university of, XXI 492—book trade of, X 592, V. 81—libraries, XIII 420
Leir, in glass-making, X 672
LEIRIA, Portuguese town, XIII 325
Leistus, genus of insects, IX 98
LEITH, XIII 352—water of, VIII 394, 408—docks of, 75—meteorological observations at the Fort of, XIV 670—first Scottish newspaper published at, XVI 184
LEITMERITZ, town of Austria, XIII 327
LEITRIM, Irish county, XIII 327—agricultural statistics, XII 516, 517
Leirurus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 293
LEIXLIP, Irish town, XIII 329
Lejah, basaltic region in Syria, X 903
LELAND (John), antiquary, XIII 830—his notice of Birmingham, IV 729—of Chaucer, VI 432—Manchester, XIV 284
 —(John, D D.), XIII 830
 —(Thomas), XIII 830
LELY (Sir Peter), painter, XIII 830, III 714
Leman (Lake). See **Geneva**, lake of
Lemandé (M.), his iron bridges, XII 581-2
LEMBERG, in Austrian Poland, XII 830—university of, XXI 492
LEMGO, German town, XIII 331.
Lemma, Geometrical term, X 508
Lemming, in zoology, XIV 183; IX 387.
Lemnaceae, nat. ord. of plants, V 214.
Lemnisate, X. 545.
LEMNOS, island, XIII. 381—labyrinth in, 141.
LEMOS, XIII 331; V 186, XI 729—juice of, a cure for scurvy, XVI 106—oil of, 496. See **Citric Acid**
 —, salt of, XIII 331
 —, grass, V 216.
 —(Mr), his discovery of a treatise by Milton, XV 80
LEMONNIER (P. C. Charles), XIII 331—his astronomical labours, III 806—on the electricity of the atmosphere, VIII 578—on the orbits of comets, VII 168—his intercourse with Lalande, XIII 159
Lemur, genus of mammalia, XIV 145—its arteries, III 112—dentition of, XVI 455—flying lemur, XIV 150.
Lemurdæ, family of mammalia, XIV 144
LENA, river, XIII 333; XVII 605, 606, 647, XIX 548.
Lenæum, in ancient Athens, IV. 164
Lenita, fossil echinoidæ, XVII 100.
L'ENFANT (Jacques), XIII 333.
Leנגren (Anna Maria), Swedish poetess, XIX 699.
Length, measures of, XXI 808.
LENNEP, Prussian town, XIII 333.
Lennei Lenapi, Indians, II 696
LENNOX, XIII 333. See **Dumbartonshire**.
 —(Duke of), James I's patent to for woollen manufactures, XXI 915
 —(Earl of), regent of Scotland, XIX. 787
 —Hills, XX 702.
LENNOXSHIRE, in Shropshire, XIII 333.
Lenocinium, XII 55
Lenormant (C.), on the value of the shekel, XVI 379, n 1
Lens, XIII. 452—crystalline, III 44, 95; XIII. 461; XVI 541; XVII. 678—burning, VI 1 et seq.; XI. 275—lenses for lighthouses, XIII. 472, 474, 480—for microscopes, XIV. 763 et seq—aberration of, XIV 771—different kinds of, XVI 561, 574—refraction by, 564, 565 et seq—formation of images by, and vision of objects through, 567—form of the images of objects produced by lenses of different sizes, 569—spherical aberration of, 571—non-spherical, 574—doubly refracting, 628—defects of large lenses for taking portraits, 569, 570, XVII. 553—lenses of telescopes, XXI 134 et seq.
LENT, XIII. 383—in the Greco-Russian

LEN—LEP

church, XIX. 527—term at Cambridge, XXI 463
Lentibulariaceae, nat. ord. of plants, V 208
Lenticular spar, crystallization of, VII. 552, 555
LENTIL, XIII 383; V. 89—culture of, II. 318.
LENTINI, town in Sicily, XIII 333
 —, lake, XX 943
Lentulus (Publius), his alleged letter to the Roman senate, XII 765, and n 1
LEO I (Flavius), emperor, XIII 833
 —III, the Isaurian, XIII 384, XII. 642—his edict against image worship, XIII 641
 —V., the Armenian, XIII 384
 —, of Byzantium, historian, XIII 384
 —Diaconus, XIII 335
 —Grammaticus, XIII 335
 —of Thessalonica, XIII 335
 —X (Pope), XIII. 335—sale of indulgences by, XII 377—life and pontificate of, XIV 448—age of, 459—Roscoe's life of, XIX 418
 —of Modena, on the Caraites, VI 228
 —de Juda, on the Caraites, VI 228
 —(Leonardo), musician, XIII 336.
 —, constellation, IV 12, 80
LEOBEN, Austrian town, XIII 336
LEOCARES, Athenian sculptor, XIII 336
LEOMINSTER, in Hereford, XIII 386—wool of, XXI 910
LEON, in Spain, XIII 386, 387; XX 493
 —Moonish kingdom of, XX 461
 —, town in Central America, XIII. 387.
 —(ISLA DE), XIII 387.
 —(NUEVO), Mexican State, XIII 387; XIV 718, 728
 —(PETER CIEGA DE), XIII 387.
 —, geometer, X 499
 —(Ponce Luis de), poetry of, XVIII. 114
Leonardo of Pisa, algebra introduced into Europe by, I 556, II 483; X. 504
 —da Vinci. See **Vinci**
Leonards (St Lord) on the law of copyright, VII 362—on the usury laws, XII. 430—his error regarding the Theodosian code, VI 743
 —(St) College, St Andrews, XXI 473—its union with St Salvador's, 474.
LEONFORTE, town in Sicily, XIII 337.
Leonhardtite, mineral, XV 77
Leonidas, king of Sparta, XX 500.
LEONTINE VERSES, XIII 337
Leontes, Syrian river, XX 903.
Leopard, XIV 169—in India, XI 445—in Java, XII 704
Leopard's bane, plant, V 197.
LEOPARDI (Giacomo) Count, XIII 338
Lepidolite, mineral, XV. 78.
Lepidomelane, mineral, XV. 78.
Lepidolite, king of the Belgians, IV 608; X 205—letters of Louis Philippe to, X 220
 —III, Duke of Austria, XX 884
 —(Prince) of Dessau, XVIII 650 et seq.
 —(Carl Gustav), Swedish poet, XIX. 698.
Leopoldine Academy, II 62.
Lepidodæ, fossils, XVII 101.
Lepadogaster, genus of fishes, XII. 215, 307.
LEPANTO, town in Greece, XIII 330—battle of, XII 456; XXI 369.
Lepante (Mons.), his escape, VII 10.
Lepidaria, fossils, XVII 101.
Lepidaster, fossil star-fish, XIII 99.
LEPIDI, Roman family, XIII 389.
Lepidodendron, fossil plant, V. 285.
Lepidodendroides, fossil fishes, XVII 128.
Lepidokrokitæ, mineral, XV. 108.
Lepidoptera, order of insects, IX. 26, 203.
Lepidopus, genus of fishes, XII. 294, 296.
Lepidosiren, genus of fishes, XII. 318; XVII. 189—dental system of, XVI 427.
Lepidostel, family of fossil fishes, XII 388.

LEP—LES

- Lepidosteidae, family of fishes, XII 317—fossil, XVII 126
 Lepidosteus, genus of fishes, XII 316, 317, 209; XVII 126, 128.
 Lepidotus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 334.
 Lepidura prolouata, VII 543.
 Lepidus, sedition of, XIX 323 *et seq.*
 Lepileur (M.), on the Persian languages, XIII 208
 Lepipterus, genus of fishes, XII 285.
 Lepisma, genus of insects, IX 261
 Lepismena, family of insects, IX 260.
 Lepisoma, genus of fishes, XII 277.
 Lepontine Alps, II 623, 624.
 Leporidae, family of rodents, XVII 632.
 Lepornus, genus of fishes, XII 246
 Lepostemon, genus of reptiles, XIX 40.
 Lepracaanthus, fossil fishes, XVII 117
 LERROST, XIII 339—in Arabia, III 354—in China, VI 586—in Egypt, VIII 423
 Lepsius (Dr), on hieroglyphics, XI 376 *et seq.*—his work on Egypt, VIII 502—his examination of the Labyrinth, 503—on the papyrus, XI 370, n 6—on the Egyptian "Book of the Dead," XVII 263—on the affinity of the Egyptian, Semitic, and Indo-Germanic languages, 534.
 Leptacanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 340; XVII 117.
 Leptodes, family of insects, IX 232.
 Leptines, VI 282, XI 432.
 Leptus, genus of insects, IX 232
 Leptocephalidae, family of fishes, XII 229
 Leptocephalus, genus of fishes, XII 229—fossil, 347.
 Leptocera, genus of insects, IX 145.
 Leptogaster, genus of insects, IX 335.
 Leptochthys, genus of fishes, XII 315.
 Leptolena, order of plants, V 185
 Leptolepis, genus of fossil fishes, XII 336, XVII 126, 127
 Lepton, genus of mollusks, XV 350.
 Leptonotus, genus of fishes, XII 315.
 Leptopleuron, fossil reptile, XVII 129, 130.
 Leptolepidae, fossil fishes, XVII 126
 Leptopus, genus of insects, IX 163.
 Leptorhinophis, genus of fishes, XII 233.
 Leptosomus, genus of birds, XVI 778.
 Leptura, genus of insects, IX 146.
 Lepturetae, family of insects, IX 146.
 Lepus, genus of arachnids, III 389
 Lepus, genus of mammals, XIV 137.
 LERIDA, Spanish town, XIII 341.
 LERNIS, islands, XIII 342.
 LERNANTHROPE, genus of entozoa, XXI 982.
 Lerneopoda, genus of entozoa, XXI 982.
 LEROS, or LERO, island, XIII 342
 Lerot, in zoology, XIV 180—its hibernation, III 180
 LERWICK, in Shetland, XIII 342; XX 113, 114
 Le Sage. See Sage (Le).
 Lesbians, genus of fossil fishes, XII 347.
 LESSOS, island, XIII 342, XV 285—coins of, XVI 375
 Lesbros on hydrodynamics, XII 75, 121, 149.
 Lescailler (M.), on preserving timber, XVI 99.
 Lesghians, VI 342—language of, XIII 216.
 LESINA, island, XIII 342.
 Lesko, Prince of Poland, XVIII 137, 140, 141.
 LESLEY (John), bishop, XIII 342.
 LESLIE (Charles), XIII 343—his rules for testing the genuineness of alleged miracles, XV 286.
 —(General), V 395, 405 *et seq.*
 —(Sir John), XIII 344—his Dissertation on the progress of mathematical and physical science, I 689—his early studies, 942—his essays on mathematics and electricity, 942; 943—travels, 943—his essay on heat, 943, 944; XI 263—his differential thermometer, 944 (see Thermometer)—his minor writings, 945—his philosophical character, *ib.*—merits of his experimental researches, 946—part of the article Acoustics, in this work by, II 100—on sound, 101,

LES—LEU

- 105—on the speaking-trumpet, 107—on Indian algebra, 488—on the moon's light, IV 41—his atmometer, 177—on solar heat, VI 2—on capillary action, 200—his photometer, 781; XIII 455—on the cold produced by evaporation, VII 102—his method of artificial congelation, 104, 105; XI 271; I 945—on dew, VII 767, 768—on heat, I 942, XI 263, 264 *et seq.*—on the supply of water to Rome, &c., XII 10, n 1—on the effect of waves, XI 218—his treatise on curve lines, VII 251—on one of the causes of decrease of temperature on ascending into the atmosphere, XIV 640—his photometer, XVIII 555—list of articles contributed to this work by, XIII 346; I 975—on polar temperatures, XVIII 177.
 LESSIE, town in Fifeshire, XIII 346.
 Lesmahagow gas coal, VII 118.
 Lesparre, in France, X 632
 Lespinasse, his hydraulic experiments, XII 112, 117.
 Lesseps (M. F. de), his proposed canal across the isthmus of Suez, XX 789
 LESSING (G. Ephraim), XIII 346; XVII 524; XIX 718—as a dramatist, VIII 167—poetry of, XVIII 119
 Lesson (M.), on birds, XVI 732, 766
 Lesteva, genus of insects, IX 104
 L'ESTRANGE (Sir Roger), XIII 348, XVI 182.
 Lestrils, genus of birds, XVI 813.
 Lesueur, blind man, IV 760.
 —on the mollusca, XV 327.
 Letheby (Dr), on peat fuel, XVII 358.
 Lethrinus, genus of fishes, XII 187.
 Lethrus, genus of insects, IX 120.
 Letronne (M.), on the vocal Memnon, XIV 492.
 —on ancient Greek painting, XVII 52 and n 5.
 Letter locks, XIII 536.
 Letters, classes and forms of, as used in printing, IV 707—encouragement given to, in China, VI 576
 —of administration, duties on, XXI 66.
 —postal arrangements for the transmission of, See Post-office.
 —practice of opening, at the post-office, XVIII 405 *et seq.*
 —revival of, I 14; VII 535.
 LETTERKENNY, in Donegal, XIII 348; VIII 103.
 Letterpress printing, XVIII 520
 Letter-writing, XVIII 327—Walpole's letters, XXI 693, 694
 Lettic, or Lettish language, IX 392; XIII 215.
 Lettoui (John), printer, XVIII 537; XXI 401.
 Lettres de Cachet, X 43, 47.
 Lettsom's method of taking casts from medals, VI 325
 Lettuce, V 197; IX 761—culture of, XI 743—as food for silk-worms, XX 291—water, V 214.
 LEUCA (Capo di), XIII 348
 LEUCADIA, island, XIII 343, XII 452.
 Leuchtenbergite, mineral, XV 78
 Leuchtenburg, Duke of, IV 607; XVIII 390—his galvanoplastic establishment, XXI 638.
 LEUCIPPUS, philosopher, XIII 348
 Leuciscus, genus of fishes, XII 356, 357—fossil, 346.
 Leucite, mineral, XV 74—rock, 133.
 Leucocythema, XVII 661.
 Leucophane, mineral, XV 88.
 Leucophaea, animalcules, III 202.
 Leucopus, genus of insects, IX 257.
 Leucopyrite, XV 115.
 Leucothyreus, genus of insects, IX 124
 LEUCURIA, in Bosnia, XIII 348—battle of, III 623; XX 502, XXI 177.
 Leucus, VII 484.
 LEUX, Swiss village, XIII 349.
 Leupold, his fire-escape, XIII 438—on bridges, VI 383—his water-pumping steam-engine, XX 575, 576.
 LEUSDEN (John), XIII 349.

LEU—LEY

- Leuthen, battle of, XXI 714.
 Leutike (Capt.), his scientific voyage, IX 573—his pendulum observations, *ib.*, 574.
 LEUTSCHAU, Hungarian town, XIII 349.
 LEUWENHOCK (Anthony van), XIII 349—on anatomy, II 763; IX 3—on the brain, 820, 821—on the muscles, *ib.*—his microscopic discoveries, III 197—on ants, 261—on spiders' threads, 376—on the wing scales of the silk-moth, XIV 802—on the structure of teeth, XVI 409
 LEUZE, town in Belgium, XIII 349.
 LEVANT, XIII 349; XIV 469—trade of England with the, VIII 732—plague of the, XVII 748
 —Company, XII 818.
 LEVANTE, Sardinian province, XIII 349, X 452.
 LEVANTO, XIII 349.
 LEVÉE, XIII 349
 LEVET and Levelling, XIII 349—in mining, XV 224. See Surveying
 Levellers, V 410, XII 495
 LEVEN, in Fifeshire, XIII 349.
 —(Lord), V 404
 —(Loch), between Argyll and Inverness shires, XIII 350
 —(Loch), in Kinross-shire, XIII 350, 94, XIX 792—its trout, XIII 94; XII 242
 —river, in Fifeshire, XIII 94.
 —river, in Dumbartonshire, VIII 235; XIII 657.
 Lever, XIV 388; XX 541—new property of, discovered by Spinus, II 164—saying of Archimedes as to the power of, III 430.
 —escapement, VII 32
 Leverrier (M.), his early investigations, I 829—his prediction of the place and orbit of Neptune from the motions of Uranus, 827, 829; IV 93—preceded by Mr Adams in this investigation, I 830—on the perturbations of Uranus, IV 93—on the motions of Mercury, IV 89, 90—his other researches, I 832.
 Levin (Rahel), XXI 524.
 LEVITES, XIII 350; I 488.
 LEVITICUS, XIII 351
 Levyne, mineral, XV 76
 Levenhaupt (General), XIX 479, 480
 LEWES, in Sussex, XIII 351; XX 338, 339—battle of, 840
 —(G. H.), on the applications of phrenology, XVII 565.
 Lewin (J. William), his work on the lepidoptera of New South Wales, IX 11.
 —(William), his works on insects, IX 8, 11.
 LEWIS (Dr), his method of taking casts from medals, VI 325—on gilding, X 628.
 —(F. H.), his design for the Panopticon, III 506.
 —(General), his tabular view of the subjects of artillery, III 680—on howitzers, 700.
 —(Sir George Cornwall), on the early history of Rome, XVI 261; XIX 300, 301—on the Pelasgi, XVII 371—as a philologist, 525.
 —(MATHEW GREGORY), novelist, XIII 353—his romances, XIX 277.
 —(Mr), American mesmerist, XX 441.
 —(Mr), his method of making ink, XII 382.
 —island, XIII 351.
 LEXICOON, XIII 353. See Dictionary.
 Lexicography, XVII 526.
 Lexington, skirmish at, V 481.
 —in Kentucky, XIII 373, 70.
 LEXDEN, city of Holland, XIII 353—papyrus at, XI 377—university of, 580; XXI 492—university library, XIII 422; XI 589—museum, *ib.*—population, 582.
 —Jar, I 737; VIII 526, 611, 612, 613; XII 95 and n, 4.
 —(JOHN), XIII 353—on the Asiatic languages, 205 *et seq.*—on Borneo, V.

LEY—LIC

- 47—his connection with the Scots Magazine, VII 299
 LEYDEN (Lucas von), painter, XVII 74
 Leydolt (Prof.), on nature-printing, XVIII 555.
 LEYTE, island, XIII 355.
 Leyzin, in Switzerland, mortality and burials in, XVIII 349, 350
 LEYD (Edward), antiquary, XIII 355
 —(Humphrey), his attack on Boyce, V 254.
 Liability, limited and unlimited, XVII 313—limited, 316—evils of, *ib.*, 319, 322—facilities it gives for swindling, 320—application of, to banking, 323; its disadvantages, XV 452—unlimited, XVII 316.
 Lias, XV 207—in Scotland, XIX 793—flora of, V 236; XVII 641—fishes of, XII 343, 350, 352; XVII 117, 125, 126, 140
 Liantaud (Dr), on the tea-plant in Brazil, XXI 81
 LIBANIUS, rhetorician, XIII 355
 LIBANUS, or Lebanon, XIII 355. See Syria.
 LIBAU, Russian seaport, XIII 355.
 LIBEL, XIII 355—law of, V 472—in church courts, IX 480
 LIBELLULA, genus of insects, IX 175, 178—lives after decapitation, III 177.
 Liber, or inner bark, V 82.
 LIBERIA, XIII 359; II 227, 709.
 LIBERTUS, bishop, XIII 360
 Libertin, Roman, XIX 817.
 Liberty, political, XIII 280; Barbour's encomium on, IV 435—natural, XIII 261—civil, *ib.*—opposition of civil and political, 268—promoted by the Crusades, VII 532; and by commerce, IX 395—economists on, VIII 377—religious, not accorded in ancient Greece, XX 381.
 —OF THE PRESS, XIII 360, 357—Hall's apology for, XI 192—French laws relative to, X 179, 180, 184.
 Libes (M.), on electricity produced by pressure, VIII 563
 Libethenite, mineral, XV 103
 LIBOURNE, in France, XIII 373; X 632—roof of the riding-house at, XIX 394.
 Libra, XIII 373.
 LIBRARIES, XIII 373—history of, 380—British, 389—foreign, 406—American and Colonial, 428—statistical view of the principal libraries, 432, *et seq.*—Alexandrian, II 469—Ambrosian, in Milan, XIV 95; XV 3—in Berlin, IV 667—Constantinople, XXI 383—Copenhagen, VII 347—Dresden, VIII 177—Dublin, 225—Edinburgh, 395, 399—Florence, IX 686—Germany, X 592—Gibraltar, 620—Glasgow, 653—Italian, XII 881—Lambeth palace library, XIII, 669—Lisbon, 506—Liverpool, 521—London, 674—Madrid, 805—free libraries in Manchester and Salford, XIV 259—Modena, XV 296—Munich, 679—New York, XVI 221, 230—Padua, XVII 42—Rome, XIX 369—Santiago, VI 546—free library at Sheffield, XX 97—of the United States, XXI 424—at Vienna, 583—classification of books in, IV 715—Samuel Brown's itinerant libraries, XI 176—libraries entitled to receive a copy of every published book, VII 357, 358.
 Libration of the moon, I 813, IV 39—discovered by Galileo, III 801—Lagrange on, I 813; III 811; XIII 152, 156.
 Libri (M.), on the effect of electricity on odoriferous bodies, VIII 599.
 LIBURNI and Liburnia, XIII 435.
 LIBYA, or Libia, XIII 435, 743; II 211—invaded by Agathocles, VI 285—Lybian war, VI 290—coins of, XVI 380.
 Libythia, genus of insects, IX 208.
 Lice, IX 261—bird-lice, 262—whale-lice, VII 542—wood-lice, 543—destruction of, XXI 549—on the domestic animals, 579.
 LICENCE, of Excise, XIII 435—license duties for different modes of fishing in

LIC-LIF

- Ireland, IX. 623, *n*—license duties as a tax, XXI. 69
 Licensor of books, VI. 370; IV. 722
 Licetus (Prof.), on the moon's light, IV. 41
 —his work *De Monstris*, XIV. 423
 Lichens or Lichens, nat. order of plants, V. 217—reproductive organs of, V. 146
 —used in dyeing, VIII. 278, 285; XIII. 515—orchilla weed, XVI. 700—reindeers, XIII. 235
 Lichenm, V. 72
 LICHFIELD, XIII. 436—cathedral, XX. 531.
 —(Lord), on the penny postage system, XVIII. 411
 Licha, genus of fishes, XII. 297—fossil, 345.
 LICHTENBERG (G. C.), XIII. 436.
 —German principality, XIII. 436.
 Lichtenberg's electrical figures, VIII. 606
 Lichtenberger (Prof.), on the origin of printing, IV. 707.
 Lichtenstein (A. A. H.), his work on the genus mantis, IX. 11—on the giraffe, XIV. 209.
 Licinian law, XIII. 303.
 Licinianus (Claus Graeus), discovery of his annals, XVII. 215.
 LICINUS, Emperor, XIX. 352.
 —(Stolo) XII. 436.
 Licinus, genus of insects, IX. 148.
 Licosa, headland, XX. 241
 LICROIA, XIII. 436; IX. 486
 Liddel, river, VII. 576; XIX. 453, 790
 Liddell and Scott (Messrs), their lexicon, XVII. 526.
 —(Dr), on the History of Rome, XIX. 301
 Lidner, Swedish author, XIX. 699.
 Lie, does necessity justify a? XV. 572.
 Lieber (Thomas). See Erastus.
 Lieberkuhn on the villi of the ileum, III. 60, 61—his solar microscope, XIV. 739
 Liebig, on agricultural chemistry, II. 374
 —on the fermentation of Bavarian beer, V. 335, 336—on the ingredients of the soil necessary for the growth of plants, 172—on the potato disease, *ib.*—his chemical school at Giessen, X. 621—on animal heat, XVII. 665—his mode of silvering glass specula, XXI. 132.
 LIECHTENSTEIN, German state, XIII. 436.
 LIEKE, province in Belgium, XIII. 436; IV. 613, 615.
 —town, XIII. 436—taken by Marlborough in 1702, V. 447—university of, IV. 620; XXI. 492—library of, IV. 623; XIII. 423—manufacture of fire-arms at, IV. 628
 LIEGOWITZ, in Silesia, XIII. 437, XX. 275.
 Lier (C.), his work on the insects of France, IX. 15.
 LIÈRE, or Lier, town in Belgium, XIII. 437—normal and military schools at, IV. 621, 622.
 Lieganig, his measures of a meridional degree, IX. 550
 Lieutenant (Joseph), anatomist, II. 765.
 LIEUTENANT, XIII. 437; III. 605—naval, XVI. 104—prices of commission, rates of pay, &c., VII. 202, 203.
 Lievrite, mineral, IV. 90
 Life, II. 747—tenacity of, among insects and other animals, III. 176—instances of supposed confusion of animal and vegetable life in animalcules, 200, 204, 206, *n*. 2—length of, in the antediluvians, 267; in modern times, XIV. 425, see Longevity—Aristotle on, III. 548—expectation of, XV. 647; XVIII. 351, 353, 355—doctrine of, XVII. 648—properties of living beings, 655—physical and vital phenomena, *ib.*—average duration of lives, XVIII. 588, 589—human life compared to a river, XIX. 179—agents influencing, 607—life seemingly restored by galvanism, XXI. 634.
 Life-boat, XIII. 445—Journal, 447
 —Institution (National), XIII. 445 and *n*—its life-boat, 446.
 LIFE-GUARDS, XIII. 437; III. 665, XI. 74, VII. 202.
 LIFE-PRESERVERS, XIII. 437.
 Life-rafts, XIII. 439.

LIF-LIL

- Life Assurance, III. 224, 239; XII. 334—tables, 415, 416—offices, 404—in London, XIII. 665. See Annuities, Insurance.
 Liffey, river, VIII. 215; XII. 505; XIII. 81.
 Lifford, in Donegal, VIII. 103.
 Lifting pump, XII. 177
 Ligaments, structure and properties of, II. 823; XVII. 652—yellow or elastic, II. 824, III. 5—in bivalve shells, XV. 342
 Ligan, IX. 668.
 Lignature, XX. 822 *et seq.*
 LIGN, XIII. 449; XVI. 521 *et seq.*—Aristotle's definition of, I. 621—undulatory theory of, 801, 895, 896, 903, 909, progress of, since Fresnel, 917—interference of light, 897 (see Interference)—Fresnel's discoveries regarding, 809; X. 306, 307—retardation of, in dense media, I. 910—theory of dispersion of, 920—non-dispersion in free space, 921—chemical action of, *ib.*—aberration of, II. 35, III. 804; IV. 21—its effects upon plants, V. 220—zodiacal, IV. 13—of the moon, 41; discovery of heat in, XIV. 485—nature of, VI. 657—amount of solar light received by the earth, 775, 776—colours of deflected and diffracted light, 650, 651—electrical, VIII. 548, 547, 648—its influence on health, XIX. 608—alternately attracted and repelled by bodies, XX. 752—produced by voltaic electricity, XXI. 626, 637—instantaneous light apparatus, 630—white light, XI. 273—light and shade in drawing, VIII. 178. See Aurora Borealis, Chromatics, Colour, Optics, Phosphorescence, Polarisation, &c.
 LIGNETROO (John), English theologian, XIII. 482.
 LIGNHOUSES, XIII. 463—principles of optics applied to the improvement of, I. 758—Fresnel's system of illuminating, 906, X. 307—introduced into Scotland, I. 907—on the Isle of May, XIV. 367—Eddystone, III. 491; XX. 335—in the Firth of Forth, IX. 795—of Cantyre, XIII. 95—at Corunna, X. 872—in the Mauritius, XIV. 363—R. Stevenson's improvements in, XX. 695—on the Chapman sands, 723
 Lightning, XIV. 662—identical with electricity, I. 785; VI. 345; VIII. 527, 682—rapidity of, II. 107—Stephen Gray on, VIII. 526—transport of ponderable substances by, 584—sheet or summer lightning, 587, XIV. 683—effects produced by, VIII. 585—on compass needles, 600—on animal bodies, 601—death from, XIV. 431—its destructive effects, 662—meteorolites not produced by, 638—conductors of, VIII. 609—for ships, 610, XX. 24—imitation of, XVIII. 706.
 Ligne (Prince de), his Life of Prince Eugene, IX. 367, *n*.
 Lignin, V. 72.
 Lignite, XV. 123, 149; XVII. 641—of Armagh, III. 614—Prussia, XVIII. 668
 Lignum-vitæ, XXI. 278—specific gravity of, XII. 89—in Honduras, XI. 612—use of, for the bearings of the screw-shaft in steam-vessels, XX. 655.
 Ligny, battle of, V. 619; XVIII. 657.
 LIGON, in Siam, XIII. 463.
 Ligula, genus of entozoa, XXI. 979.
 Ligule, in botany, V. 92
 LIGURIA, in Italy, XIII. 438.
 LIMBORD, in Jutland, XIII. 438
 Lilac, flowering shrub, XVII. 764.
 Lilac-colour, dyeing of, VIII. 311, 313.
 LIMBURG (John), XIII. 438.
 Limbace, nat. order of plants, V. 212
 Limus (Aloysius), reform of the calendar by, VI. 82, 83.
 LIMUL, or Lisle, XIII. 438—defence of, by Bouffiers, V. 242; IX. 369—siege of, X. 70—population, 277.
 —lace, XIII. 142.
 LIMBOURNE, town in France, XIII. 464.
 LIMOL (George), XII. 484—dramatic works of, VIII. 164, 165; XVIII. 96.

LIL-LIM

- LILLY (John), poet, XIII. 484; XXI. 166
 —(William), astrologer, XIII. 484—his account of Bragg's visit to Baron Napier, XV. 777
 —(William), grammarian, VIII. 796.
 Lily, culture of, XI. 752.
 —order of plants, V. 212
 Lily-encirment, XVII. 98
 LILYÆUM, XIII. 435, XX. 245—besieged by the Romans, VI. 290.
 LIMLE, or Lily (William), grammarian, XIII. 485.
 LIMA, XIII. 485; XVII. 465, 474—temperature of, II. 673—Bolivar's expedition to, IV. 818
 —genus of mollusks, XV. 343, 347—fossil, XVII. 108
 Limacidae, family of mollusks, XV. 374
 Limacina, genus of mollusks, XV. 361.
 Limacodes, genus of insects, IX. 214
 Limamurena, genus of fishes, XII. 231
 Lamanobia, fossil mollusks, XVII. 105
 Limapontia, genus of mollusks, XV. 370
 Limax, genus of mollusks, XV. 374
 Limbelite, mineral, XV. 89
 Limber-strake of a ship, XX. 187.
 Limbs, power of throwing off and restoring, in the crustacea, VII. 538
 LIMBORCH (Philip Van), XIII. 486—on theology, XXI. 204 *et seq.*
 LIMBURG, XIII. 486.
 Limburg-Brouwer, on ancient mysteries, XV. 754.
 LIMES, XIII. 487, XV. 65—its use as a manure, II. 302, 414—Dr Black on the causticity of, IV. 738—crystallised and stalactitic carbonates of, VI. 68—chemical properties of, 487—its use as mortar, V. 731, XX. 713—in purifying gas, X. 416—in the manufacture of sugar, XX. 792, 797—sulphate and phosphate of, as manures, II. 304, 415—plants, 388; V. 97—its beneficial effects against "fingers and toes," II. 319—phosphorescent effects of electricity on calcareous substances, VIII. 699—its poisonous property, XIV. 434—carbonate of, VI. 472, 487. See Iceland spar, Limestone, Marble.
 LIMBRICK, Irish county, XIII. 487—agricultural statistics, XII. 615, 517—golden vale of, X. 388.
 —city, XIII. 488—siege of, in 1691, V. 443; XII. 490—treaty of, 491, V. 443
 —lace, XIII. 142
 Limestone, II. 391, XV. 92, 146—different kinds of, 147, 148—fresh-water, 144, 147—joints in, 164—specific gravity of, XII. 88—marble, XV. 143—altered or crystalline, 153—carboniferous, 202, 203—hippurite limestone, XIII. 503; XVII. 107—of Derbyshire, VII. 755—Devonshire, 763—Edinburghshire, VIII. 400—as building-stone, XX. 712—formations of, liable to be hollowed into caverns, XVII. 601—mortar made from, XX. 713—kinds composed of fossil foraminifera, XXI. 1007. See the Geological Section of different countries.
 Lime-tree, V. 113, 185, XVII. 769, 761—its use in joinery, XII. 817—as a timber-tree, XXI. 278.
 —fruit, V. 186; XI. 739.
 —juice, XIII. 331.
 Limigantes, VII. 306, 307.
 LIMITED LIABILITY, XIII. 489; XII. 819
 Limitrophic organs, III. 3, 59
 Limnæaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 188.
 Limnea, genus of mollusks, XV. 374—fossil, XVII. 111
 Limnebius, genus of insects, IX. 117.
 Limneidae, family of mollusks, XV. 374.
 Limnephilus, flies used as bait, III. 149.
 Limnobia, genus of insects, IX. 226.
 Limnochares, genus of arachnides, III. 289.
 Limnoria terebrans, XI. 224; VII. 542.
 LIMOGES, town in France, XIII. 489—population, X. 277.
 Limon Bay, XVI. 121.
 Limonite, mineral, XV. 108.
 Limonia, genus of mollusks, XV. 349—fossil, XVII. 106.

LIM-LIN

- Limosa, genus of birds, XVI. 803
 LIMOUSIN, in France, XIII. 489, X. 277.
 LIMOUX, town in France, XIII. 489
 Limpet, XV. 379—key-hole limpet, 380—bonnet and slipper limpets, *ib.*
 Limpopo, African river, II. 214.
 Limaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 187.
 LIMACRE (Thomas), physician, XIII. 489—founder of the College of Physicians of London, XIV. 459, 460
 Linant (M.), on the volume of water in the Nile, VIII. 426—on lake Moens, 503
 Linari (Prof.), on thermo-electricity, XXI. 653
 Linaria, genus of birds, XVI. 761
 LINARES, town in Spain, XIII. 490.
 Linarite, mineral, XV. 105
 Lincei, academy of, II. 63
 Linckius on marine worms, XXI. 991, *n*. 2
 LINCOLN, XIII. 490—cathedral of, III. 482, 616; XX. 733
 —College, Oxford, XXI. 459.
 Lincoln's Inn, XII. 384; XIII. 672—library of, 394.
 LINCOLNSHIRE, XIII. 490—sheep, II. 245—improvement in its agriculture, VII. 391—canals, XVI. 54—duck-catching in, 818—embankments in, VIII. 643, 647—population and value of property, 754
 Land (Dr James), his anemometer, XVIII. 65.
 —(Jenny), songs written for, by Mendelssohn, XIV. 496.
 LANDAU, in Bavaria, XIII. 493
 Lande (S. Gottheb), his Polish lexicon, XVII. 529
 Linden, order of plants, V. 185
 Lindenau's astronomical publications, III. 813, 814
 Landisfarna, XI. 593; XVI. 299
 Lindley (Dr), his classification of plants, V. 179—on the propagation of plants, XI. 693—on horticulture, 693 *et seq.*
 —(George), on horticulture, XI. 708, 713, 715.
 LINDO, XIII. 494.
 LINDSAY (Sir A. Bethune), XVII. 422
 —(Sir DAVID), XIII. 493, V. 191—Chalmers's edition of, VI. 402—his satire of the Three Estates, VIII. 144.
 —of Pitsoch, his account of the escape of James V., XIX. 770.
 —(Dr), on the character of Wako-field, XXI. 682.
 —(W. Lauder), on the dyeing properties of lichens, VIII. 286
 LINDSEY (Rev. Theophilus), XIII. 493.
 LINDUS, town in Rhodes, XIII. 494.
 Line, in geometry, X. 506, 507—straight line, 507, 551, properties of, 556—lines in fortification, IX. 809—in heraldry, XI. 326—lines of the spectrum, I. 915—of operation in war, XXI. 704—line of battle, 720.
 —arrangement of volcanoes, XXI. 604.
 Linear engraving, VIII. 805.
 LINEN, XIII. 494—bleaching of, IV. 768—its loss of weight in bleaching, 769—calendering of, VI. 92—dyes worse than silk and wool, VIII. 274—method of dyeing it red, 292; yellow, 299; blue, 303; black, 306; green, 310; violet, 312; orange, 313, mixtures of black, &c., 814—imports and exports of, 734, 736—exports, 730—ink for marking, XII. 384—means of removing ink-spots from, XIII. 331—its use in paper-making, XVII. 251, 252.
 Linen-manufacture, XIII. 495—of Antwerp, III. 268; Armagh, 614; Dundee, VIII. 258; Dunfermline, 259; England, 729; Fife, IX. 545, France, X. 253; Germany, 590, Donegal, VIII. 108—Ireland, XIII. 519—Coleraine, VII. 109—Forfar, IX. 784—Holland, XI. 583—Kirkcaldy, XIII. 98—Paisley, XVII. 89—Scotland, XIX. 806—Sligo, XX. 331—Tipperary, XXI. 287—Tyrone, 408—Wurtemberg, 938.
 Ling, as food, IX. 764.

LIN—LIP

- Ling, fisheries of, in Britain, IX 648—*in* Ireland, 634—Scotland, XIX 804
— (H. P.), Swedish poet, XIX 700
Linga, one of the Shetland islands, XX 113
Lingam, V 287
LINGARD (Rev John, D.D.), XIII 496—on the character of Cromwell, V 418—on the Restoration, 420—on the great plague in London, 424—on an incident in King Edgar's history, VIII 660, *n*—on the massacre of St Bartholomew, X 33, *n*—on the influence of Wycliff's biblical labours, XXI 946
LINGEN, island, XIII 496
Lingula bone, in man, III 26
Lingula, genus of mollusks, XV 339, 337—fossil, XVII 105
— flags, XV 196; XVII 103
Lingulidae, family of mollusks, XV 339
Link motion, XIV 401
LINKÖPING, in Sweden, XIII 496
LINKÖPINGS LAN, XIII 496
Links' experiments on capillarity, XII 101
Linkwork, in mechanics, XIV 398, 400
LINLITHGOW, XIII 496
LINLITHGOWSHIRE, XIII 497—agricultural statistics, XIX 796, 797, 798—population, 799—corn-measures of, XXI 809
Linnean Society of London, XIX 368—founded by Sir J. E. Smith, XX 346
LINNÆUS (Sn Charles), XIII 498—his classification of animals, III 182, 184, of plants, V 177; of the mammalia, XIV 126; of birds, XVI 726—his definition of the three kingdoms of nature, III 169—his entomological system, IX 4—on ants, III 261; the crustacea, VII 540, fishes, XII 205—on the sexes of plants, V 152—on the colours of plants, VII 158—his *Systema Naturæ*, XIV 126 and a 1—his museum purchased by Sir J. E. Smith, XX 346—on the manufacture of sal-ammoniac, II 721—on zoophytes, XXI 973 *et seq*—his description of himself, XIV 126
Linnette, mineral, XV 116
Linnets, XVI 761
LINNË (Loch), XIII 501; XIX 795
Linnæ (Admiral), V 598, 601
Linseed oil, XVI 494
LINT, XIII 501. See Hemp, Lanen, Weaving
Linth, Swiss river, XX 888
Linton Bridge, on North British Railway, XVIII 762, 763
LIN-TSING, town in China, XIII 501
LINUS, XIII 501
— (Father), his opposition to Pascal, IV 451
Linyphia, genus of arachnides, III 380
Linz, or Linz, Austrian city, XIII 501
Lion, XIV 169, XVII 632—of Africa, II 217—*in Persia*, XVII 423—of Asia, III 739—Hindustan, XI 455 and *n* 2—dentition of, XVI 459, 460—chemical composition of the teeth of, 418—less courageous than the dog, XX 219—lion-shooting, 211—fossil, XVI 172—*in heraldry*, XI 332
Lion-ant, IX 178
Lioncels, in heraldry, XI 332
Liorhynchus, genus of entozoa, XXI 980
Lipara, genus of insects, IX 254
LIPARI ISLANDS, XIII 502, XX 246
Liparis, genus of fishes, XII 307
Liparites, VII 814
Liparus, genus of insects, IX 139
Lipensis, biographical dictionaries of, IV 714
LIPETSK, Russian town, XIII 502
LIPPA, Hungarian town, XIII 502
LIPPE—DETMOULD, German principality, XIII 502
LIPPE-SCHAUMBURG, XIII 508
Lippersheim (John), the alleged inventor of the telescope, XVI 527; XXI 183
LIPPER (Filippo), painter, XIII 508
— (Fra Filippo), painter, XIII 508
— (Lorenzo), painter, XIII 504
— (Prof.), of Florence, on the lymphatics, II 804

LIP—LIT

- LIPPSTADT, Prussian town, XIII 504
Lips, muscles of the, III 39—*anatomy of* the, 47
LIPSRUS (Justus), XIII 504, VI 738—on crosses, VII 518
LIQUATION, or eliquation, XIII 504
Liquefaction, XI 269
Liquens, IX 760
Liquid manures, II 294
— measures, XXI 808
Liquidambar, order of plants, V 207
— tree, XVII 765
Liquids, weight of, XIV 417. See Fluids
Liquor sanguinis, XVII 664—exudation of, 690
LIQUORICE, XIII 505; V 190
Liri, river. See Garigliano
LIRIA, town in Spain, XIII 505
Liroconite, mineral, XV 103
LISBON, XIII 505—geographical academy of, II 62—royal academy of, 67—earthquake at, X 695; XVII 582, XVIII 386; XX 94—manufactures, XVIII 398—wine, 397; XXI 885, 889, 890—French expedition to, in 1831, X 205—newspapers, XVI 203
LISBURN, Irish town, XIII 508
Lisidownvara, in Clare, *chaibéate* spring of, VI 753
LISIEUX, in France, XIII 508
LISKARD, in Cornwall, XIII 508—group of rocks, XV 199
LISLE (Joseph Nicholas de), XIII 508
— See Lille
LISMORE, Irish town, XIII 509—salmon fishery of, IX 625
— island, XIII 509
Lispe, genus of insects, IX 250
LISSA, Prussian town, XIII 509
— island, XIII 509
— genus of insects, IX 252
Lissonotus, genus of insects, IX 144
LISTER (T Henry), novelist, XIII 509
— (J Jackson), his improvements of the microscope, II 768; XIV 778
— (Marian), his work on insects and arachnides, IX 3—on the habits of spiders, III 376
Liston (Rev Henry), his organ, XVI 713
— (Mr), on surgery and surgical instruments, XX 820 *et seq*
LISZTOW, Irish town, XIII 509
Literary property; see Copyright—chronology, VI 698—diseases of literary men, XIV 442
— history, in its relation to philology, XVII 526
Literature, an element in history, XI 538—of Edinburgh, VIII 403—Egypt, 447; XI 426—London, XIII 673—Germany, X 593, 693—of the Hindus, XI 477—illustrated by numismatics, XVI 352—of Holland, XI 590—Hungary, XII 18—Italy, 660—China, VI 576—organisation of, XIX 107—data for theories of, 110—Russian, XIX 546—Scandinavian, 689—of the United States, XXI 424
Litharge, VI 497
LITHGOW (William), traveller, XIII 509
Lithia, XV 65—*in tourmaline*, 89.
Lithia-mica, XV 78
Lithium, VI 486
Lithobius, genus of myriapods, XV 749
Lithocardium, genus of mollusks, XV 349—fossil, XVII 107
Lithodendron, fossil corals, XVII 97
Lithodomus, genus of mollusks, XV 348
Lithographic stone, XV 92—printing, XVIII 520
LITHOGRAPHY, XIII 510—chromo-lithography, XIV 734, XIII 513
Lithology, XV 129
Lithomarge, mineral, XV 84
Lithophyllacea, polypes, XXI 1005
Lithophytes, XXI 974, 1009
Lithornis, genus of fossil birds, XVII 155
Lithosia, genus of insects, IX 214
Lithostrotion, fossil corals, XVII 97
Lithotomy, II 766—ancient, XX 811, 814—modern, 817, 818, 820—operation of, 830; on the horse, XXI 570.

LIT—LIZ

- Lithotritry, XX 830, 831—practised in ancient times, 811
Lithoxylon, mineral, XV 69
LITHUANIA, XIII 514—language of, 215; IX 392
Lithurgus, genus of insects, IX 199
Litke (Admiral), his survey of the coast of Russian Lapland, XIII 242, 243
Litorina, genus of mollusks, XV 382
Litorinidae, family of mollusks, XV 382—fossil, XVII 110
LITRUS, XIII 515
Litre (French liquid measure, X 284
Litell (Clement), XIII 402
Little Go, examination at Cambridge, XXI 464
— Rock, town in Arkansas, XIII 515
— (Mr), on the produce of the Irish salmon fisheries, IX 624
— (V) entomologist, IX 18
LITTLETON (Sir Thomas), XIII 515
Littrow (Prof.), on telescopes, XXI 121, 124, 125
Lituites, fossil mollusks, XVII 112
Litula, fossil foraminifera, XVII 93, 94
LITURGE, XIII 515—Coptic liturgies, VII 350
Live stock, II 337—treatment of, under disease, 357—improvement of, by Lake-well, 268; IV 377, XIII 350—management of, II 325, 340 *et seq*. See Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, &c
Liver, III 62—worms in the, 175; XXI 974—excretion from, XVII 665—in the crustacea, VII 539—its diseases in the domestic animals, XXI 569
LIVERPOOL, XIII 517—*and* Manchester Railway, I 885, XVIII 753, XIII 179; XX 682—benefits conferred on, by steam and railway conveyance, VII 457—Dr Currie's residence in, 594—W Brown's munificent gift to, XIII 406—free library of, 405—docks of, VIII 74—police statistics of, XVIII 198—post-office statistics, 416—roof over the railway station at, XIX 398, steam-engines at, XX 607
— in New Brunswick, XIII 522
— in Nova Scotia, XIII 522
— (C. JENKINSON), first earl of, XIII 522
— (R. B. JENKINSON), second earl of, XIII 523, XVII 363—a member of the ministry in 1806, V 601—prime minister, 612—bill of pains and penalties against the queen presented by, 629—his commercial policy, Ib, 637—struck with apoplexy, 648—on seigniorage of coinage, VII 75—his work on coins, XV 429, quotation from, 436
Laverwort, order of plants, V 217, 145. See Hepaticeæ
LAVRY, XIII 524
Lavernem of London, XIII 677, 526
LAVIA, XIX 394—genus of insects, IX 171
Livings in the English Church, VIII 743. See Benefice
Livingstone (Dr), his travels in Africa, II 211—on the effects of missions on the natives of Africa, XV 273—his notice of Tete, 670—discovery of Lake Ngami, X 477; XVI 940—on the Zambesi and its falls, XVII 601, 608; XXI 967
LIVRUS (Andronicus), comic poet, XIII 527; VIII 141—poetry of, XVIII 104
— (Titus), XIII 526—his Roman history, XVI 258, XVII 210—his character as a historian, VI 739—on the embassy to consult the laws of Athens, Ib—alleged provincialisms in his style, XVII 336
LIVONIA, XIII 527, XIX 521—interest of money in, XII 429—language of, XIII 201, 215
LIVORNO, or Leghorn, XIII 528, 516
Livre (French), XV 434—its degradation, and average value at different periods, Ib
LIXURI, in Cephalonia, XIII 528; XII 453
Lixus, genus of insects, IX 140
Liza, a fish of Venezuela, XXI 536.

LIZ—LOC

- LIZARD POINT, XIII 523; VII 406
Lizard's tail order of plants, V 207
Lizards, reptiles XIX 27—their bones, III 86 *et seq*—teeth, XVI 433; eyes XVII 450
Llama, XIV 205; VIII 387, II 605; IV 823, XVII 473, 632
LLANDAFF, Welsh city, XIII 523
LLANDEILO-FAWR, XIII 528, VI 53
— flags, XV 196
LLANDOVERY, Welsh town, XIII 528—rocks of, XV 196, 198
LLANELLE, XIII 528; VI 52, 53
LLANFYLLIN, town in Wales, XIII 529
LLANGFERN, town in Wales, XIII 529
LLANGOLLEN, XIII 529—vale of, VII 735—*aqueduct at*, III 338
LLANDLOES, Welsh town, XIII 529; XV 518
Llanos of South America, II 668—of Hayti, XI 254—of Colombia, VII 133—of Venezuela, XVI 717; XXI 536—of the Orinoco, XVII 609; X 793
LLANRWST, Welsh town, XIII 529
LLANTHISAINT, Welsh town, XIII 529
Llelena, town in Spain, XIII 529
Llewellyn (M), his oxymel photographic process, XIV 549
LLORENTE (Don J Antonio), Spanish historian, XIII 529—on the Inquisition in Spain, XII 390, 391
LLOUGHGOR, Welsh town, XIII 530
Lloyd (L), on bear-shooting, XX 211—on the capenulize, 238—on retreats in war, XXI 718
— (Prof. of Dublin), on the theory of light, I 918—other works of, Ib, 919—his magnetic instrument, 994—his exertions promoting magnetical expeditions, 995—on the moon's influence on the magnetic needle, XIV 18—on the variation of the needle, 53, 57—his method of observing the dip, &c, 56—his theodolite magnetometer, Ib—his inclination instrument, 87—on optics, XVI 546, 548, 549, 599 *et seq*
— (WILLIAM), bishop, XIII 530
LLOYD'S ROOMS, Royal Exchange, London, XIII 530—Glasgow, X 654
— Register of British and Foreign Shipping, XIII 531, XX 106—effects of, in ship-building, 204, 205—classification of timbers at, XXI 277
Lo (St), French town, XIII 531
Loach, angling for, III 162
Load of timber, XXI 280
Loadstone, or magnet, XIV 1, 19—specific gravity of, XII 88—armature of, 20—statue of Venus composed of, XIX 844
Loam, XV 83, 142
LOANDA, island, XIII 531
— (St Paul de), African city, XIII 531
LOANGO, XIII 531; II 227
Loasaceæ, nat. order of plants, V 192
Lobatto (M.), on the mortality in Amsterdam, XV 644
Lobean, island in the Danube, XXI 586
Lobeira (Vasco de), XIX 265
Lobelaceæ, nat. order of plants, V 189
Lobipes, genus of buds, XVI 505
Lobo (Jerome), Jesuit, XIII 531
Lobocheilos, genus of fishes, XII 257
Lobos, or Seal Islands, XIII 531
Lobotes, genus of fishes, XII 278
Lobster, VII 541—*circulating system of*, XV 356—fishery of, on the coasts of Ireland, IX 634—as food, 765
Locality, faculty of, XVII 563
LOCARNO, Swiss town, XIII 532; XX 882.
— lake of, XIII 151. See Lago Maggiore
LOCATELLI (Pietro), violinist, XIII 532
LOCATIO ET CONDUCTIO, XIII 532
Lochaber, XII 438
Locheia, seaport on the Red Sea, XVIII 818
Lochleven, XIII 532, III 527
Lochleven, XIII 532—trout of, Ib—Queen Mary in the castle of, XIX 735
LOCHMARVEN, XIII 533; VIII 238
LOCHWINNOCH, XIII 532
Lochy, river, XII 439.

LOC—LOC

- Lochy (Loch), XIX 794
 Lock, XIII 533—Bramah's, V. 273.
 —(Matthew), XIII 532.
 —of canals, XVI 54, 56; XIX 222—
 of the Caledonian Canal, 55.
 —of guns, XI 98.
 Lock-jaw, in animals, XXI 576.
 Locke (John), XIII 547—his division of
 the objects of knowledge, I. 8, 9—on
 trade as an object of liberal study, 49—
 on the distinction between mind and
 matter, 57—on primary and secondary
 qualities, 62—on the varieties of mind,
 76, n. 1—Waburton's opinion of his
 philosophy, 80, n. 2—his Essay on Hu-
 man Understanding, 100, 102 *et seq.*—
 biographical sketch of, 100, 101—his
 diligent study of metaphysical writings,
 103—his style, 104—reception of his
 Essay, ib., 105, 106, 250, 251—its influ-
 ence on Crousaz, 106 and n. 4—diffusion
 of his principles in France, 108, 250—
 his constant appeals to reason, and sim-
 plicity of his inquiries after truth, the
 best antidote to the errors of some of
 his conclusions, 108—misapprehension
 of his doctrines, 109 *et seq.*—on ideas
 from sensation and reflection, 110, 112,
 XIV 563, n. 1—his use of the word re-
 flection, I. 111, n. 253; XIV 562—77—re-
 presents sensation and reflection as dis-
 tinct sources of knowledge, I. 113—mis-
 apprehensions relating to his doctrine
 on the power of moral perception, and
 the immutability of moral distinctions,
 115—his disavowal of the conclusions
 sometimes drawn from his reasonings,
 117—Lord Shaftesbury's attack on, 118
 —his tracts on Education and the Con-
 duct of the Understanding, 118, 119, 121
 —his letter to Newton, 119, n.—defects
 of his intellectual character, 120, 121—
 his modesty, 122, n.—on the intercourse
 between mind and matter, 125, n.—his
 chief opponents in England, 253—his
 philosophy contrasted with the specu-
 lation of Leibnitz, 126— injustice done
 to him by Leibnitz, 255—on the scale
 of beings, 136, n.—on free-will, 143, n.
 —letter of his to Collins, 263—influence
 of his writings on education, 269—on
 the perception of colour and figure, 166,
 n.—on reason in matters of religion,
 516, n. 1—on innate ideas, 109 *et seq.*;
 XIV 601—on the silver coinage, VII
 79, 739—his common-place book, 204—
 Condillac's adoption of his doctrines,
 234—on the power of truth, XIII 368—
 on supplies of iron, XIV 276—on in-
 sanity, 526—on trifling propositions, 593
 —on metaphysics, 552 *et seq.*—Mill's
 views on mental phenomena compared
 with his, XV 12—a reformer in educa-
 tion, 809—on diversity of opinion as to
 what constitutes right and wrong, 541—
 on genera and species, XVI 736—his
 tracts on Money, XVIII 218—on the
 source of wealth, 225—on the incidence
 of taxes, XXI 40—his definition of wit,
 894.
 —(Dr), his thermo-scopie galvanome-
 ter, XXI 654.
 —(Joseph), on railways, XVIII 794,
 795.
 Locke's History of Navigation, extract
 from, XX 118.
 LOCKERBY, XIII 549; VIII 238—fair at,
 IX 468.
 LOCKHART (John Gibson), XIII 548—his
 Life of Burns, VI 20—his novels, XIX
 282—on Sir Walter Scott, 820, 821.
 —of Carnwath on the character of
 Fletcher of Saltoun, IX 661.
 LOCKPORT, town in United States of Ame-
 rica, XIII 549.
 LOCUS (Le), Swiss village, XIII 549.
 Locomotive organs of, III 3, 4, 37. See
 Muscles.
 Locomotive engines, I. 881, 882; XVIII
 779; XX 614—improvements in, by G.
 Stephenson, I. 882—adapted by him to
 railways, 884—competition of, in 1829, at
 Rainhill, 885—theory of, 886—speed of,

LOC—LOL

- 885; XVIII 793—expense of, 791—
 mileage run by, 784—stations for, 774
et seq.—prevention of smoke in, XX
 358—application of valve-gear to, 584
 See Stephenson (George and Robert).
 Locomotive faculty, XIV 503.
 Lockr, ancient town, XIII 549—Grecian
 tribes, ib. 550.
 LOCUS, XIII 549—coins of, XVI 370.
 Loculaments (loculi), in botany, V. 131.
 Locupletes, III 776.
 Locust, IX 159; XVII 637—locusts in
 Abyssinia, II. 55—Africa, 218—Arabia,
 III 347—Asia, 741—the Canaries, VI
 163—India, XI 457—Egypt, VIII 433,
 XXI 549—Syria, ib.—people who feed
 on, II. 115—their tenacity of life, III.
 176—sometimes found in England,
 XVII 637.
 —tree, XVII 759, 762.
 Locusta, genus of insects, IX 153.
 Locustæ, in botany, V. 115.
 Lodes, in geology, XV. 177, 193, 219, 220.
 See Veins, Mineral.
 LODÈVE, town in France, XIII 550.
 LOPEZ (Thomas), XIII 550.
 Lodging-houses, in London, XIII 664;
 XIX 604—Lodging-House Acts, ib.
 LODI, in Lombardy, XIII 550—battle of,
 X. 100, XV 786.
 Lodvic (Mons), his plan of a universal
 alphabet, VI 417.
 Loeschman's patent organ, XVI 713.
 Loew (H.), his works on insects, IX 24.
 LOFODEN ISLANDS, XIII 550—fishery of,
 XVI 927.
 Loc (ship's), XIII 551; XVI 4—log-line,
 XIII 551—patent, XX. 27—of engineer, in
 steam-vessels, 636.
 LOGAN (John) XIII 551.
 —stones, VIII 187, VII 764; XV.
 166.
 Loganiaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 199.
 Logarithm, mineral, XV 80.
 LOGARITHMS, XIII 552—in algebra, II.
 532—effect of their invention on the
 progress of astronomy, III 801—inven-
 tion of, I. 563; XV 776—applied to
 navigation, XVI 5—to trigonometry,
 XXI 338.
 Logeman's artificial magnets, XIV 76.
 LOGGAN (David), engraver, XIII 551.
 Logi, Caledonian tribe, VI 74.
 LOIRE, XIII 567—of induction, I. 803—
 Plato's logical method, XVII 799—
 necessary logical judgments, XIV. 597
 —medical, 464—character of the article
 on, in this work, XX. 496.
 Login (T.), on the transportation of de-
 trital particles by running water, XVI.
 85.
 Logistique, in war, XXI 702.
 Logogram, XX. 676, 678.
 LOGORO, town in Spain, XIII 635—battle
 of, XX. 464.
 Logwood, V. 190; VIII 287, 304; XI.
 610—specific gravity of, XII 89.
 LOMBA, seaport of Arabia, XIII 635.
 Lohenstein, poetry of, XVIII 118.
 Lohuree, Indian town, XIX 415.
 Lons, vertebrae of the, III. 6—muscles
 of the, 38.
 LOIRE-ET-CHER, in France, XIII 635.
 LORRA, department of France, XIII 635—
 Haute, ib.—Inférieure, ib.
 —(La), river, XIII 636; X. 240,
 XVII 647.
 LOIRET, department of France, XIII.
 636.
 Lois Weedon, system of wheat culture, II
 303, 309.
 LOJA, Spanish town, XIII 636.
 Lok (Michael), northern voyages promoted
 by, XVIII 166, 167.
 LOKEREN, town in Belgium, XIII 638.
 LOKMAN, XIII 636; II. 187; IX. 461.
 Lolligidae, fossil, XVII 114.
 Loligo, genus of mollusks, XV. 400, 395,
 397—gladius of, 399.
 Lohgopsals, genus of mollusks, XV. 399.
 Lollingite, XV. 115.
 Lollulus, genus of mollusks, XV. 400.
 Lolland, or Laaland, island, XIII. 133

LOL—LON

- LOLLARDS (The), XIII 637; VIII 637,
 688; XVIII 823.
 Lolle (Peter), his Danish Proverbs, XIX.
 692.
 LOLLU (Antonio), violinist, XIII. 637.
 Lollus Urbicus, XIX 741.
 Lolme (De), on political liberty, X. 738.
 Lomas (Joseph), his silk machinery, XX.
 285.
 Lombard (Augusta), work on bees by, IX.
 23.
 —(Peter), XIII 637.
 —school of painting, XVII 72.
 Lombard's hive, III 295.
 LOMBARDS, XIII. 638, X. 578—their in-
 vasion of Italy, XII 641 *et seq.*; X. 578;
 XX. 256—their wars with the Romans,
 VII. 313.
 LOMBARDY, XIII. 643; IV 809—irrigation
 in, XII 622—monarchy in, XV. 413—
 feudal laws of, IX. 523, 524—iron crown
 of, XII. 536—Challemagne crowned
 king of, X. 8—climate, XII 638—shower
 of stones in, XIV 623—savings-banks,
 XIX. 674—silk produced in, XX. 278.
 Lombe (John), first silk-mill in Britain
 established by, VII 755; XX. 276.
 LOMBOY, island, XIII 657.
 Lombrina, genus of annelides, XI. 299.
 Lomechusa, genus of insects, IX 104.
 LOMOND (Loch), XIII 657, VII 235;
 XIX. 794; XX 702—its temperature at
 different depths, VI. 777.
 —Ben, XX. 702.
 LOMONOSOF (M. Wastowitz), Russian poet,
 XIII 657.
 LOMSHA, in Russian Poland, XIII. 658.
 LONATO, in Lombardy, XIII 658.
 Loncha, genus of insects, IX 252.
 Lonchitide, XV 115.
 Lonchoptera, genus of insects, IX. 244.
 Lonchurus, genus of fishes, XII 284, 285.
 LONDON, XIII 658—Royal Academy of
 Arts, II. 67—academies of music, 68—
 repaired by Alfred, 480—architecture of
 St Paul's Cathedral, III 455, see Paul's
 (St)—arms of, IX 328—architecture of
 Whitehall, III. 454; of Sir C. Wren's
 edifices, ib.; of those of later architects,
 455—architecture and roof of St Paul's
 Church, Covent Garden, 454; VI. 268
 —roof of St Martin's-in-the-Fields, ib.
 —Somerset House, III 455—specimens
 of pointed architecture in, 480—archi-
 tecture of public buildings, 483—site of,
 496—streets and street architecture,
 497, 506—architecture of club-houses, 506
 —Panopticon, ib.—sewerage of, 495,
 497 and n.—drainage of, VIII 126—
 parks, III 494—Astronomical Society
 of, 815—bread, IV. 380, 381—Royal
 Exchange, XI. 59—Gresham College,
 60—porter, V. 381—fermenting-house
 in Whitehall and Co's brewery, 388
 —bricks, 343 *et seq.*—Bridewell, 342—
 bridges, 354 *et seq.*—Blackfriars Bridge,
 III. 409—Southwark Bridge, XII 583,
 586; V. 361; centre for, VI. 879—
 Vauxhall Bridge, XII 583, 586—Water-
 loo Bridge, V. 363—Old London Bridge,
 354—piles of London Bridge, VIII.
 213—construction of houses in, VII.
 380, 381—great plague, V. 428; XVII.
 752; its effect on the religious devotions
 of the people, I. 461—great fire, V. 424
 —anti-Catholic riots, 492—Rathbone
 Place water, VI. 351—Charterhouse or
 Charter-house, 428—Great Westminster
 clock, VII. 24—Royal Exchange clock,
 19, 20—the term *cockney*, 52—mint, 68
 Doctors' Commons, 113—College of Physi-
 cians, ib.; XIV. 460; Surgeons, VII 114
 —Sion College, 115—quantity of coal
 brought to, 44—cutlery of, 601—Deaf
 and Dumb Asylum, 686—proportion of
 deaf and dumb in, 687—docks, VIII. 74,
 75—convent of the Blackfriars, 100—
 Humane Society, 182, 183—roof of Drury
 Lane Theatre, VI. 268—duties on coal
 brought to, VII 45—port of, VIII. 721;
 V. 355—decrease of mortality in, 755—
 University and King's College, 745;
 XXI. 466, 470—University College, 470

LON—LON

- charitable institutions, VIII 748—
 vessels registered at, 738—Great Exhi-
 bition of 1851, IX 453—fish markets,
 VIII 728; IX. 634, 645, 649—gas-
 works, X. 410—gazette, 443; XVI 182,
 183, 189—Guy's Hospital, X. 163—inns
 of court, XII. 384—inns of chancery,
 384—Foundling Hospital, IX. 845—fire
 insurance, XII 417—livery, XIII 526—
 libraries, 389 *et seq.*—change in the
 variation of the needle at, XIV. 51, 54
 —changes in the dip of the needle, 59
 —cemeteries, 444—banking introduced,
 XV 453—clearing-house, ib.—bills of
 mortality, 600—its municipal privileges,
 682—newspapers of 1714 and 1733, XVI.
 184; of 1760—1820, 185; of later date,
 183, 189—length of pendulum at, XVII
 384—police, XVIII. 193, 194, 195—
 penny post established, 405—post-office,
 416, see Post-Office—cocene rocks of
 the London basin, XV 211, 212—Lon-
 don plate, 212, 213; XVIII. 439; XX.
 386—King's Cross railway station, XVIII.
 773—railways connected with, 786, 791 *et
 seq.*—prisons, 567, 568—roof of the
 Italian Opera-house, XIX. 399, 400—
 bath and washing establishments, 603
 —lodging-houses, 604—sanitary me-
 asures adopted in, 605 *et seq.*—over-
 crowded graveyards, 621—savings-banks,
 667—list of societies in, XX 368; Sta-
 tistical Society, 551—East London water-
 works, pumping-engines at, 612, 614—
 effect of the sulphurous acid in the
 smoke on its principal buildings, 712—
 theatres, VIII 165; XXI 160 *et seq.*,
 176—Thames tunnel, see that article
 London, in Canada West, XIII 680, VI.
 144.
 —(New), in Connecticut, XIII 680.
 LONDONDERRY, XIII. 680—siege of, in
 1689, V. 442; XII 489—agricultural
 statistics, 516, 517—quays at, XVI 79.
 —(Lord) See Castlereagh.
 LONG ISLAND, XIII 683; XVI. 213—
 battle of, XXI 750.
 —island, or Yuna, XIII 683; IV 366.
 —(Lock), XIII 638.
 —(Major) on the cannibalism of the
 Potowatomies, II 682.
 —(Roemer), XIII 683.
 —(St John), XIII 638.
 Long-boat, IV. 800.
 Longchamps (Selys de), his works on
 insects, IX. 22.
 Longevity, of the antediluvians, III. 267;
 probably caused, in earliest times, by
 the influence of the Tree of Life, I. 453, 454—
 its importance in regard to the inven-
 tion of the useful arts, 453—instances of,
 in the Ionian Islands, XII. 444—
 from abstinence, II. 51—in the Papal
 States, XVII. 243.
 LONGFORD, in Ireland, XIII. 683—agricul-
 tural statistics, XII 516, 517.
 Long-horns, breed of cattle, II. 341.
 Longhi (Ant.), his work on insects, IX. 18.
 Longicornes, family of insects, IX 143.
 LONGINUS (Dionysius Cassius), XIII 684;
 XVII. 221.
 Longipalpi section of insects, IX. 103.
 Longipennis, family of birds, XVI 811.
 Longirostris, tribe of birds, XVI 800.
 Longitarsus, genus of insects, IX. 150.
 LONGITUDE, XIII. 685; X. 480; XVI. 7, 10
 —in astronomy, IV. 6, 12—method of
 reducing geocentric to heliocentric,
 87—methods of finding it, 113, 119;
 X. 472; XVI. 28, 45, 46, 48—on globes,
 X. 486—table of length of degrees of,
 at different latitudes, 481— as given
 by Ptolemy, 467, 472—in connection
 with the trigonometrical survey, XXI.
 386 See Chronometer.
 LONGOBARDY, XIII. 690. See Lombards.
 LONGOBUCO, town of Naples, XIII 690.
 LONGOMONTANUS (Christian), XIII. 690;
 XIX. 692—on astronomy, III. 799—
 on logarithms, XIII. 558.
 Longprimer type, XXI. 401, 403.
 Longsightedness, cause and remedy of,
 XVI. 696.

LON—LOS

Longtown, in Cumberland, XIII. 690
 Longuerana, II. 739.
 LONGUS, Greek sophist, XIII. 691
 Longwall method of working coal, VII. 121.
 Longwood, St Helena, meteorological observations at, XIV. 686.
 LONGWY, French town, XIII. 691
 LONG-LE-SAULNIER, in France, XIII. 691.
 Loo-CHOO ISLANDS, XIII. 691—language, 217.
 Loodanahs, XI. 466.
 LODIANA, town in Hindustan, XIII. 691
 LOOE (East and West), villages in Cornwall, XIII. 692.
 Looking-glass See Mirror.
 Loom, XXI. 783—draw-loom, 785—carpet-loom, VI. 271, 272—Indian, VII. 437—power-loom, 450; first introduced into Glasgow, X. 650, struggle of hand-loom against, XXI. 781—for tapestry, 20—electro-magnetic loom, 789. See Power-Loom.
 LOONGKEE, Burmese town, XIII. 692.
 Loosestrife, order of plants, V. 191.
 Lopares, people of Russian Lapland, XIII. 242, 243.
 Lopez, his practical expedition to Cuba, VII. 568.
 —DE VEGA, XIII. 692. See Vega
 Lophidae, or Lophodidae, family of fishes, XII. 310, 311.
 Lophiodon, fossil mammal, XVII. 163.
 Lophioidae, family of fossil fishes, XII. 346.
 Lophius, genus of fishes, XII. 311—fossil, 346—teeth of, XVI. 421, 422, 425
 Lophobranchiata, family of fossil fishes, XII. 338, 361.
 Lophobranchia, or Lophobranchia, order of fishes, XII. 314, 315
 Lophopea, polypes, XXI. 1002
 Lophophorus, genus of birds, XVI. 786.
 Lophosia, genus of insects, IX. 248
 Lophomina, genus of birds, XVI. 783.
 Lophotes, genus of fishes, XII. 304.
 —genus of birds, XVI. 745.
 Lophytropia, genus of crustacea, VII. 543
 Lophyrus, genus of insects, IX. 183
 —genus of reptiles, XIX. 32
 Lorantheae, nat. order of plants, V. 195
 LORANI, Roman officers, XIII. 692
 LORCA, Spanish town, XIII. 692
 LORCHA, Chinese vessel, XIII. 692.
 LORD, honorary title, XIII. 692
 —Anckland's group, IV. 268
 —of the Isles, XI. 279; XIX. 764—iron ship so named, XX. 184.
 Lord's day, I. 502 and n., 503, 504; XIX. 562. See Sunday.
 —prayer, I. 498
 —supper, XXI. 219.
 Lord-lieutenant of a county, VII. 467
 LORDS (House of), XIII. 692; VIII. 768; X. 787; XVII. 289, 292—admission of a baron into, IV. 469.
 —of the Articles, XVII. 291.
 Lorente (Dr), on the vegetation of Peru, XVII. 471
 Lorenzo Marques, on the Mozambique coast, XV. 670.
 Loret (Sieur), his metrical gazette, XVI. 196.
 LORETO, in the Papal States, XIII. 692—Santa Casa at, VI. 306.
 Loretto, town in California, VI. 94.
 LORICA, Roman cuirass, XIII. 693
 Loricaria, genus of fishes, XII. 263
 Loricera, genus of insects, IX. 94.
 Loricula, fossils, XVII. 101
 LORIENT, French port, XIII. 693—ship-building at, XV. 877—population of, X. 277.
 Lories, birds, XVI. 758.
 Loris, genus of mammalia, XIV. 145.
 Lortus, genus of birds, XVI. 783.
 LORNE (Phihbert de), his method of constructing roofs, XIX. 394.
 LORN, in Argyllshire, XIII. 698; III. 526
 LORRAINE, XIII. 693; X. 277—origin of the name, 10—dukes of, XV. 778.
 Loseby (Mr), his mercurial balance, VII. 81.

LOS—LOU

Losh (Mr), his double furnaces for prevention of smoke, XX. 354.
 Losse, river, XV. 576
 Lossesmouth, VIII. 632
 LOSSINI, XIII. 696, XVII. 4
 Lostwithiel, town in Cornwall, XIII. 696
 LOT, in France, XIII. 696
 LOT-ET-GARONNE, XIII. 696.
 Lota, genus of fishes, XII. 270.
 Lothaire, X. 10
 Lotharius, XII. 644
 LOTHEIAN, XIII. 696. See Haddingtonshire, Edinburghshire, and Lunithgowshire
 Lotophagi, XIII. 697.
 LOTTERIES, XIII. 696
 LOTRI (Antono), XIII. 697.
 LOTUS, plant, XIII. 697, VIII. 431
 LUDON (J. Claudius), XIII. 697—on horticulture, XI. 726, 728, 745, 746, 754
 —Hill, battle of, V. 430, XIX. 755
 LOUDUX, town in France, XIII. 698.
 LOUGBOROUGH, in Leicestershire, XIII. 698—population, 321.
 —(Lord), on divorce, VIII. 70.
 LOUGHERA, in Ireland, XIII. 698.
 LOUENS, town in France, XIII. 698
 LOUIS, name of French kings, XIII. 698.
 —le Debonnaire, X. 10
 —the Gross, X. 12—buildings in Paris erected by, XVII. 277.
 —the Stammerer, X. 11.
 —VII, reign of, X. 13—joins the second Crusade, VII. 525.
 —VIII, X. 13.
 —IX., reign of, X. 13—Crusades of, VII. 526; VIII. 483, XVII. 197.
 —X., reign of, X. 15
 —XI., reign of, X. 25—favours conferred by, on Philippe de Comines, VII. 181—Paris in the reign of, XVII. 278—Montesquieu on the history of, XV. 515—his treatment of the Swiss, XX. 884
 —XII, reign of, X. 29—his invasion of Italy, XII. 651—Machiavelli's missions to, XIII. 777
 —XIII, reign of, X. 34—duelling in the reign of, VIII. 281—his improvement of Paris, XVII. 278
 —XIV., reign of, X. 34—his expeditions against Algiers, II. 571—character of the court of, I. 55—was of, II. 637, in the Netherlands, IV. 303; against the Dutch, V. 428, XI. 577; with Britain, V. 447—his admiration of Bourdaloue, 249—his treatment of James II., 437, 445—persecution of the Protestants in his reign, VIII. 125—duelling, 281—his army, X. 270—his improvements of Paris, XVII. 279—poetry in the age of, XVIII. 116—police system of, 185—sumptuary laws, 186—his navy, XX. 181—Siamese ambassadors sent to, 284
 —XV, reign of, X. 34—Damien's attempted assassination of, VII. 641—Paris in his reign, XVII. 279.
 —XVI, reign of, X. 37—execution, 76—general mourning for, 176—Paris improved by, XVII. 279.
 —XVII, X. 97.
 —XVIII, X. 169—departure from Paris, 171—restoration, in 1815, 174—his death and character, 188, 189—his improvements of Paris, XVII. 279—and Talleyrand, XXI. 13, 14
 —(Dr), on medical jurisprudence, XIV. 428
 —king of Hungary and Poland, XVIII. 141.
 —Philippe See Philippe, Louis.
 —French gold coin, XV. 441.
 —island, XIII. 699.
 —Port, in the Mauritius, XIV. 863.
 —(St, knights of), XIII. 111, 120
 —(St), town in Missouri, XIII. 698; XV. 280
 Louisbourg, taken by the British, V. 468
 Lousade Archipelago, IV. 252, 263
 LOUISIANA, XIII. 699; XXI. 419, 430—debt of, 428—wines of, 888—its cession to France, V. 569—its transference by the Spaniards to Bonaparte, 593—code of, XIII. 272—rate of interest in, XII. 432.

LOU—LUC

LOUISVILLE, in Kentucky, XIII. 701, 70.
 Louping-ill, in cattle and sheep, XXI. 575.
 LOURDES, town in France, XIII. 701.
 Louise See Lise
 LOURIN, Irish county, XIII. 701—town, 702—agricultural statistics, XII. 515—518
 LOUVAIN, XIII. 702—university of, IV. 620, XXI. 492—library of, IV. 633.
 Louvel, assassin, X. 181
 Louvet's romances, XIX. 289
 LOUVIERS, town in France, XIII. 703
 Louvie, XVII. 281, 417, III. 453—Pont du, XII. 580
 Lovat (Lord), crofter system encouraged by, XII. 439
 Love, an ingredient in the spirit of cluvalry, VI. 605—interest imparted by it to the drama, VIII. 138, 146, 154—an attribute of God, XXI. 191
 Love-apple, XI. 745.
 Love-feasts, II. 230
 Love-his-bleeding, plant, V. 203
 LOVEL (Viscount), his insurrection in Henry VII.'s reign, VIII. 695.
 —poet, VII. 109.
 LOVEBLACE (Richard), poet, XIII. 703
 Lovell, his report on the seasoning of gunstocks, X. 169
 Lovenbrugger (Nicholas), XX. 885
 Lowe (Sir Hudson), his letters and journals, XV. 796.
 —(James), his screw-propeller, XX. 658.
 —a Scotch surgeon, XX. 818
 Lowate, mineral, XV. 99.
 LOWELL, in Massachusetts, XIII. 703.
 LOWER (Richard), XIII. 704, II. 761, 762.
 —(Sir William), XVI. 528.
 LOWESTOFF, XIII. 704—action with the Dutch off, V. 422
 Lowicz, town in Poland, XIII. 704
 Lowlands of Scotland, XIX. 791, 792.
 Lowndes on the coinage, VII. 78, 79, 378
 Lowry (Wilson), on engraving, VIII. 810
 LOWRY (Dr Robert), XIII. 704—his opinion of the common English translation of Bible, I. 18, n. 1—his opinion of Hooker's style, 39, n. 2—on Harris's Hermes, XI. 233.
 —(Dr William), XIII. 705.
 Lowther (Sir James), V. 497
 Lowthens, mountains, XIII. 174.
 Loxa, or Loja, town in Spain, XIII. 705, 636.
 —in South America, XIII. 705.
 Loxia, genus of birds, XVI. 761.
 LOXOCERA, genus of insects, IX. 262.
 LOXOCERA, mineral, XV. 70
 LOXODON, genus of fishes, XII. 824.
 LOXONEMA, fossil mollusks, XVII. 109, 110
 LOYOLA (Ignatius), XIII. 705; XII. 360, 750—his Spiritual Exercises, and letter on Obedience, 752, 753.
 Loyosa, his visit to the Ladrone Islands, XVIII. 268.
 Lozenge, in heraldry, XI. 330.
 LOZERE, in France, XIII. 705
 Lubbock (Sir John), on annuities, III. 225—on the orbits of comets, VII. 169—on probability, XVIII. 591—on the tides, I. 813—his astronomical labours, 825.
 LÜBCK, German city, XIII. 705—its commerce, VII. 187; with Denmark, 739—one of the earliest members of the Hanseatic League, XI. 213, 214—coins of, XV. 444—weights and measures, XXI. 812.
 —principality of, XIII. 706; XVI. 504.
 Luben, Prussian town, XIII. 248.
 LUBENENSIS (Stamelaus), XIII. 706.
 LUBEN, city of Poland, XIII. 706
 LUBENT, Russian town, XIII. 706.
 LUC (John André de), XIII. 706—on barometrical measurements, I. 730; IV. 464—his disingenuous appropriation of the discovery of latent heat, 739—on Hannibal's route across the Alps, VI. 293, n.—on evaporation, IX. 408—his hygrometer, XII. 186—his electric pile, XXI. 619—Wat's letter to, 776 and n.

LUC—LUD

Lucan (Earl of), XIX. 505
 LUCANIA, in Italy, XIII. 707.
 Lucanides, family of insects, IX. 127.
 LUCANUS (M. Annæus), XIII. 708—poetry of, XVIII. 106—death of, XIX. 837—Burman's edition of his Pharsalia, V. 788.
 —genus of insects, IX. 128
 Lucar (Cyprian), on gunnery, XI. 104, 106, 114.
 Lucas (Charles), XII. 494
 —(H), his work on insects, IX. 18
 —Paciolus, or De Burgo, on algebra, II. 484—on geometry, X. 504.
 —(T. M.), his system for teaching the blind to read, IV. 782, XVIII. 554.
 Lucaya, or Bahamas, IV. 365
 LUCCA, Duchy of, XIII. 708—population of, XII. 634—weights and measures, XXI. 812
 —Italian city, XIII. 708.
 Luccock (Ah), his estimate of the supply of wool, XXI. 906
 Luce Abbey, XXI. 864.
 —BAY, XIII. 709, XXI. 863.
 LUCENA, town in Spain, XIII. 709.
 LUCERA, town of Naples, XIII. 709.
 Lucernariade, polypes, XXI. 1006
 LUCERNE, in Switzerland, XIII. 710; XX. 882
 —lake of, XIII. 710, XX. 889, XXI. 494—temperature of, VI. 777.
 —culture of, II. 829
 Luchssapphir, mineral, XV. 88.
 LUCIA (St), island, XIII. 710.
 LUCIAN (St), presbyter of Antioch, XIII. 711—his recension of the New Testament text, XIX. 835, 836.
 LUCIANISTS, XIII. 711
 LUCIANUS, XIII. 711—his description of a disease at Abdera, II. 23—ridiculed apparitions, III. 315—on the Deluge, VII. 713.
 Lucid-disc micrometer, XIV. 757.
 LUCIFER, bishop, XIII. 712
 —matches, XIV. 352—unwholesomeness of the manufacture, XIX. 619.
 Lucifernus, sect, XIII. 712.
 LUCILUS (Caus), XIII. 712.
 Lucimeter, XVI. 635.
 Lucina, Egyptian goddess, VIII. 439.
 —genus of insects, IX. 254.
 —name of Juno, XIII. 20
 Lucinidae, fossil mollusks, XVII. 107, 108.
 —genus of mollusks, XV. 350—fossil, XVII. 107.
 Luciopeca, genus of fishes, XII. 276.
 Lucinopsis, genus of mollusks, XV. 350—fossil, 108.
 LÜCKE (G. C. Friedrich), XIII. 713—on the Book of Revelation, XIX. 98, 99.
 LUCKENWALDE, town in Prussia, XIII. 713
 LUCKNOW, in Hindustan, XIII. 713; XI. 477—outbreak of the sepoy mutiny at, XVI. 307—retaken from the rebels, 315
 LUCKPUT BUNDER, in Hindustan, XIII. 714
 LUCON, town in France, XIII. 714
 LUCRETIA, XIII. 714.
 LUCRETIVS, Roman poet, XIII. 714—philosophy of, I. 186, n.—on apparitions, III. 308—poetry of, XVIII. 104—Wakefield's edition of, XXI. 681.
 Lucrino (Lago), XII. 637; XX. 239.
 Lucullite, XV. 92
 LUCULLUS (Lucius Lucullus), XIII. 715; XIX. 322—his invasion of Armenia, III. 616—his banqueting-rooms, IV. 421—library, XIII. 384—his expedition against Mithridates, XV. 284.
 —(M. Lucius), XIII. 715.
 Lucy (Sir Thomas), XX. 82, 83.
 LUD, VIII. 46.
 LUDERHAGEN, XIII. 715. See Loodiana.
 LUDERS (General), his invasion of Transylvania, XII. 25.
 Ludi scenic, grossness of, VIII. 143.
 LUDLOW (Edmund), XIII. 715
 —rocks, XV. 197, 198—fossil fishes in, XVII. 116.

LUD—LUT

- LUDLOW, town in Shropshire, XIII. 716
 LUDOLPHUS (Job), XIII. 716.
 LUDWIGSBURG, XIII. 716.
 LUDWIGSLUST, XIII. 716.
 Lug-worm, XI. 296.
 LUIGANO, Swiss town, XIII. 716; XX. 882
 — (LAKE OF), XIII. 716, 644, XII.
 637; XXI. 248.
 LUGDUNUM, XIII. 716—Batavorum, 717.
 LUGO, in the Papal States, XIII. 717.
 — in Spain, XIII. 717, X. 373
 Luitprand, Lombard king, XIII. 640, 641,
 642; XII. 642.
 — on a musical tree, XVI. 709
 LUTKE (St), evangelist, XIII. 717—his Gos-
 pel and the Acts, XIII. 718
 — (St), hospital, XIII. 673
 LUKIN's experiments on the seasoning of
 timber, VIII. 209
 LULIU (Giovanni Battista), XIII. 718.
 LULLY (Raymond), XIII. 719.
 LUMACHELLO, XV. 92.
 LUMBAGO, XIX. 142
 LUMBAR vertebrae, III. 6, 75.
 Lumbering, timber trade, VI. 142; XXI.
 893
 Lumbrius, genus of annelides, XI. 300.
 Luminosity of plants, V. 169—of insects,
 IX. 107; XIII. 458—of the ocean, ib;
 XVII. 574; XXI. 988 and n. 2—of de-
 caying animal matter, XIII. 457
 Luminous waves, I. 888—barometer, IV.
 455—jar, VIII. 545
 Lumley Castle, VII. 267.
 Lunar observation, I. 833, 229—theory,
 814 *et seq.*, 825 *et seq.*, 849.
 — month See Moon.
 — year See Year.
 — distances, XVI. 38; XIII. 686—to
 find the longitude by, XVI. 48, 689
 Lunardi's aerial voyages, II. 178.
 Lunatic asylums, XIV. 426—in Dublin,
 VIII. 223—Crichton Institution, Dum-
 fries, 240—in Russia, XIX. 534.
 Lunatics, VIII. 748—proportion of, in
 asylums, to the population, 749
 LUNAWARA, in Hindustan, XIII. 719.
 Luncarty, battle of, XIX. 745.
 LUND, town in Sweden, XIII. 720—library
 at, 427—university, XXI. 492
 LUNDY ISLAND, XIII. 720, VII. 764.
 LUNE of Hippocrates, XX. 520.
 — river, XIII. 177, 180—aqueduct
 over, III. 388—plans of its channel,
 XVI. 72, 84—improvement of its naviga-
 tion, 77—increase of tidal water by
 works on, 84—physical characteristics
 of, 87.
 LUNEBURG, town of Hanover, XIII. 720—
 province, XI. 211.
 LUNEL, French town, XIII. 720
 LUNETTE, in fortification, XIII. 720; IX.
 810.
 LUNÉVILLE, town in France, XIII. 720—
 treaty of, X. 121; XV. 793; XVIII. 655
 LUNGS, III. 66—effect of training on the,
 VIII. 25—necessity of air to, 55
 —functions of, XVII. 662—excretion
 from, 665—test, by their floating or
 sinking in water, of a child having died
 before or after birth, XIV. 429.
 — of the lower animals, III. 112—in
 the mammalia, XIV. 183—inflammation
 of, in the domestic animals, XXI. 572
 Lunette, mineral, XV. 108.
 Lunule, in bivalve shells, XV. 341, 342.
 LUPERCALIA, Roman festivals, XIII. 720.
 Luperi, Roman priests, XIII. 720
 LUPERUS, genus of insects, IX. 150.
 Lupulin, V. 206
 Lurcher, dog, XI. 772
 Lure, for hawks, XI. 249.
 LURGAS, town in Ireland, XIII. 721.
 LUSATIA, in Germany, XIII. 721.
 LUSTANIA, XIII. 721; XX. 458.
 LUSTRATION, XIII. 721.
 Lustre of minerals, XV. 58.
 LUSTRUM, XIII. 721.
 LUTE, XIII. 721
 — stringed instrument, XIII. 722;
 XV. 716
 Luteolin, VIII. 295.
 Lutetia, planet, IV. 91

LUT—LYE

- Lutf Ali Khan, king of Persia, XVII. 441.
 LUTHER, XIII. 722; XVIII. 485—his con-
 tempt for Aristotle, I. 16—instances of
 his credulity and superstition, 238—
 Mosheim on his theological system, 21,
 n. 1—his Colloquia Mensalia, II. 740; I.
 238—his combats with the devil, III.
 312—his German Bible, IV. 702—his
 propositions against indulgences, XII.
 378—his liturgy, XIII. 516—Augsburg
 Confession partly drawn up by, IV. 240
 —Archdeacon Hare's vindication of, XI.
 228—his connection with Melancthon,
 XIV. 476—his share in effecting the
 Reformation, XVIII. 821 *et seq.*—his
 works proscribed in Scotland, XIX. 772.
 LUTHERANS, XIII. 740—ordination among,
 XVI. 704—their hymns, XII. 190—their
 places of worship in England, VIII. 745;
 in Europe, IX. 394, in Hungary, XII.
 166—their churches in America, XVIII.
 492; in Prussia, 658; Russia, XIX. 529.
 LUTON, XIII. 741; IV. 569—Luton Hoo,
 569
 Lutra, genus of mammalia, XIV. 159
 Lutraria, genus of mollusks, XV. 350—
 fossil, XVII. 103.
 Lutterloch (Henry), V. 504
 LUTTERWORTH, in Leicestershire, XIII.
 741, 321
 Lutz (M.), his balance springs, VII. 29.
 Lutzelbourg (Count de), on magnetic
 somnambulism, XX. 423
 LUTZEN, in Prussian Saxony, XIII. 741—
 battle of, X. 161, XX. 850.
 Luvarus, genus of fishes, XII. 298.
 LUXEMBURG, province of Belgium, XIII.
 741, IV. 601.
 — GRAND DUCHE OF, XIII. 741, IV.
 596
 — (DUKE OF), XIII. 742
 LUXEUIL, town in France, XIII. 742.
 LUXOR, or EL-UKSUR, in Egypt, XIII. 742;
 VIII. 507, III. 436
 Luxury, not disadvantageous, XVIII. 256.
 Luz, or Bethel, IV. 686
 Luzaney (Gommer de), on birds, XVI. 725
 Luzna (Santa), Cape Verde Island, XIII. 544
 LUZON, or LUÇON, island, XIII. 742; XVII.
 512.
 LYBIA, XIII. 743 See Libya
 Lybster, Caithness-shire, height of waves
 at, XI. 224.
 Lycabettus, hill near Athens, IV. 171.
 LYCÆNA, genus of insects, IX. 203.
 LYCÆUM, XIII. 743, IV. 170.
 LYCAON, XIII. 743
 LYCAONIA, in Asia Minor, XIII. 744.
 LYCIA, in Asia Minor, XIII. 744—lan-
 guage, 200, 210—coins of, XVI. 377—
 sculptures discovered in, XIX. 853
 Lycodes, genus of fishes, XII. 310.
 Lycodon, genus of reptiles, XCI. 56.
 LYCOMEDES, king of Scyros, XIII. 744.
 LYCON, philosopher, XIII. 744—an accuser
 of Socrates, XX. 380.
 Lycoperdum, genus of insects, IX. 151.
 LYCORON, Greek poet, XIII. 745.
 — Thessalian, XIII. 764.
 Lycopodiaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 216
 —reproductive organs of, 144—embryo-
 geny in, 167.
 Lycopodium clavatum, seeds of, employed
 for imitating lightning, XVIII. 706.
 Lycopolis, VIII. 605.
 LYCOSSA, genus of arachnides, III. 383.
 Lyctus, genus of insects, IX. 142.
 LYCURGUS, Spartan lawgiver, XIII. 745;
 XX. 499.
 — orator, XIII. 746.
 Lycus, genus of insects, IX. 107.
 LYDGATE (John), XIII. 746—poetry,
 XVIII. 120.
 LYDIA, in Asia Minor, XIII. 746—mo-
 narchy of, XV. 413—coins of, XVI. 372.
 Lydian stone, XV. 69.
 LYDIUS LAPIS, XIII. 749.
 LYD (Edward), XIII. 749.
 — its use in bleaching, IV. 768, 769
et seq.
 Lyell (Sir Charles), on the Falls of Nia-
 gara, IV. 185, 186—on the Deluge, VII.
 722—his description of Kent, XIII. 64—

LYG—LYT

- on the elevation of the Swedish shores,
 IV. 403; XX. 860—on the geology of
 Madeira, XIII. 801—on igneous rocks,
 XV. 131—on the deposits of rivers, 140
 —on the elevation and depression of
 land, 167 and n. 2—on the oolitic coal-
 field of Richmond, 209—on the "loess"
 or "lehm" of the Rhine, 217—on the
 quantity of matters suspended in rivers,
 XVI. 88, n. 1—on reptilian foot-marks
 at Greensburg, XVII. 132—on the fossil
 remains of birds, 154, 155—his subdivi-
 sion of the tertiary strata, 637—his
 theory of volcanoes, XXI. 606
 Lygæus, genus of insects, IX. 162.
 LYNN-REGIS, in Dorsetshire, XIII. 749.
 Lymæxylon, genus of insects, IX. 112.
 LYNNSTON, XIII. 749.
 — shrimp, VII. 543.
 Lymph, II. 782—cells, XVII. 650
 Lymphatic glands, II. 805.
 Lymphatics, II. 808—discovery of the
 distinction between the lacteals and,
 761—further discoveries respecting the,
 768—their connection with the veins,
 795—valves of, 805
 Lynch (Captain), his survey of the Dead
 Sea, III. 761; XVII. 186, 187
 — LAW, XIII. 749.
 LYONBOURG, in Virginia, XIII. 749
 Lyndhurst (Lord), on the Warrender di-
 vorce case, VIII. 73, n.
 LYNDOCH (Lord), IV. 652.
 LYNN, or LYNN-REGIS, in Norfolk, XIII.
 750—sand for window glass found near,
 X. 662
 — in Massachusetts, XIII. 750
 LYNN, XIV. 171—its fur, X. 349
 LYON KING-AT-ARMS, XIII. 750—court of,
 XI. 330.
 — (GEORGE FRANCIS), XIII. 750—his
 visit to Fezzan, IX. 530—his arctic
 voyages of discovery, XVIII. 171
 — (David), on magnetic metals, XIV.
 15
 — (Loch), XVII. 455.
 Lyon's Inn, XII. 885.
 LYONNAS, French province, X. 277—wines
 of, XXI. 883.
 LYONNET (Peter), XIII. 750—his work on
 the caterpillar of *Cossus ligniperda*, IX.
 5, 212.
 LYONS, XIII. 751; XIX. 150—Mongol-
 fier's balloon ascent from, II. 176—
 events at, in 1793, X. 80—Pont de
 l'Archevêche, XII. 531—troubles at, in
 1894, X. 210—population, 277—silk
 manufacture at, 255, XX. 278.
 — GULE OF, XIII. 752.
 Lyonsia, genus of mollusks, XV. 350.
 Lyopomata, order of mollusks, XV. 339.
 Lyra, constellation, IV. 79.
 Lyrate leaf, V. 90
 LYREA, XIII. 752.
 Lyre-tail, bird, XVI. 754.
 LYRIC POETRY, XIII. 752—of Greece,
 XVIII. 102.
 Lyrioccephalus, genus of reptiles, XIX. 32
 Lyrodæma, genus of mollusks, XV. 349—
 fossil, XVII. 106, 105
 Lyrops, genus of insects, IX. 195
 Lyrsander, Athens taken by, IV. 203.
 LYSIAS, Greek orator, XIII. 752—his ora-
 tion for Socrates, XX. 392.
 Lysicrates, choragic monument of, III.
 442, 462, 468; IV. 164—imitation of, in
 D. Stewart's monument, Calton Hill,
 Edinburgh, VIII. 406.
 Lysidæ, genus of annelides, XI. 298.
 LYSIMACHUS, XIII. 753.
 LYSIPTS, XIII. 753, XIX. 837.
 LYSONS (Daniel), XIII. 753.
 — (SAMUEL), XIII. 754.
 Lystra, genus of insects, IX. 169.
 Lystronchus, genus of insects, IX. 182
 Lyte (Maxwell), his photographic process,
 XVII. 549.
 Lythraceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 191.
 Lytta, genus of insects, IX. 134.
 LYTTELTON (George Lord), XIII. 754—on
 the conversion of St Paul, XVII. 245,
 n. 4.
 LYTTELTON (Thomas Lord), XIII. 754.

LYT—MAC

- Lytton (Sir Edward Bulwer), sum re-
 ceived by, for the lease of his works,
 VII. 356—his exertions for the reduction
 of the newspaper stamp, XVI. 189
 —as a novelist, XIX. 283—his inferi-
 ority to Sir Walter Scott in represent-
 ing the past, 280—his view of Rienzi's
 character, 171.
 M
 M, letter of the alphabet, XIII. 755—in ab-
 breviations, II. 19
 MAAT (John), XIII. 755; IV. 753
 Maberly (Col.), on the penny postage,
 XVIII. 411.
 MACALLON (Jean), XIII. 755—on Egyptian
 paper, XVII. 248.
 MABLY (G. Bonnot de), XIII. 755
 MABUSE, or Maubeuze (Jan de), XIII. 753.
 Macacus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 141—
 fossil, XVII. 167.
 MACADAM (John London), XIII. 755—on
 road-making, XIX. 225.
 M'ALL (Mr), on the iron ores of Ireland,
 XII. 541.
 MACAO, in China, XIII. 755.
 MACARONIC verse, XIII. 756—origin of the
 name, VIII. 249, n. 3—Dunbar's ex-
 amples of, 249; and Drummond's Po-
 lemo-Middima, 194, n. 2—Folengo's,
 IX. 748.
 Macarthur (Capt. John), an eminent wool-
 grower in New South Wales, XXI. 911.
 MACARTHY ISLAND, XIII. 756, X. 394
 MACARTNEY (George, Earl), XIII. 756—on
 China, VI. 590—on Chinese theatrical
 exhibitions, 579.
 — Cook, XVI. 790.
 MACASSAR, XIII. 756, VI. 361—oil, XVI.
 495.
 MACAULAY (Catherine), XIII. 756.
 — (Lord)—his account of the trial
 and character of Richard Baxter, IV.
 521—on the character of Lord Arling-
 ton, 654; Earl Temple, XI. 59; Earl
 of Oxford, 229; Duke of Berwick, IV.
 678; Dr William King, XIII. 90—
 on the state of the law, 271—on the
 Duke of Marlborough, VI. 715—on
 Collier's View of the Stage, XVII. 115—
 on Cromwell, 515—his verses on the
 Dissent, VIII. 36—on Milton, XV. 28
 —on the copyright of books in former
 times, VII. 356—his survey of British
 society prior to 1688, XI. 547—effect on
 Robert Hall of one of his articles in
 the Edinburgh Review, 194—on the
 early history of Rome, XVI. 261—on
 the Printing License Act, XIII. 858—
 his charges against William Penn, XVII.
 391—on Sir Wm Petty, 502—on the
 character and eloquence of the Earl
 of Chatham, 722, 723—on Boswell as
 a biographer, V. 64—his elevation to
 the peerage, XVI. 282—his character
 of Seneca, XX. 47—on Bishop Spat, 518
 —on Voltaire's mission to Frederick the
 Great, XXI. 659.
 Macawa, birds, XVI. 780.
 MACBETH, XIII. 757; XII. 442; XIX. 746
 —tragedy of, VIII. 150.
 Macbride (Capt), on the British navy, V.
 619.
 MACCABEES, Books of, XIII. 757—supposed
 origin of the name, XII. 769
 Maccabeus (Judas), XII. 733, 769, XVII.
 194.
 Maccall (Hugh), his martyrdom, V. 428.
 MACCARONI, XIII. 757; XX. 249.
 M'Carthy (Sir Charles), III. 726.
 M'Carthy's Island, X. 394.
 M'Clelland (Dr), on Indian fishes, XII.
 257, 258, 263
 Macclesfield, Countess of, VIII. 70.
 — town in Cheshire, XIII. 758.
 M'Clintock (Capt), arctic fossils brought
 home by, XV. 209—his arctic search ex-
 pedition, XVIII. 175.
 M'Clure (Sir Robert), his discovery of a
 north-west passage, X. 299, 474; XI.

MAC—MAC

- 88—his northern explorations, XVIII 174.
 M'Cormick's reaping machine, II 276.
 M'Care (Thomas), D.D., XIII 758; XVIII 500, 502—his Life of Knox quoted, XIII 124, 126, *et seq.*—his Life of Melville, XIV 489—on Dr Andrew Thomson, XXI 233—on the course of study in St Mary's College, St Andrews, XXI 474.
 Macculagh (Prof.), I 919 and *n.* 2—on optics, XVI 549, 668, 680, 686.
 MACCULLOCH (Dr John), XIII 759—on the second sight, III 818, *n.* 1—on vitrified forts, IX 790.
 M'Culloch, on the prevalence of fevers and other diseases in Ireland, XII 504—on absenteeism, II 50—on commercial companies, VII 218—on the payment of wages out of the poor-rates, VIII 749—on fairs, IX 463.
 MACDIARMID (John), XIII 759.
 MACDONALD (Duke of Tarentum, Marshal), XIII 760, X 111, 154.
 —(Dr), on digestion, VIII 21.
 —(J.), on the variation of the needle, XIV 54.
 —and Leslie's granite-works in Aberdeen, II 31.
 Macdonnell (Governor), on the river Gam-bia, X 394.
 Macdowall (C.), his clock escapement, VII 10; applied to watches, 82.
 MACDUFF, town in Banffshire, XIII 760.
 MACR, XIII 760; V 140, 204—of the Banda Islands, IV 410.
 MACEDO (Jose Agostinho de), poet, XIII 760—Egyptian deity, XI 886.
 MACEDONIA, XIII 760; XI 12; XIX 319—Macedonian army, III 626, *era*, VI 671; months, *ib.*; empire, XI 542; XV 412—coinage of, XVI 368. See Alexander the Great.
 MACEDONITUS, name of two bishops of Constantinople, XIII 776.
 MACER (C Licinius), Roman historian, XIII 776.
 —officer of the law courts, XI 321.
 MACERATA, Italian city, XIII 776—delegation of, XVII 243—university of, XXI 492.
 Maceratan, perfumes prepared by, XVII 408, 409.
 Macfarlane (Mr), his account of the Turkish army, III 659, 660, 661.
 M'Gaughey's electro-magnet, XXI 641.
 Macgill (Mr), on the Black Sea, IV 740.
 MACGILLICUDDY REEKS, XIII 776, 777.
 Macgillivray (John), on the Lousade Archipelago, IV 263—on the natives of New Guinea, 264.
 —(Dr WILLIAM), XIII 776—on the scenery of the Hebrides, XI 279—his correction of Audubon's style, IV 239—his Life of Aristotle quoted, XIV 122—on British birds, XVI 734, 742, 747, 764, 792.
 Macgregor (Mr), on the Falls of Niagara, VI 182—on Halifax, XI 188.
 M'Grigor (Sir James), on the plague, XVII 748 *et seq.*
 Macguire (Lord), his rebellion, V 319.
 Machalrodon, fossil tiger, in the pampas of South America, XVII 608, 639.
 Machalrodus, fossil quadruped, XVII 172—dentition of, XVI 464, 479, 480, *n.* 2.
 Machaon, XX 809.
 Machæta, genus of birds, XVI 804.
 Machævelism, religious, its bad effects on philosophy and morals, I 23.
 MACHIAVELLI (Nicolo), XIII 777—character and principles of, I 22 *et seq.*—his real intentions in writing *The Prince*, 234—no friend to the priesthood, although they have often availed themselves of his policy, 23—Hume's estimate of, 24—his alleged vindication of himself and writings, 235—M. Daunau's notice of his life and writings, 236—influence of his opinions on Italian diplomacy, VIII 39—comedy by, XVIII 110—Frederick the Great's work against, 651.
 Machills, genus of insects, IX 261.

MAC—MAC

- Machin (John), I 700, *n.* 1—on the quadrature of the circle, *ib.*; XX 623.
 Machinery, effects of its use on the condition of the people, VII 457—effect of, in putting down combinations, 163—hydraulic, XII 163—for the manufacture of iron, 558—excellence of British, XIV 277—exportation of, *ib.*—improved machinery alleged to be injurious to the operatives, 278—opposition to the introduction of, XXI 781—provision against accidents from, 790—unguents for resisting friction in, XIV 405; and to prevent heating, 408—manufacture of, in France, X 256; Leeds, XIII 313. See Friction, Mechanics.
 MACHINES, XIII 788—theory of, XIV 383; writers on, I 881—agricultural, II 270—parts of a machine, XIV 383—for raising water, XII 174—modulus of, XIV 404—purposes and effects of, 414—classification of, *ib.*—Coulomb's theory of simple, VII 462—printing-machines, XVIII 558—of varying velocity, working of, XIV 410.
 MACHINLETH, Welsh town, XIII 783.
 Machler (F J.), his work on insects, IX 22.
 Machlinia (William), printer, XVIII 537; XXI 401.
 Machera, genus of mollusks, XV 350.
 Machonochia, on the preservation of timber, XX 167.
 Macielowski (Dr), on the character of Luvy and Dionysius as historians, VI 739—on the feudal system, IX 521.
 Mack (General), V 599; X 110, 137, 138; XXI 417.
 Mackay (General), V 440, 441.
 MACKENZIE (Sir Alexander), XIII 783; XVIII 170.
 —(Dr), on the Admirable Crichton, VII 498 and *n.* 2.
 —(Sir George), XIII 783; V 429, 718—his defence of the treatment of Charles I by the Scotch, 409, *n.*—his equivocal account of the treatment of Mitchell, 430, *n.*—his character of Lord Stair, VII 632, *n.* 4—on heraldry, XI 324, 338.
 —(Sir G Stewart), on Iceland, XII 198, 200, 202—on colourless ink, 383—on hot-houses, XI 726.
 —(HENRY), XIII 784—has delineated Hume's character in the story of La Roche, I 368—his novels, XIX 275.
 —(Mr, of Ardross), on salmon fisheries, IX 609 *n.* 2, 610.
 —(Dr Murdoch), on the plague, XVII 748 *et seq.*
 —RIVER, XIII 785; XVII 605.
 Mackerel, XII 293; IX 764—fishery of, in Britain, 645, XII 293; England, VIII 727; Ireland, IX 634; Dorsetshire, VIII 112.
 —sky, XIV 656.
 Mackinac, climate of, XXI 421.
 Mackinaw, straits of, XIV 733, 740.
 MACKINTOSH (Sir James), XIII 785—his Dissertation on the Progress of Ethical Philosophy, I 291; circumstances under which that Dissertation was undertaken, 293—Dr Whewell's remarks on his ethical views, 296; on his doctrines regarding conscience, 298; association of ideas, 305; the relation of religion and morality, 307; and on free-will, *ib.*—on the independence of Geneva, IV 391—on the balance of power, *ib.* and *n.* 1—on the reverence due to originality of mind, I 808—on the early Britons, V 373 *et seq.*—his bills for the improvement of the criminal code, 633, 638—his characters of Playfair and Jeffrey, I 803, *n.*, of Canning, VI 177; Sir S. Romilly, VIII 241; George Wilson, *ib.*; C. J. Fox, IX 858—mistake of, in regard to the opponents of Hobbes, VII 579, *n.* 3—on Cardinal Wolsey, VIII 698—on the consecration of church property by Henry VIII, 702—on Butler's Analogy, VI 38—on the alleged intention to persecute the Catholics in the reign of

MAC—MAC

- Edward VI, VIII 710—his account of Edgar Atheling, 668 *n.*—on Gibbon and Robertson, X 617—his intimacy with Robert Hall, XI 191—on the Independents, XII 372—his account of the library at Goa, XIII 481—on association of ideas, XIV 596—Mill's criticism on his Dissertation, XV 12—his connection with the newspaper press, XVI 185—on the character of Hume, XII 7—on Paley's ethical theory, XVII 201—his commendation of Suarez's treatise, *De Legibus*, &c., XX 786.
 Mackintosh (Mr), conservatory constructed by, XI 755.
 Mackintosh's waterproof cloth, VI 203.
 MACLIN (Charles), XIII 787.
 MACKINTOSH (Dr James), XIII 787.
 MacLaren, on the site of Troy, XXI 366 *et seq.*
 M'Lauchlan (Rev T.), on Osman's poems, XVII 7 and *n.*
 MACLAURIN (Colin), XIII 787; I 806, 823—his opposition to Leibnitz's law of continuity, 133—contributed to the advancement of physical astronomy, 692—his method of expounding forces by co-ordinates advanced the science of dynamics, 720—on the earth's figure, 772; IX 552—on the tides, I 680—on the geometric properties of bees' combs, IV 578—on the inverse problem of centripetal forces, VIII 363—on fluxions, IX 676; X 505—his attempt to demonstrate the impossibility of the existence of giants, 606—on the motion of fluids, XII 72—his theorem in fluxions, IX 692—on the tides, XXI 250.
 Macleay (Wm. Sharpe), on the classification of animals, III 173—his classification, 191; IX 59, 60—on the metamorphoses of insects, 56, 57—on the order Strepsiptera, 220, 221—on the Linnæan algae, III 194—his entomological works, IX 13—on zoophytes, XXI 873.
 M'Lelland (Dr), on the Indian cyprinidæ, XII 257.
 Macleod (Mr), his account of a large serpent, XIX 60.
 Macles, twin crystals, XV 51.
 Macise (Joseph), his surgical anatomy, III 74.
 Maciura aurantiaca, tree, XVII 764.
 Maciura, fossil mollusks, XVII 109, 110.
 Maciura, mineral, XV 89.
 M'Mahon (General), XIX 644—created field-marshal, *ib.*
 M'Millan (Rev. John), XVIII 502.
 Macnab (John), his experiments on freezing mixtures, VI 353.
 Macnaughton (Sir Wm.), murder of, V 667; II 208.
 MACNELL (Hector), poet, XIII 788.
 M'Neil (Sir John), XVII 442—ails used by, for the Great Southern and Western Railway, XVIII 755.
 —origin of the family of, XI 280, *n.*
 MACNISH (Dr Robert), XIII 789.
 MACON, town in France, XIII 789.
 —in Georgia, United States, XIII 789.
 Maconochie (Captain), his mark system for prisoners, XVIII 584.
 MACPHERSON (James), XIII 789—his publication of Ossian, XVII 5—Dr Blair's patronage of, and dissertation on; his translation of Ossian, IV 750.
 —on the banking crisis of 1792–93, XV 459.
 Macquarra, genus of fishes, XII 278.
 Macquarie (General), his administration in New South Wales, IV 272.
 —river, IV 255, XV 697.
 Macquart (Jean), his works on insects, IX 16.
 MACQUEE (P Joseph), chemist, XIII 790—on dyeing, VIII 274 *et seq.*
 Macraspis, genus of insects, IX 123.
 Maciaw (Wm.), his bichromatic process in photography, XVII 550—his application of photography to porcelain, &c., 551—his improvement on the binocular camera, XX 691.

MAC—MAD

- Macready (Mr), his management of Drury Lane Theatre, XXI 174.
 Macrinus, Roman emperor, XIX 347.
 Macrobius (A. A Theodosius), XIII 790.
 Macroera, genus of insects, IX 200, 228.
 Macrocerus, genus of birds, XVI 780.
 Macrocheles, genus of arachnides, III 387.
 Macrochilus, fossil mollusks, XVII 109, 110.
 Macrocystis pyrifera, sea-weed, V 229, XVII 630.
 Macrodictyla, tribe of insects, IX 116.
 Macrodictyles, family of birds, XVI 806.
 Macrodon, fossil mollusks, XVII 106.
 —genus of fishes, XII 251.
 Macrogllossa, genus of insects, IX 210.
 Macrogllossus, genus of mammalia, XIV 148.
 Macronota, genus of insects, IX 127.
 Macroom, town in county of Cork, XIII 790.
 Macropeza, genus of insects, IX 228.
 Macropodus, genus of fishes, XII 290.
 Macropoma, genus of fossil fishes, XII 337, XVII 127.
 Macrothelma, fossil crabs, XVII 102.
 Macropus, genus of mammalia, XIV 176—teeth of, XVI 449.
 Macroramphus, genus of birds, XVI 803.
 Macrorhinus, genus of mammalia, XIV 172.
 Macroscelus, teeth of, XVI 451.
 Macrosemus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 836.
 Macrospandylus, fossil reptiles, XVII 152.
 Macrostroma, genus of fossil fishes, XII 844.
 Macrotherium, genus of fossil mammals, XVII 168.
 Macroua, tribe of crustacea, VII 541.
 Macrounæ, or Macrouridæ, family of fishes, XII 270.
 Macrounus, genus of fishes, XII 270.
 Macsnochain, Dun, vitrified fort, IX 790.
 Mactra, genus of mollusks, XV 350, 347.
 Mactridæ, family of mollusks, XV 350.
 M'William on dry rot, VIII 207.
 MADAGASCAR, XIII 790; II 220—opernus of, XVII 637—malagasi of, IX 347—land leech of, XI 302, *n.*—leptiles, XIX 53—ordeal poison of, V 199.
 Madai, VIII 45.
 MADDALONI, town in Italy, XIII 796.
 Madden on the vegetation of the Himalayas, V 226.
 —(Sir Frederick), on Shakspeare, XX 70, *n.* 1.
 MADDER, XIII 796; VIII 282, 288, 291, 317—in the Ionian Islands, XII 445—its culture in Greece, XI 16; France, X 248.
 —order of plants, V 191.
 Madera (General), V 287.
 —island, XIII 796—temperature of, IV 184—weights and measures of, XXI 812—wine, 857, 869, 890—map of, II Plate.
 —river, XIII 801; V 291; XVII 604; XVIII 382.
 MADERAS (Tho), XIII 796; II 229.
 Madia oil, XVI 495.
 MADISON, city in Wisconsin, XIII 802.
 —in Indiana, XIII 802.
 —(JAMES), president of United States, XIII 802.
 Madness. See Mental Diseases, Insanity.
 Madocks (W. A.), his embanking enterprise in Wales, VIII 647.
 MADRAS, XIII 802; XI 463—transactions at, in 1795, 501—judicature at, 525—operations of the army of, in suppressing the Sepoy revolt, XVI 312.
 —College, St Andrews, III 136.
 —kind of handicraft, VI 93.
 Madrepornia, stony corals, XXI 1005.
 Madrepodas, XXI 1005.
 MADRID, XIII 804—Academies of Painting and History at, II 68, 69—Royal Spanish Academy at, 71—libraries at, XIII 409—meteorological observations at, XIV 688—insurrection at, in 1822, XX 478; insurrections at, in 1354, 1856, 483—porcelain manufacture at, 490—painting at, 494.
 MADRIDJOS, town in Spain, XIII 806.
 MADRIGAL, XIII 806.
 Mad Staggers, XXI 575.

MAD—MAG

- MADURA, in Hindustan, XIII 806, 804.
 — island, XIII 806; XII 702, 709—
 trade with Sumatra, XX 806.
 MEANDER, river, XIII 806.
 MÆCENAS (Caius Cilius), XIII 806, XIX
 383—his patronage of Horace, XI 627,
 of Virgil, XXI 584; Virgil's Georgics
 suggested by, ib.
 MÆLSTROM, XIII 807; XVI 319.
 Mætz (J. N.), inventor of the metro-
 nome and other instruments, XIV 695.
 Maena, genus of fishes, XII 288.
 Maenidae, or Maenoids, family of fishes,
 XII 287, 288.
 Maenuphthes, XI 389.
 MÆOTIS, Palus or Lacus, XIII 807; IV
 384.
 MÆSTLIN (Michael), XIII 807.
 MÆSTRICHT, town in Holland, XIII 807
 —chalk, XV 211—population, XI 582
 MAFFEI (F. Scipione, Marquis), poet, XIII
 658—ascending thunderbolt seen by,
 VIII 583—his Verona Illustrata, XVII
 213.
 — (John Peter), his Life of Loyola,
 XII 749—early notice of tea by, XXI
 88.
 MAGADON, Arabian town, XIII 808.
 MAGALHAENS, or Magellan (Fernando),
 XIII 808; XVII 336—his circumnaviga-
 tion, X 473—his discovery of the La-
 drone Islands, XIII 150.
 Magars, Nepalese tribe, XVI 144.
 Magatus (Cæsar), XI 818.
 Magazine, Blackwood's. See Blackwood's
 Magazine.
 — Gentleman's, VI 350.
 Magdalen College, Oxford, XVII 35; XXI
 459—Cambridge, 466.
 MAGDALENA, river, XIII 809, XVII 647.
 — department of New Granada, X
 797.
 MAGDEBURG, XIII 809—Tilly's siege of,
 XX 849—Magdeburg experiment, in
 pneumatics, IV 452.
 MAGELLAN, or Magalhães (Strait of), XIII
 809—temperature of the climate, II
 673.
 Magellan's barometer, IV 455.
 MAGENDIE'S (François), XIII 809—on the
 veins, II 792, 793, 794—on the nerves
 of motion and sensation, 814—on ex-
 halants, 808—his dietetic experiments,
 VIII 18—on gravel, 24.
 Magenta, battle of, in 1859, XIX 644.
 MAGGI (Jerome), XIII 810.
 MAGGIORE (Lago), XIII 810. See Lago
 Maggiore.
 Maggot, cheese maggot, IX 254—used for
 bait, III 155—in sheep, XVI 579.
 MAGI, XIII 810; XIV 421.
 Magic, of the Druids, VIII 189—as prac-
 tised in Egypt, 443.
 — disc, XVI 697.
 — lantern, XVI 696.
 — SQUARE, XIII 810; I 704.
 Magicians, persecution of, by Valens, VII
 309.
 Magilus, genus of mollusks, XV 383.
 Maginac, his account of a remarkable
 cloud, VII 39.
 MAGINN (William, LL.D.), XIII 811.
 Maginus's burning-mirror, VI 10.
 Magiotti (Raphael), on hydraulics, XII 70.
 Magistrates, the Economists on, VIII 380.
 MAGLIABECCHI (Antonio), XIII 811.
 Magliabecchian Library, XIII 415; IX
 666.
 Magna Charta, VI 426; VIII 677, 770—
 of Hungary, XI 12.
 — GRÆCIA, XIII 811; XX 256.
 Magnanimity, I 423.
 Magna-crystalline force, I 981.
 Magna-optic force, I 981.
 MAGNENTIUS, Roman emperor, XIII 811;
 V 380; VII 303.
 MAGNES, comic poet, XIII 812.
 MAGNESIA, city of Ionia, XIII 812—in
 chemistry, VI 487; XV 65—in the
 composition of the earth's crust, XVII
 619—in plants, II 388—as an ingredient
 in limestone injurious to vegetation,
 XVII 620.

MAG—MAH

- Magnesia-alum, XV 97.
 Magnesian limestone, XV 145, 148, 205—
 fossil fishes of, XII 348, 349—lace-coral
 fossils of, XVII 98—as building stone,
 XX 712—Tennant on, XXI 153.
 Magnetite, mineral, XV 92.
 Magnetium, VI 487.
 Magnet, influence of, on all bodies, I 980
 —Gilbert on, 570—artificial, XIV 5, 6—
 method of making, 68—attraction and
 repulsion of, 20, 21—power of, to
 communicate magnetism to other bodies,
 21—polarity of, 20—reaction of iron on,
 21—distribution of magnetism in arti-
 ficial, 22—effects produced by breaking,
 24—mutual action of, 44—arming and
 preserving, 74—electro-magnets, ib—
 supposed origin of the name, 266
 —employment of, in curing diseases,
 XX 414—shock from, XXI 646—
 Ampère's rotatory magnet, 639—Dr
 Knight's experiments with, 646.
 Magnetic iron ore, VI 490, XV 107.
 — pyrites, XV 115.
 Magnetic Observatory, Dublin, VIII 228.
 Magnetite, mineral, XV 107.
 MAGNETISM, XIV 1, I 740, 990, XVII
 617—Robinson's writings on, I 872—
 optical changes induced by, 981—phe-
 nomena, origin, and history of, 740
et seq.—recent history of terrestrial,
 801, 990, Gauss's mathematical theory
 of, 990—magnetic intensity, 991—vari-
 ations of magnetic elements, 992—
 magnetic storms, ib—British magneti-
 cal expeditions, 995—European mag-
 netical observations, 996—Æpinus on,
 II 164—Biot and Gay-Lussac's observa-
 tions in a balloon, 182, 184—magnetic
 property of aurora borealis, IV 247,
 249—Cavalli on, VI 345, 346—Coulomb
 on, VII 462—464—magnetic effects of
 electricity, VIII 599—used to produce
 mechanical energy, XIV 418—of mi-
 nerals, XV 60—connection between it
 and electricity, I 800—electro-magnet-
 ism, 973; VIII 531, 600—magnetic
 influence of the solar rays, XVI 695—
 magnetic storms, XVII 618—influence
 of the earth's magnetism on the pen-
 dulum of clocks, 388—rotation produced
 by the earth's, XXI 639. See Voltaic
 Electricity, Compass.
 — (Animal), XX 413—Baillie's report
 on, IV 374; XX 419.
 Magneto-electricity, I 979; VIII 532,
 600; XXI 644—magneto-electric ap-
 paratus, 646.
 Magnetometers, XIV 82, 83.
 Magnificent, ship, her dangerous position,
 and preservation from, XX 19.
 Magnifying power, I 839—of microscopes,
 XXI 128—of single microscopes, XIV
 771—used in astronomy, I 839—its
 limits, ib.
 Magnitude, our ideas of, relative, IX 122
 —perception of, XIV 565.
 Magnolia, XVII 761.
 Magnoliaceæ, nat. order of plants, V 180
 —region of, 227; XVII 627.
 MAGNUS (St), bay of, XIV 92.
 — (St), Cathedral of, XIII 102.
 — (Prof), on the motion of fluids,
 XII 76—experiments on, 154, 155—on
 the water-bellows, 183—on the expan-
 sive force of steam, XX 558.
 Mago, Carthaginian generals of that
 name, VI 283, 295, 296.
 MAGOG, VIII 45; X 460, n, 701.
 MAGONTIACUM, XIV 92.
 Magot, or Barbary ape, XIV 141.
 Magpies, XVI 764.
 Magrebians, Alexandria taken by the, II
 471.
 Magrey, culture of, in Mexico, XIV 717.
 Magyars, in Hungary, XII 10; IV 318.
 Maha Bandoola, Burmese leader, V 784.
 Maha-welli-ganga, river, XXI 351; VI
 891.
 MAHABALIPURAM, in Hindustan, XIV 92.
 MAHABULESWHA, in Hindustan, XIV 92.
 MAHANUDDY, river, XIV 92.
 MAHARAJPOOR, in Hindustan, XIV 92.

MAH—MAI

- Mahavilla-Ganga, river in Ceylon, VI 391.
 MAHE, in Hindustan, XIV 93.
 — island, XIV 364, XX 68.
 Maheral, VI 295.
 MAHRM, in Hindustan, XIV 93.
 Mahmood-eech Canal, VIII 494.
 Mahmood's Indian conquests, III 744,
 IX 478.
 MAHRUD I, sultan, XIV 93; XXI 370.
 — II, sultan, XIV 93, XXI 378.
 — king of Persia, XVII 439.
 MAHOGANY, XIV 93; XI 610, 612; V
 187—specific gravity of, XII 89—its use
 in joinery, 817—in Hayti, XI 254—as
 timber, XXI 277—ship built of, ib.
 — order of plants, V 187.
 MAHOMET, or Mohammed I, XIV 94,
 XXI 368.
 — II, sultan, XIV 94; XXI 368.
 — III, XIV 94; XXI 369.
 — IV, sultan, XIV 94; XXI 370.
 Mahometan power in Asia, III 743.
 MAHOMETANISM, XIV 94. See Moham-
 medanism.
 Mahommed Abulwafa, II 483.
 — Ben-Musa, II 483.
 Mahommedan year, VI 79, 678.
 Mahommedans. See Mohammedans.
 Mahon, Port, in Minorca, XV 261.
 Mahra, in Arabia, III 341, 359.
 MAHRATTAS, XIV 94; XI 464, 491—rise
 and progress of their power, 478, 479
 —their war with the Afghans, 481—
 Wellington's operations against, XXI
 819.
 MAI (Angelo), XIV 95—Cicero's treatise
 De Republica discovered by, VI 721;
 XIII 411—fragments of the Theodosian
 code discovered by, VI 741—his re-
 searches among palm-pests, XIII 413,
 XVII 207—works of Tronto discovered
 by, X 316—part of an oration of Isæus
 discovered by, XII 624.
 MAI-MAITCHIN, XIV 97. See Kiachti.
 MAIANO (Benedetto da), XIV 96.
 MAIADA, town of Naples, XIV 96—battle
 of, V 602; XX 241.
 MAIDEN, an instrument for beheading,
 XIV 96, 445; IV 591; XI 88; VIII
 391, 392.
 Maiden-hair, fern, V 216; II 141.
 MAIDENHEAD, in Berks, XIV 97.
 Maids of honour, XI 776.
 MAIDSTONE, XIV 97—population of, XIII
 67—its culture of nuts, XI 717.
 — (Mr), on the character of Crom-
 well, VII 515 and n 1.
 Mail coaches, VII 43—system of posting
 by, XVIII 407, 408, 415—robberies of,
 407.
 — coat of, VII 45.
 Mailed cheeks, family of fishes, XII 279.
 MAILLA (J. A. M. de Moyriac de), XIV 97
 —his History of China, VI 559, 577,
 585.
 Maillard (Stanislaus), X 56.
 Maillet (M.), on the transportation of bee-
 hives in Egypt, IV 587.
 Mails, conveyance of, XVIII 415—ocean
 mail systems of different countries,
 425; of Great Britain, 426.
 MAIMBOURG (Lous), Jesuit, XIV 97.
 MAINMONTDES, Jewish rabbi, XIV 97—his
 digest of the Talmud, XXI 16.
 MAIN, or MAINE, river, XIV 98; IV 517.
 — (Rev. Robert), on the planet Sa-
 turn, IV 92.
 MAINE, State of, XIV 98; XXI 419—
 debt of, 428—wines of, 888.
 — French province, XIV 99; X 277.
 — DE BUREN (F. P. Gonthier), XIV
 99.
 MAINE-ET-LOIRE, XIV 99.
 Maimeduc (M.), mesmerist, XX 431.
 Mainland, one of the Shetland islands,
 XVIII 285; XX 113.
 Maimots, XI 14.
 Mainspring of a watch, VII 27.
 MAINTENON (Madame de), XIV 100.
 — aqueduct of, XII 386.
 Mainwaring (Dr), prosecuted by Charles
 I, V 392.
 Mao, Cape Verde Island, XXI 545.

MAI—MAL

- Mair (John), on book-keeping, V 15.
 — (John), on logic, XIV 102, XIII
 585.
 Maire, on the degree, IX 550.
 — (Jacob le), navigator, XVII 366.
 MAIRWARA, in Hindustan, XIV 100.
 MAISTRE (Lous Isaac le), XIV 100. See
 Sacy.
 — (COUNT JOSEPH MAISTRE DE), XIV
 100.
 Maitland Club, X 653.
 — (Mr), his character of Hector Boyce,
 V 254.
 — on public libraries, XIII 400.
 — (Sir RICHARD), XIV 101.
 — (Sir William), of Lethington, XIX
 783 *et seq.*
 Maisttaire (Michael), on early printed
 books, IV 708.
 MAIZE, or Indian corn, XIV 101; V 215;
 XVII 630—analysis of, IX 759—culture
 of, II 313—in Bengal, IV 649;
 Lombardy, XIII 654; France, X 247;
 Mexico, XIV 716—quantity imported,
 VII 400.
 MAJESTY, XIV 102.
 Majolica, Italian enamelled ware, XVIII
 432—mezza-majolica, ib.
 MAJOR, XIV 102.
 — and Minor, in music, XIV 102.
 — or MAIR (John), XIV 102; XIII
 585, n—on blind Harry, the minstrel,
 XI 234.
 MAJORCA, island, XIV 102—weights and
 measures of, XXI 812.
 Majuli, III 763.
 Makara, genus of fishes, XII 297.
 MAKALLAN, or Macallah, town in Arabia,
 XIV 103.
 Makerstoun, meteorological observations
 at, XIV 688.
 Makhailovitch (Alexei), XIX 475.
 Maklin (F. W.), his work on insects, IX
 24.
 MAKO, Hungarian town, XIV 103.
 MAKRI, in Asiatic Turkey, XIV 103.
 MALABAR, XIV 103—teak wood of, XXI
 276, 277.
 — Point, XIV 105.
 Malabathrum, its supposed identity with
 tea, XXI 88.
 Malacanthus, genus of fishes, XII 267.
 MALACA, XIV 105, 106, III 735; XVIII
 382—tan mines of, XV 340—timber
 trees of, XX 173—weights and mea-
 sures, XXI 812.
 MALACHI, prophet, XIV 106.
 Malachite, mineral, VI 496; XV 102;
 XVII 621.
 Malachus, genus of insects, IX 111.
 Malacodermi, section of insects, IX 106.
 Malacote, mineral, XV 81.
 Malacology, XV 319.
 Malacopteri, order of fishes, XII 281.
 Malacopterus fishes, XII 229—abdomi-
 nals, 235.
 Malacopterygii, sub-order of fishes, XII
 264.
 Malacosteus, genus of fishes, XII 248.
 Malacostraca, fossil, XVII 100, 102.
 MALAGA, town in Spain, XIV 107—raisins
 of, XVIII 799—insurrection at, in 1836,
 XX 479—wine, 489.
 Malagasy, XIII 794.
 MALAGRIDA (Gabriel), XIV 108.
 Malagueta coast, XI 89.
 Malakoff Tower, Sebastopol, IX 826; XIX
 509, 510.
 Malakon, mineral, XV 87.
 Malamide, VI 518.
 Malam's gas-purifier, X 417.
 Malan (Cæsar), his hymns, XII 190.
 Malapterurus, genus of fishes, XII 263.
 — electricus, XII 260.
 Malapterus, genus of fishes, XII 267.
 MALAR, Swedish lake, XIV 108; XX 861.
 — bone, human, III 22.
 Malama, in Grece, XI 14—in the Cam-
 pagna di Roma, VI 128—in Sardinia
 XIX 635.
 Malay language, XIII 207.
 — PENINSULA, XIV. See Malacca.
 Malays, II 776; III 749; XIV 106—in

MAL—MAL

- Celebes, VI 361—Amboyna, II 660—
Borneo, V 48—Malacca, XIV 105,
their practice of "running amok," ib—
Cape of Good Hope, X 714—Sumatra,
XX 805.
- Malbrouc, in zoology, XIV 140.
- Malcohas, genus of birds, XVI 778.
- MALCOLM (Sir John), XIV 108—his account
of Madhaje Scindia, XI 167—on the
character of the Asiatics, III 749—on
castes among the Persians, VI 315—his
administration in India, XI 508—his
proceedings in Malwah, XIV 120—his
account of Persia, XVII 422 *et seq*
—Scottish kungs of that name, XIX
745 *et seq*, 752.
- MALCZEWSKI (Antoni), Polish poet, XIV
108.
- MALDA, town in Hindustan, XIV 109
- Malden (Mr), on universities, XXI 444,
450, 451, 454, n.
- MALDIVE ISLANDS, XIV 109; XVII 583—
language of, XIII 207
- MALDON, town in Essex, XIV 109.
- MALDONADO, town in Uruguay, XIV 109
- MALEBRANCHE (Nicolas), XIV 109—on the
secondary qualities of bodies, I 63—on
the sensations produced by objects, and
the judgment thereupon formed, 64, 65
—his assertion that mistaken judgments
relative to the objects of sense
result from original sin, 65—cause of
his studying philosophy, 74—his work,
The Search after Truth, ib—his genus,
ib, 75—blends theology and metaphysics,
74, 75—his controversies on grace,
74—a bold and free inquirer when
treating of subjects purely philosophical,
75—his sagacious observations on sorcery,
ib—on men and manners, 76—his
character, 77—developed the fundamental
principles of Hartley, ib—on the
formation of habits, ib—on cause and
effect, 78—objections of Leibnitz to his
principles, 78, 79—reasons which led
him to conclude that we see all things
in God, 79—coincides with some Hindu
philosophers, ib—his resemblance to,
and interview with Berkeley, 79, 80—
Warburton's opinion of, 80, n. 2—anticip-
ated some of the metaphysical reasonings
of Berkeley, 187—his advance
towards the true theory of vision, 188—
his belief in the Cartesian system re-
garding the soul, 181—on the love of
universal order, 335—was the first who
taught that virtue consists in pure in-
tentions, 356—on religious society and
established church, ib.
- Males, mortality of, greater than in females,
III 230
- MALHERBES (G. G. de L. de), XIV 110;
X 74 *et seq*
- MALHERBE (François de), XIV 111—
poetry of, XVIII 116
- Malic acid, VI 515; IX 758.
- Malik Shah, king of Persia, XVII 437.
- Malinovsky (Von), his work on insects, IX
11.
- Malleable metals, VI 482—iron, XII 570
—conversion of crude into malleable
iron, XII 552—alleged malleability of
glass, X 658.
- Mallenders in the horse, XXI 578.
- Mallet (David), XIV 111; XII 235—his
epitaph on Aikman, II 429—his allusion
to Burman, V 789.
- (Edouard), on the population of
Geneva, XV 621, 624.
- (Mr), his mortar, XI 141.
- (M.), on hydraulics, XII 74.
- (PAUL HENRI), XIV 111.
- MALLET-PREVOST (Henri), XIV 112
- MALLET-DUPAN (Jacques), XIV 112
- Mallets (Mr), on the elevation of land in
South America, XV 187 and n. 1.
- Malleus, tympanal bone, III 46.
- genus of mollusks, XV 348
- MALLOCCOLLO, island, XIV 112; IV 265,
268.
- Malinkrot on the invention of printing,
IV 706.
- Malloucoo in Borneo, V 47.

MAL—MAM

- Mallots, genus of insects, IX 241.
- Mallotus, genus of fishes, XII 245—fossil,
347
- MALLOW, town in Cork, XIV 112—ther-
mal spring of, VII 372.
—order of plants, V 184.
- MALMEDY, Prussian town, XIV 112
- MALMESBURY (William of), historian,
XIV 112
—town in Wilts, XIV 112.
- MALMÖ, Swedish town, XIV 113.
- Malmsey wine, XXI 885
- MALO (St), French seaport, XIV 113,
XII 361.
- (C.), his work on insects, XI 11.
- MALOJAROSLAWITZ, battle of, X 168
- MALONE (Edmund), XIV 113—on the
baronets of Nova Scotia, IV 470—on
Shakespeare, XX 70, 71, 74 *et seq*
- MALPAS, town in Cheshire, XIV 113.
- MALPIGHI (Marcello), XIV 113, 460—his
anatomical discoveries, II 762—on fat,
788—on the bones, 826—on the glands,
833—on the seat of colour in the skin,
VII 223—his works on insects, IX 3—
on the structure of the teeth, XVI 409
- Malpighiaceae, nat. order of plants, V 186
- Malplaquet, battle of, V 451, IX 386
- MALT, XIV 114; V 320; VIII 48, 781—
quantity used in Great Britain and Ire-
land, V 321; by the London brewers,
324—analysis of, ib—duty on, 321—
consumption of, in England, VIII 731;
Scotland, XIX 806—malting, V 321—
malt-kilns, 323; XVIII 80—excise
duties on, XXI 59
- Malt-dust, as manure, II 406
- Malt-liquors, adulteration of, XIV 441.
See Ale, Beer, Porter.
- MALTA, XIV 114—Lord Nelson on the im-
portance of, V 586—disposal of, by the
treaty of Amiens, 587, 589—renewal of
war with France on account of, 592,
595—destructive cloud in, VII 39—
taken by Bonaparte, X 100—retained
from him, 127—language, XIII 210,
IX 390—restored to the Knights of St
John, XIX 491—weights and measures,
XXI 812
- Knights of, XIII 115, 122—ladies
admitted into the order, 112—suppres-
sion of the order by Henry VIII, VIII
705.
- MALTE-BRUN, XIV 117. See Brun.
- Malthaea, genus of fishes, XII 311, 312
- Malthinus, genus of insects, IX 110.
- MALTHUS (Thomas Robert), XIV 117—his
theory of population, VII 137; XIV
441; XVIII 346, 347—on bounties on
corn, VII 379—on wealth, XVIII 211
—on manufactures, 238—on the dis-
tinction between agricultural and manu-
facturing industry, 248—his article on
Population, in this work, 338, n. 1.
- Maltng, V 321
- MALTON, in Yorkshire, XIV 118.
- Maltsters' rate of license, XIII 435.
- MALUS (Etienne Louis), XIV 118; I 901
—on chromatics, VI 652 *et seq*—on
polarisation of light, I 754, 902, II
101, XIII 463; XVI 537, 634, 635—
his other investigations and character, I
902, 903—on depolarisation of light, 902
- Malvaceae, nat. order of plants, V 184.
- Malvasia (Marquis of), his micrometer,
XIV 743
- MALVERN, in Worcestershire, XIV 119—
mineral springs at, XXI 928—railway
to, ib.
- Hills, XXI 928.
- MALVOISIN (William de), XIV 119.
- MALWAH, in Hindustan, XIV 120—opium
of, XI 453.
- MAMERS, French town, XIV 120.
- Mamertine caves, XVIII 565—prison,
XIX 358.
- Mamertines, VI 237—Hiero's war with,
XX 900.
- Mamillipora, fossil sponges, XVII 93.
- Mamlukes, their sway in Egypt, VIII 483
et seq; in Palestine, XVII 187—Mo-
hammad' Ale's massacre of the, VIII
482, 493

MAM—MAN

- Mamma, III 72.
- MAMMALIA, XIV 121—characteristics of,
II 773, 774—sub-division of, 774—their
blood-globules, 779—their bones, III
74, 75—muscles, 91—organs of smell,
94—eyes, 95—ears, 98—tongue, 100—
teeth, 105; XVI 438—their value in
classification, 477—without teeth, 438—
organs of voice, III 101—nervous sys-
tem, 103—cesophagus and stomach, 108
—intestines, 110—organs of circulation,
112—lungs, ib—secretory organs, 113—
reproductive organs, ib—humorosity of
the flesh of, during decomposition,
XIII 457—order of their appearance
in the strata of the earth, XVII 92—
fossil, 156—number known, 631—dis-
tribution of, 681; of Africa, II 217,
of North America, 712.
- Mammoth, XVII 163—dentition of, XVI
474, 475.
- Mammoth-cave, Kentucky, XIII 69—
blind fish in, XII 236—blind insects,
XVII 630.
- MAN, XIV 242—his first instruction super-
human, I 452—original complexion of,
II 121—did the race spring from one
stock? ib; VI 364—brain of (see Brain)
—senses of, more equally balanced than
in brutes, III 178—American races, II
676—Asiatic, III 747—effect of climate
on his active energies, II 683—com-
plexion, VII 222—his stature, II 691—
anatomy, VII—weight of, and of his
individual organs, III 2, 3—attitude
and gestures, 40, 41—soul, 172, 176—
his senses compared with those of brutes,
175, 176; XII 391—character of the
Asiatics, III 749—varieties of man, II
775; V 373; XI 541—races of, IX
341—wherein different from brutes, V
700—Is he naturally carnivorous? VI
244—daily labour of, VII 464—dispen-
sation of, VIII 44; XVII 536—if left
to himself could never raise himself from
a savage to a civilised state, I 449,
450—Lord Kaimes, Rousseau, and Dr
Doig on the savage state, VIII 90, 91
—measurement of the human body, 172
—its electricity, 571—effects of electri-
city on it, 601, 603—not the only animal
that preys on its own kind, IX 91—
whether endowed with instincts, XII
392—his position in zoological systems,
XIV 126, 128, 135; IX 342—mechanical
power of, XIV 416, 417—his duties, to
himself, XV 565; to his fellow-creatures,
566; to God, 570—do the different var-
ieties of the race constitute species? IX
353, 354—his structure indicates
him to be omnivorous, 708—geologi-
cal date of his creation unknown, XI
540—intermixture of races and lan-
guages, XIII 195—original unity of the
families of, XVII 536, 641—his ante-
historical condition and belief illustrated
by philology, 537—quantity of food re-
quired by, 658—size of the Patagonians,
335—Pritchard's Physical History of,
XVIII 512—original state of, XXI 196
—his temptation and fall, 197—source
of his sinfulness, 201; consequences of,
207—the Holy Spirit's work in, 218. See
Anatomy, Ethnology, Physiology, &c
- (ISLE OF), XIV 242—decmeters of,
VII 693—yield of its lead-mines, XV
246—language of, IX 393.
- Man-eaters, III 269. See Cannibalism.
- Man-machine, in mining, XV 229.
- MANAAR, island, XIV 249.
- MANAGOR, town in Majorca, XIV 249
- MANAGUA, Lake of, in Nicaragua, XIV
249; XVI 242
- MANAR, in Hindustan, XIV 249.
- Manakins, birds, XVI 757.
- Manatee, cetaceous animal, XIV 217—
jaws and teeth of, XVI 446, 447.
—river, XI 609.
- Manatus, genus of mammalia, XIV 219;
XVI 446.
- MANAYUNK, in Pennsylvania, XIV 249.
- Manby (Captain), his apparatus for saving
the shipwrecked, XIII 441.

MAN—MAN

- MANCHA (La), in Spain, XIV 249.
- MANCHE (La), in France, XIV 249.
- MANCHESTER, XIV 250—and Liverpool
Railway, I 885—an ancient name for,
II 453—massacre there in 1819, V 623
—cotton manufacture, VII 440—origin
and progress of its manufactures, XIII
178—notice of, in early times, XIV 284
—water-works, XII 141—free library,
XIII 405—mortality, XV 614—Duke
of Bridgewater's Canal, V 367; VI
529—canals connected with, XIII 179—
police of, XVIII 197—lectures at the
Mechanics' Institution, XV 824—early
newspapers of, XVI 186; during the
American war, 187—post-office statistics,
XVIII 416—roof of the engine-house,
Manchester station, XIX 397—savings-
bank, 608—rule for estimating horse-
power in steam-engines, XX 602.
—in New Hampshire, XV 260.
- MANCHOORIA, in Asia, XIV 260.
- Manco Capac, I 450, II 687; III 128;
IV 822; XV 767, XVII 460.
- Mandane, VII 612
- MANDAR (Michel Philippe), revolutionist,
XIV 200
- MANDARA, in Africa, XIV 261
- Mandats, French paper currency, X 99
- MANDAVER, in Hindustan, XIV 261.
- Mandelo, on the use of tea in Japan,
XXI 89.
- MANDEVILLE (Bernard de), XIV 261—his
ethical doctrines, XV 553 and n. 2
—(Sir JOHN DE), XIV 262.
- Mandibles, of bees, IV 571—of birds, III
85—of insects, IX 32—of spiders, III
373—of myriapods, XV 747.
- MANDINGO, or Mandingo, in Africa, XIV
262; II 221—people of, IX 352; XX
50—language of, XIII 226, 227.
- Mandiagora, plant, VI 632
- Mandrake, V 202
- Mandrills, in zoology, XIV 141—teeth of,
XVI 456.
- Mandshuria, in Asia, XIV 260.
- Manducation of fishes, XII 231.
- MANES, XIV 262, 264.
- MANETHO, XIV 262; XI 368, 369, 410—
on Egyptian history, VIII 422 *et seq*—
two authors of that name, 452.
- Manetti, biographer of Dante, VII 648
- MANFREDI (Eustacio), XIV 263; I 715,
n. 1—on differential equations, 715—
his burning-mirror, VI 10
—king of the Two Sicilies, XIV 262;
XX 267, 263.
- MANFREDONIA, XIV 263; XX 242.
- MANGALORE, XIV 263
- Manganese, VI 490; XV 66—spar, 82
—cupreous, 112—localities for, 246—
black oxide of, IV 761—red, XV 100
—ores of, in Derbyshire, VII 755—
Devonshire, 763—distribution of, XVII
622.
—ores, XV 111.
- Manganese-epidote, XV 85.
- Manganic acid, VI 490
- Manganite, mineral, XV 111.
- Manganocalcite, mineral, XV 100.
- Mangareva islands, XVIII 282
- Manga, a disease in animals, XII 663;
XXI 578.
- Mangedava, in Borneo, V 47.
- Mangel-wurzel, XX 796—culture of, II
319; IV 589—storing of, II 320. See
Beet.
- Mangle (Prof.), on the marmot, XII 62.
- Mangle, VI 90.
- Mango, fish, XI 456, 619.
—fruit, V 190—tree, in Brazil, 293;
India, XI 454, in Sumatra, XX 804.
- Mangolia, III 731, 732.
- Mangosteen, fruit, XVII 626; XX
804.
- Mangouste, in zoology, XIV 167.
- Mangrove order of plants, V 613, 191.
—tree, V 77.
- Manhattan, island, XVI 213.
- Manheim, XIV 267.
- Manna, XIV 528, 426.
- MANOIA, in Africa, XIV 264.
- MANICHÆISM, XIV 264.

MAN—MAN

- Manicola, island, XIV. 112
 Manifesto, VIII. 41
 Manikpur, city in Oude, XVII. 17.
 MANILIUS (Marcus or Cnaeus), poet, XIV. 265—Bentley's edition of, IV. 660—Sherburne's version of, XX. 106.
 MANILLA, XIV. 265; XIII. 743, XVII. 513—captured by the British, V. 466—sugar, XX. 796—tobacco, XXI. 294—hemp, XI. 311, 313, XXI. 782
 Manioc, V. 206, VI. 313, XIV. 716
 Manis, genus of mammalia, XIV. 192; XVII. 631.
 MANTISA, town of Asia Minor, XIV. 266.
 MANLIN, Roman family, XIV. 266
 MANLIUS (Cnaeus Vulso), XIV. 266
 —(MARCUS CAPITOLINUS), XIV. 266; XIX. 302, 303
 —(TITUS L. TORQUATUS), XIV. 266, XIX. 303—filial piety of his son, IX. 577.
 —(TITUS TORQUATUS), XIV. 266
 Mann (Horace), on the proportion of children that should attend school, VIII. 746—on education in Prussia, XV. 817.
 MANNA, XIV. 266; V. 199; VIII. 47; IX. 168, XVII. 491.
 Manner, an index of disposition and character, I. 411.
 Mannerheim (C. G.), his works on insects, IX. 15, 23.
 MANNERT (Conrad), XIV. 267.
 MANNHEIM, XIV. 267—Academy of Sciences at, II. 67
 Manning of the navy, XVI. 108
 —(Mr.), his attempts to enter China, VI. 557.
 Mannite, V. 73.
 MANNING, or Manning (Robert), XIV. 268, XIX. 267—quotation from, VIII. 795
 Manometer, IV. 456; XX. 560.
 Manon, fossil sponges, XVII. 98.
 MANRESA, Spanish town, XIV. 268
 Manrique (Jorge), poetry of, XVIII. 118.
 MANS (Le), French town, XIV. 268.
 Mansard roofs, XIX. 383
 MANSAROWAR, lake, XIV. 269.
 MANSART (François), XIV. 269
 —(JULES HARDOUIN), XIV. 269.
 Mansel (Mr.), on logic, XIII. 571 n., et seq.
 —(Sir Robert), his expedition against Algiers, II. 569.
 MANSFIELD, in Nottingham, XIV. 269
 —(Lord.) See Murray (William).
 Mansion-House, London, XIII. 677.
 Manslaughter, XI. 604.
 MANSURAH, in Lower Egypt, XIV. 269.
 MANT (Richard, D.D.), XIV. 269.
 MANTEGNA (Andrea), painter, XIV. 269; XVII. 72.
 MANTFILL (Gideon Algernon), geologist, XIV. 270—on the geology of Surrey, XX. 836.
 MANTES, or Mantz, French town, XIV. 270—bridge at, VI. 381
 Manticora, genus of insects, IX. 78.
 MANTINEIA, XIV. 270—battle of, III. 628; XXI. 178—war with Sparta, XIX. 502
 Mantis, genus of insects, IX. 156.
 Mantuspa, genus of insects, IX. 179.
 Mantus on surgical dressings, XX. 811.
 Mantie, in mollusks, XV. 344.
 Mantings, in heraldry, XI. 387.
 Mantshurians, language of, XIII. 217.
 MANTUA, XIV. 271—Bonaparte's siege of, X. 103, 106; XV. 787—surrendered to the French, 790—school of painting, XVII. 72.
 Mantzichleria, VII. 315.
 Manua, island, XVIII. 277.
 MANUEL (Jacques Antoine), XIV. 271; X. 185.
 —I., Comnenus, emperor of Constantinople, XIV. 272.
 —II., Palseologus, XIV. 272; VII. 330
 Manufactories, nuisance from, XIV. 427.
 Manufacturers, their unfulfilled expectations from the repeal of the corn-laws, VII. 392—duty of the masters, XIV. 280

MAN—MAR

- MANUFACTURES, XIV. 272—effect of subdivision of land on, VII. 429—improved by the Crusades, 534—employment of capital in, XVIII. 236—not productive of increased mortality, 238—distinguished from agriculture and commerce, 246—of hair, XI. 183—value of exports from Britain to the countries bordering on the Mediterranean, XIV. 470—of England, VII. 190, VIII. 728—Denmark, 747, Greece, XI. 17; India, 458, France, X. 251; of modern Egypt, VIII. 447; New York, XVI. 219, 226, Russia, XIX. 544—Sheffield, XX. 98—Sweden, 862—United States, XXI. 426. See other countries
 Manufacturing system of political economy, XVIII. 214
 Manures, II. 294—application of, V. 98—their chemical composition and mode of action, II. 401—vegetable, 405—mineral, 412—animal, 407—artificial, 305—liquid, 294, 297, 405, analysis of, 405—portable, 264—special, V. 99—farm-yard, II. 401; V. 99, VI. 524, analysis of, II. 403—adulteration of, 299—for gardens, XI. 701—management of, in Lombardy, XIII. 649—carefully collected in China, VI. 588—manure-distributor, II. 275.
 Manuscripts, where ancient MSS may be supposed to exist, XIII. 383—researches for, 384—MSS in the British Museum, 391, at Oxford, 396; Cambridge, 398; Edinburgh, 401, 402, Aberdeen, 403, Dublin, 404; Paris, 407, 408; Madrid, 409, Rome, 411; Bologna, 413, Florence, 414, 415; Vienna, 417; Dresden, 419, Berlin, 420, of the Scriptures, 837. See Libraries, Palimpsests, Papyri.
 MANZUJO (Aldo Pio), printer, XIV. 292—his accuracy, XVIII. 542—italic type invented by, 533, n
 —(Aldo), junior, his friendship to Crichton, VII. 498.
 —(PAOLO), XIV. 292
 MANZANARES, town in Spain, XIV. 292
 Manzoni, his romance, XIX. 284.
 Maori, native population of New Zealand, XVI. 287; IV. 267.
 MAPES (Walter), XIV. 293.
 Maple, order of plants, V. 188.
 —sugar, tree, V. 138, 186; XVII. 762—sugar, XX. 796, 798.
 —trees, XVII. 759, 761—as timber, XXI. 278—specific gravity of the wood, XII. 69.
 Maps, D'Anville's improvements on, III. 289—for the blind, IV. 777—in the time of the Crusades, VII. 535—ancient, X. 466—Venetian, 472—construction and use of, 468—mode of tracing vertical sections, IV. 468—of the Ordnance Survey, XXI. 386, 387. See Geography, Projection.
 Mar (Earl of), his rebellion in 1715, V. 453.
 —district of, II. 32.
 —(Earl of), brother of James III., XIX. 760, 761.
 Marabout, bird, XVI. 799.
 MARACAYBO, in Venezuela, XIV. 293; XXI. 587—town taken by the bucaniers, V. 711.
 —lake of, XIV. 293; VII. 134; XXI. 536—gulf of, XIV. 294
 MARAGHA, or Maraga, XIV. 294.
 Marais, a district in Vendée in France, XXI. 534.
 Marajo, island, XII. 787.
 Marakah. See Dongola, New
 Maraldi (J. P.), astronomical labours of, III. 803—on the planets Mars and Jupiter, IV. 66, 69—on the geometric properties of bees' combs, 578.
 MARANHÃO, or Maranham, in Brazil, XIV. 294; V. 281, 299—Island of, XIV. 294
 Marañon, or Amazon, II. 650; XVII. 471. See Amazon
 MARANS, French town, XIV. 294.
 Marantaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 211.
 Marantaceae, in Dalmatia, VII. 627.
 MARASE, in Asiatic Turkey, XIV. 294.
 MARAT (Jean Paul), XIV. 294; X. 71 et seq.—assassination of, VII. 364.

MAR—MAR

- MARATHON, XIV. 295—battle of, III. 626, n., IV. 199, n., Persian forces at, III. 623 and n. 4—conduct of Miltiades at, XV. 19
 MARATTA (Carlo), painter, XIV. 295; XVII. 69
 Maravedi, coin, XV. 436
 MARAZION, town in Cornwall, XIV. 295.
 Marbach (Dr.), on circular polarization, XVI. 682
 MARBELLA, Spanish town, XIV. 296.
 Marble, XV. 92, 154—Athenian, IV. 167, n. 2—Carrara, VI. 278—Kilkenny, XIII. 85—Galway, X. 390—Marmora, XIV. 311—Florentine, VI. 785—Dodecanum marmor, VIII. 73—specific gravity of, XII. 68—of Pentellicus and Paros, XI. 14; XVII. 619—entrenchal maibles, 98, n.—for building and sculpture, 619, XIX. 842; XX. 712—its strength, 717, 718—method of working it in statuary, XIX. 868.
 —cements, XX. 715
 MARBLEHEAD, seaport in Essex, XIV. 296.
 Marburg, town in Styria, XIV. 296
 —in Hesse-Cassel, XIV. 296—university of, XXI. 492
 MARCANTONIO, engraver, XIV. 296.
 Marcard on bathing, IV. 500, 503.
 Marcasite, XV. 115
 MARCELLIN (St.), in France, XIV. 296; XII. 627
 MARCELLUS (M. Claudius), XIV. 297—defeated by Hannibal, VI. 297—decoyed and killed, 289—Syracuse captured by, XX. 900.
 —(M. CLAUDIUS), XIV. 297.
 —(M. CLAUDIUS), XIV. 297.
 —theatre of, III. 476
 Marcet (Bordier), his reflectors, XIII. 470.
 —(Dr.), on the cold produced by sulphuret of carbon, VII. 104.
 Marcgraaf on birds, XIV. 725.
 Marcgraviaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 186.
 March, Black Agnes, countess of, VI. 609.
 —market-town in England, XIV. 298.
 —month of, XIV. 297—gardening calendar for, XI. 758
 —or Morava, river, XIV. 298; IV. 312.
 —of an army in war, XXI. 714
 MARCHAND (Prosper), XIV. 298—on the origin and early progress of printing, IV. 706
 Marchantaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 217, 145.
 MARCHER, in France, XIV. 298; X. 277.
 MARCHENA, Spanish town, XIV. 298
 MARCHON, XIV. 298; X. 689; XVIII. 265.
 Marcionites, XIV. 298, 299.
 MARCOMANNI, XIV. 299; X. 572, 576.
 Marco Polo. See Polo.
 Marcossans, followers of Marcus, XIV. 299.
 Marcotte (F.), his works on insects, IX. 23.
 MARCOUR, or Marcou (St.), islets, XIV. 299.
 MARCOUS, the Hiereslarch, XIV. 299
 MARDIN, town in Turkey, XIV. 299.
 Mare's tail, order of plants, V. 192.
 Mareh, in Arabia, III. 355.
 Mareca, genus of birds, XVI. 819.
 MAREMMA, or Maremma, La, XIV. 300—of Siena, III. 293
 MARENGO, XIV. 300—battle of, V. 574; X. 118; XV. 793
 MARENNES, town in France, XIV. 300.
 Marcotus (Lake), VIII. 429
 MAREE (Loch), XIV. 300; XIX. 794.
 Mares, management of, in breeding, II. 338, 339.
 Mards (Léon), on rifled guns in war, XXI. 726, 727.
 Maretimo, Sicilian island, XX. 246.
 MARETS (Samuel des), his controversy with Altung, II. 634.
 MARGARET of Anjou, XIV. 300, VIII. 689, 690, 691
 —of France, XIV. 300
 —the Maiden of Norway, XIX. 754.

MAR—MAR

- MARGARET, queen of Denmark, XIV. 300; VII. 739
 —queen of Norway, XX. 845
 —queen of Scotland, XIX. 746, 748, 750, n. 3
 —queen of Scotland, XIX. 765—regent, 767—marriage to the Earl of Angus, Ib
 Margalic acid, II. 381
 Margarine, IX. 757, XVI. 492
 MARGARITA, island, XIV. 300—pearls of, XVII. 357
 Margarine, mineral, XV. 79.
 MARGARITONE (d'Arezzo), painter, XIV. 300.
 Margarodite, mineral, XV. 78
 Margary's method of preserving timber, XXI. 279
 MARGATE, in Kent, XIV. 301—population, XIII. 67.
 MARGHILAN, or Marginan, in Turkestan, XIV. 301
 Margnella genus of mollusks, XV. 334—M undulata, 385
 Margraaf on alum, II. 635—on clay, V. 844
 MARGHAYE, XIV. 301; IV. 515; XIII. 182.
 Mari Rose, vessel, loss of, XX. 125, XVI. 91
 MARIA ISLAND, XIV. 301
 —Louisa, empress of the French, X. 153
 —THERESA, XIV. 301; XVIII. 652, 654—reign of, IV. 303.
 —(Donna), queen of Portugal, XVIII. 390, 392.
 Mariamne, XII. 771.
 MARIANA (John), Spanish historian, XIV. 302
 Mariamni on conductors of electricity, XXI. 622—on voltaic currents, Ib.
 MARIANNA, town in Brazil, XIV. 303.
 MARIANNE ISLANDS, XIV. 303, XIII. 150.
 Marianus Scotus, XII. 786
 MARIAS (Las Ties), islands, XIV. 303
 MARIAZELL, town in Styria, XIV. 303
 Marie, a French Capuchin, first notions of photometry given by, I. 753
 —ANTOINETTE, XIV. 303, X. 82
 —GALANTE, island, XIV. 304; XI. 72
 MARIE-AUX-MINES (St.), French town, XIV. 304
 MARIENBERG, town in Saxony, XIV. 304.
 MARIENBURG, Prussian town, XIV. 304.
 MARLENWEDDER, in West Prussia, XIV. 304
 MARIETTA, town in Ohio, XIV. 304.
 Marignano, battle of, XX. 885
 Marigold, XI. 745, V. 113—luminosity of, 170
 Marimonda, monkey, XIV. 142.
 Marine insurance, XII. 419, 398.
 —boilers, prevention of smoke in, XX. 354, 355, 356—use of salt water in, 648—mechanical feeders for, 356.
 —barometer, IV. 457, 458; XX. 27
 —governors, XX. 653, 654.
 —vegetation, V. 229; XVII. 629. See Fuel.
 MARINBO, city of Naples, XIV. 304.
 Mariner's compass. See Compass.
 MARINES (Royal), XVI. 102, 105, 112.
 MARINI (M. Götano), XIV. 304.
 —poetry of, XVIII. 112
 MARINO (San), or Sammarino, in Italy, XIV. 305.
 Marinnia, genus of mollusks, XV. 375.
 Marinus, Roman anatomist, II. 752.
 —of Tyre, X. 468.
 MARION (Capt.), his voyage, IV. 253.
 MARIOTTE (Edme), XIV. 305—on barometrical measurements, I. 658; IV. 462—experiments and conclusions of, I. 729—on the colours of halos, VI. 645—on hydrodynamics, XII. 70, 111; XIX. 185—on reflected heat, XI. 262—law of, on the compressibility of gases, I. 953—on pneumatics, XVIII. 52, n. 58—on the strength of beams, XX. 763, 764.
 MARISCHAL (Lord) of Scotland, XI. 320.
 —College, Aberdeen, II. 31; XXI. 480.
 Maritime Alps, II. 623.

MAR—MAR

Maritime Law, Declaration respecting, XVI 157.
—defences, XXI 701.
Maritz on casting cannon, VI 178.
MARITZA, river, XIV 305; XI 280; XVII 647.
MARIUS (Caius), XIV 305, XIX 319, 321
—his defeat of the Tentones, VI 734.
MARIVAUX (P. C. de Chamblan de), XIV.
307—his novels, XIX 287.
Marjoram, plant, V 202; XI 745.
MARK (St), the evangelist, XIV 807—gospel of, ib.
—(St), library of, at Venice, XIII 417.
Market-Bosworth, V 64.
—Dereham, in Norfolk, VII 756.
—HARBOROUGH, in Leicestershire, XIV 308—fair at, IX 468.
—Jew, town in Cornwall, XIV 295.
Markets, IX 468—in Liverpool, XIII 520
—London, 664—Edinburgh, VII 405—
Newcastle, XVI 169, 170—Paris, XVII.
283. See Fairs.
Markham (Gervais), on the qualities of an
angler, III 147—his works on angling,
163.
—(Mr), on the river Purus, in Peru,
XVII 471.
MARKING, in Fifehire, XIV 308.
MARLAND (Jeremiah), XIV 308.
Marl, XV 92, 142—its use as manure, II.
303—shell-marl, ib—red and variegated,
XV 206.
MARLBOROUGH, in Wilts, XIV 309.
—(Duke of) See Churchill (John).
MARLOW (Great), in Bucks, XIV 309.
MARLOWE (Christopher), XIV 309; XXI
166.
Marlstone, XV 207.
Marly, aqueduct of, III 336.
MARMANDE, French town, XIV 310.
MARMOIST (A. F. L. Viesse de, marshal),
XIV 310, X 137 et seq, 199, 200—in
Spain, XXI 824—defeated at Sala-
manca, 825—on artillery, III 686—on
rocks, 699.
MARMOISTEL (Jean Francois), XIV 310
—his imprisonment for libel, XIII 356
—his editorship of the *Mercur*, XVI
197—on Quemesay, XVIII 733—his
Tales, XIX 288—his character of Vol-
taire, XXI 664.
MARMOIRA, Sea of, XIV 311.
MARMORICE, or Marmaras, in Anatolia,
XIV 311.
Marmosets, dentition of, XVI 455.
Marmot, XIV 179—its hibernation, III.
180, XII 62.
MARNE, river, XIV 311—departments of
France, ib, 312—wines of, XXI 888.
MARNOON, in Banffshire, XIV 312.
Maobia, atmospheric phenomenon in
Sicily, XX 246.
Marobodus, X 576.
Marocco, II 223. See Morocco.
Marone-colour, dyeing of, VIII 314.
MARONTRES, XIV 312; X 908.
Maroons, V 557; XII 673.
MAROS, or Marosch, river, XIV 313; XII.
10.
MAROS-VASARHELY, in Transylvania, XIV
313.
MAROT (Clement), XIV 313—his transla-
tion of the Psalms, XII 190—poetry of,
XVIII 116.
MAROWITZ, or Maroni, river, XIV 313.
Marphysa, genus of annelids, XI 298.
MARPURO (F. Wilhelm), XIV 313.
Marque (letters of), II 146.
MARQUESAS, islands, XIV 313; XVIII.
281.
MARQUIS, or Marquess, title, XIV 314—
coronet of a, XI 338.
Marr, II 32—earl of, V 463.
MARRACCI (Ludovico), XIV 314.
MARRAST (Armand), XIV 314; X 222,
223.
MARRIAGE, XIV 314—marriage customs
in Abyssinia, II 57—in North America,
681—Arabia, III 353—Asia, 750—Baby-
lonia, IV 346—Cardiganshire, VI 234
—ancient Germany, 606; X 573—
Dahomey, VII 630—Circassia, VI 730

MAR—MAR

—Egypt, ancient, VIII 440; modern,
446—Hindustan, XI 478—Japan, XII
692—Siam, XX 233—aborigines of
Australia, IV 259—conducting the
bride home, V 347—encouraged by the
Romans, VI 362—concubinage, VII
229—proportion of marriages to the
population in England, 755—English
law of, XII 50, VIII 781—Scotch law
of, XII 51—in what light regarded by
Catholics and Protestants, VIII 69—
impediments to, by the Roman Catholic
church, 68, n—as a basis of law, XIII
256—in relation to medical jurispru-
dence, XIV 425—nubile age, ib—cir-
cumstances invalidating, ib—irregular,
at Greta Green, XI 61; and in Ber-
wickshire, IV 681—needs no encourage-
ment, XIV 441—number registered in
England, VIII 755, in Scotland, XIX.
800—annual rate per cent of, in Eng-
land, XV 649—duties relating to, 568
—prudential restraint on, a check to
over-population, XVIII 346—depend-
ence of marriages on deaths, 348—pro-
portion of births to marriages, 352—
proportion of those born in England
living to marry, 354—prolificness of
marriages in England, ib—effect of the
absence of prudential restraint, 356—
registration of, 331. See Bigamy, Celu-
bacy, Divorce, Polygamy.
Marriage-act, Royal, V 474.
Marriage feast, parable of the, I 522, n.
Marrow, II 788, 828.
—of Modern Divinity, XVIII 497
and n 2.
—vegetable, plant, V 193; XI 786.
MARRUINI, Italian people, XIV 314.
MARRIAT (Frederick), captain, XIV 314—
his code of signals, XX 25.
—(Mr), on pottery and porcelain,
XVIII 492 et seq.
MARS, god of war, XIV 314.
—planet, IV 68, 90—phenomena of,
52—parallax of, 62—atmosphere of, 67
—physical peculiarities, 90—Kepler on
its motions, III 799—variations of its
orbit, IV 107.
MARSAIS (Cesar Chesneau du), XIV 315
—on the alphabet, II 616.
MARSALE, in Sicily, XIV 315; XX 245—
wine, 248, XXI 886.
MARSDEN (William), XIV 315—on the
cannibalism of the Battas, III 270—on
edible birds-nests, IV 727—on the lan-
guage of the Gypsies, XI 172.
MARSEILLE, French city, XIV 316—
Greek colony at, VIII 184—water-
works of, III 336—population, X 277—
epidemic small-pox at, XXI 501. See
Marseille.
Marseilles, X 68, 69.
MARSH (Dr Herbert), bishop, XIV 317.
—(Mr), his improvements on the
electro-dynamic cylinder, XXI 639, 640.
—See Marshaes.
—gas, VI 506.
Marsh's library, Dublin, XIII 405
—process for detecting arsenic, VI
495.
MARSHAL, or Mareschal, XIV 317—chief
of Herald's College, XI 320—in the
Admiralty, II 147.
Marshall (E S), his gold-leaf, X 708.
—(Mr), on the mortality of London,
XV 616.
—and Co's cloth works, XIII 313.
Marshall's Islands, XVIII 270.
Marshalling arms, in heraldry, XI 339.
Marshalsea, Court of, XI 774.
MARSHAM (Sir John), chronologist, XIV.
318.
—(Thomas), his work on insects, IX.
4.
Marshes, reclamation of, II 368—their
effect on health, IV 184; XIV 444—
plants of, V 221.
MARSHFIELD, town in Gloucester, XIV.
318.
MARSHMAN (Joshua, D.D.) missionary,
XIV 318—on the Chinese language,
VI 558, 571—his *Clavis Sinica*, 577

MAR—MAR

Marshy soil, effects of, on timber trees,
XXI 268, 269.
MARSR, Italian tribe, XIV 318.
Marsteul, his work on insects, IX 24.
MARSHALL (Luigi Ferdinando, count), XIV
318.
Marsileacea, nat order of plants, V 216
—reproductive organs of, 144.
MARSI on birds, XVI 726.
Marsipobranchii, sub-order of fishes, XII
228.
MARSVAN, or Marsovan, in Asiatic Tur-
key, XIV 319.
Marstrand (Peter), his improvement of the
steam-loom, VII 451.
MARSTON (John), poet, XIV 319.
Marston-moor, battle of, V 405, VII 511.
Marsupialia, order of mammalia, XIV.
178, 186; XVII 631—bones of their
pelvis, III 80—their pouch, 113—den-
tation, XVI 447—order of their appear-
ance in the strata of the earth, XVII.
92—of America, II 713—Australia, IV.
260; fossil in, XVII 638, 174, 175.
Marsupites, fossil echnoderms, XVII 98.
MARTA, or MARTHA SANTA, in New Gra-
nada, XIV 319, IV 818.
MARTABAN, XIV 319, XVII 307.
Martel (Charles), X 6.
Marten, in zoology, XIV 157—fur of, X
347.
Martensen, on the attributes of God, XXI
189, 192.
Martens, on public rights, XVI 157, n.
MARTIALIS (M. Valerius), Latin poet,
XIV 319.
Martignac ministry, in France, X 195,
196.
MARTIGUES, French town, XIV 320.
MARTIN (Benjamin), XIV 320—on solar
microscopes, 790.
—(DAVID), divine, XIV 320.
—(Gabriel), on the classification of
books, IV 715.
—(General San), IV 582, VI 553;
XVII 467.
—(J.), his entomological works, IX 8.
—(John), painter, XIV 321.
—(LOUIS-ANNE), XIV 320.
—(LOUIS-CLAUDE DE SAINT), XIV 321.
—(St), island, XIV 322; XI 72.
—bird, XVI 758—anecdote of a
combination of martins against a spar-
row, V 704.
Martin's (St) Place, Savings-Bank, London,
XIX 667.
—graphical perspective, XXI 120.
Martine (Dr), on heat, I 758 and n.
Martineau (Miss), deception in a case of
alleged clairvoyance related by, XX
439.
Marinet on birds, XVI 729.
Martingal, XI 683.
MARTINI (Giovanni Battista), musician,
XIV 322; X 729.
—(G. H.), on the dials of the an-
cients, VII 773.
MARTINIQUE, island, XIV 322—long in-
fested by ants, III 361—bird-catching
spider of, 377.
MARTINUS, bishop of Tours, XIV 322.
Martite, mineral, XV 108.
Martlet, in heraldry, XV 326.
MARTOS, town of Spain, XIV 323.
—(IVAN PETROVICH), sculptor, XIV.
323.
MARTYN (Henry), missionary, XIV 323.
—(John), botanist, VI 408.
MARTYR, XIV 323—era of martyrs, VI
672.
—(Justin), IX 491.
—(PETER), XIV 324.
MARTYROLOGY, XIV 324.
Martucellian library, XIII 415.
Marum (Van), his electrical machine, VIII.
539—on the electricity of melted bodies,
565.
Marvel of Peru, order of plants, V 203.
MARVELL (Andrew), XIV 324.
MARWAR, in Hindustan, XIV 325; XIII.
10.
MART, seven persons of this name men-
tioned in Scripture, XIV 325.

MAR—MAS

MARY or Miriam, sister of Aaron and
Moses, XIV 325.
—mother of Jesus, XIV 325—wor-
ship of, XII 750, XI 36, I 614—im-
maculate conception of, VII 238, XII.
365—seldom mentioned in Scripture,
and in such a way as to repress super-
stitious veneration, I 515.
—sister of Martha, XIV 329.
—mother of James and Josias, XIV.
329.
—mother of John Mark, XIV 329.
—a pious Christian, XIV 329.
—consort of William III of England,
XIV 329, V 439—her death, 445.
—queen of England, XIV 329, XVIII.
708—marriage to Philip of Spain, 709—
death and character, 711—execution of
Cranmer, VII 484—her navy, XVI 92
—her designs against the Irish Pro-
testants frustrated by a curious occur-
rence, XVIII 829.
—queen of Scots, XIV 329; XIX.
775, et seq—Buchanan her tutor, V.
717—criminality of, ib—Chalmers' Life
of, VI 402—Edinburgh in the reign of,
VIII 391—Elizabeth's treatment of,
711, 637—Laing's dissertation on her
guilt, XIII 168—Bishop Lesley's ser-
vices to, 849—John Knox's interviews
with, 127—her visit to Glasgow, X 646
—colour of her hair, XIX 231, n 1—
Robertson's account of, 230—her resi-
dence at Sheffield, XX 95—Gilbert
Stuart's History of, 788—Wm Tytler's
Inquiry into the Evidence against her,
XXI 410—P. F. Tytler, on her portraits,
415—Whittaker's Vindication of, 851.
—MAGDALENE, XIV 328.
—of Guise, XI 90, XIX 778—her
regency in Scotland, 778 et seq.
—(St), island, IV 336.
—(St), island and cape, in Gambia,
X 393, 394.
Mary's (St), Loch, XIX 790; XX 41.
—College, St Andrews, XXI 473, 474.
MARTBOROUGH, in Queen's county, XIV.
329; XVIII 730.
MARYLAND, XIV 330; XXI 419—debt of,
428—first settlers in, 433—wine of, 883.
Marylebone, XIII 660—cricket club of,
VII 510.
MARYPORT, in Cumberland, XIV 331;
VII 577.
MARYSVILLE, in California, XIV 332.
MASACCTO, painter, XIV 332.
MASANELLO, XIV 332; XX 259.
Masarens, tribe of insects, IX 196.
Masaris, genus of insects, IX 196.
Masaya, in Nicaragua, XVI 244.
MASBATE, island, XIV 333.
Mascagnine, mineral, XV 99.
Mascagni on the lymphatics, II 766, 808—
on adipose tissue, 788—on erectile
tissue, 800—on exhalation, 802—on the
cavernous bodies of the urethra, 800—
on lymphatic glands, 806—on the villi
of the ileum, III 61.
MASCALI NUOVO, town in Sicily, XIV 333.
MASCARA, town of Algeria, XIV 333.
Mascate, III 360. See Muscat.
Mascheik, on the strength of men and
animals, XIV 416.
MASCERONI (Lorenzo), mathematician,
XIV 333; I 701.
Masche, in heraldry, XI 330 and n.
Masculine, in grammar, X 747.
MASERES (Baron), XIV 334—services
rendered to science by, I 703, n 1—on
annuities, III 222; XII 400.
MASHAM, in Yorkshire, XIV 334.
—(Mrs), XI 229; III 217.
Mashing, in brewing, V 325—in distilla-
tion, VIII 48—mash-tun, V 325—mash-
ing machine, 339—Mr Tizard's method
of, 325.
Mashwort, plant esteemed by the Druids,
VIII 138.
MASNISSA, Numidian prince, XIV 334;
VI 299; XVI 350.
MASSELYNE (Nevil), astronomer, XIV 334;
I 838—his observations and improve-
ments at Greenwich, ib, 835—his lunar

MAS—MAS

- observations, 838—his nautical almanack, 834, II. 598; III. 814—on the attraction of mountains, I. 834—his observations on Schehallien, ib.; III. 807—his catalogue of stars, IV. 80—DeLambie's eloge on, VII. 703—his astronomical labours, III. 806—his correction of Mayer's lunar tables, XIII. 687—his micrometers, XIV. 748, 750
- Masks used by Greek actors, VIII. 135, 139—by Roman actors, 142—man of the iron-mask, IX. 495, XVIII. 567.
- Mason (Charles), his astronomical observations, XIV. 336; IX. 550.
- (William), poet, XIV. 336—his hymns, XII. 189
- engraver, VIII. 809.
- Mason's improvements on Mayer's lunar tables, III. 811.
- Mason-bee, IX. 199.
- Mason-lodge, at Kilwinning, XIII. 88; XIV. 397
- Masomite, mineral, XV. 78.
- MASONRY, XIV. 336; V. 737—application of statistical principles to, I. 870
- Masons, V. 737—diseases of, XIV. 442.
- (Free), XIV. 336
- MASORA, term in Jewish theology, XIV. 339, XIX. 834, 835
- Masoretic points, XIII. 209—Capellus on, VI. 206—Kennicott on, XIII. 63
- MASQUERADES, XIV. 339
- MASS, in the Romish Church, XIV. 339, I. 518; XVIII. 336—mass of the presentified, XIV. 339.
- MASSA (Nicolaus), II. 761.
- MASSA DI CARRARA, town in Italy, XIV. 339.
- Massaccio, painter, XVII. 62.
- MASSACHUSETTS, XIV. 339; XXI. 419—mortality in, 421—debt of, 428—colonization of, 432—wine of, 888—Spy newspaper, XVI. 193—number of newspapers published in, 194—education in, XV. 820
- MASSAFRA, town in Naples, XIV. 342.
- MASSAROOY, river in British Guiana, XIV. 342.
- MASSENA (André), marshal, XIV. 842; X. 99, 100 *et seq.*, 178, V. 603—his operations in Portugal, XVIII. 388—Spain, XXI. 823—his disgrace, 824
- Masses, his sounding apparatus, XX. 26.
- Massicot, IV. 497.
- Massieu (John), deaf and dumb boy, VII. 681.
- MASSILIA, XIV. 343, 316—coinage of, XVI. 361.
- planet, IV. 91
- MASSILLON (Jean Baptiste), XIV. 343—compared with Bourdaloue, V. 249.
- town in Ohio, XIV. 344
- MASSINGER (Philip), XIV. 344—his dramatic works, VIII. 159—some of them derived from Bandello's novels, IV. 411—Gifford's edition of his works, X. 622.
- Massman (Dr), on ancient waxen tablets XVII. 207, *n*—portions of Scripture from palimpsests, published by, 209
- Massospondylus, fossil reptiles, XVII. 152.
- MASSOUEH, town in Abyssinia, XIV. 345—trade of, XVIII. 819.
- Mastacembelus, genus of fishes, XII. 292
- MASTER AND SERVANT, XIV. 345—duties of, XV. 569; of master manufacturers, XIV. 280
- in the navy, XVI. 104.
- of the household, XI. 774—of the horse, 776.
- Master-keys, XIII. 541.
- Master-singers of Germany, poetry of, XVIII. 118
- MASTIC, or Mastich, XIV. 350; V. 190; VI. 368; XIX. 88; XX. 716.
- Mastication, XVII. 688.
- Mastiff, XI. 763.
- Mastigias, Egyptian deity, XI. 836
- Mastigophorus, fossil cuttle-fish, XVII. 114.
- Mastigus, genus of insects, IX. 113.
- Mastodon, XVII. 167, 168, 637 and *n*. 2—dentition of, XVI. 472, 473—in New York, 316.

MAS—MAT

- Mastodonsaurus, fossil reptiles, XVII. 137, 138
- Mastoid cells of the ear, III. 46
- Masts, building of, VI. 262—position of, XX. 159
- MASULIPATAM, in Hindustan, XIV. 351—calicoes manufactured at, VII. 439
- Ma-t, Egyptian deity, VIII. 437.
- Matamata, a species of turtle, XIX. 21
- MATAMORAS, or Matamoros, in Mexico, XIV. 351, 728.
- MATAN, island, XIV. 351
- MATANZAS, in Cuba, XIV. 351.
- Mataquito, river in Chile, VI. 543
- MATARO, town in Spain, XIV. 351.
- MATCHES, XIV. 351.
- MATCHEM, Turkish town, XIV. 352
- Maté, South American tea, V. 139; XVII. 629, 629; XXI. 83
- MATILICA, town of Italy, XIV. 352
- MATERA, town of Naples, XIV. 353
- MATERIA MEDICA, XIV. 353, 463 See Medicine
- MATERIALISM, XIV. 353—opposed by Leibnitz, I. 128—taught by Epicurus, III. 308—Robert Hall's notions of, XI. 191
- Materialists, I. 57—fallacy of their reasoning, 68
- Mathematical Geography, X. 479.
- theory of heat, I. 946, of electricity, 987; of magnetism, 994; of the propagation of sound, 991
- theories of thought, XIII. 577, *n*
- Mathematicians, ancient, XX. 300.
- MATHEMATICS, XIV. 353—ancient works on, preserved in religious establishments during the dark ages, I. 550—language of, must always consist of two parts, 551—abstract, II. 52—Aristotle on, III. 541, 550—formula in, IX. 787—mode of teaching the blind, IV. 777—pure, I. 804, 806—connection between mathematics and natural philosophy, 805—Fourier's writings on, 951—cumbersome character of the literature of, 804 and *n*. 2—their progress in this country, 806—their application to medicine, XIV. 461—necessary mathematical judgments, 595, 596—knowledge of among the Persians, XVII. 436—first application of mathematical calculation to naval architecture, XX. 130—knowledge of, desirable for the study of theology, XXI. 182 See Geometry, &c.
- Matheot's (Mr), process of engraving, XVI. 686
- MATHEW (Cotton, D.D.), XIV. 354
- Dixon, & Co., their steam-engines, XX. 607.
- (Increase, D.D.), XIV. 354
- Matheson (Sir James), his improvements in Lewis, XIII. 352
- MATHEWS (Charles), comedian, XIV. 354.
- Mathison (G. F.), his refinery, VII. 81.
- Mathos, VI. 291, 292.
- Mathulen of Lyon, on the quadrature of the circle, XX. 522.
- Matilda, queen of England, VIII. 671
- MATINA, in Costa Rica, XIV. 355.
- MATLOCK, in Derbyshire, XIV. 355—springs at, VII. 755—dale, 754
- Matlockite, mineral, XV. 105.
- Matriculation, in universities, XXI. 457 *et seq.*
- Matrona, name of Juno, XIII. 20.
- MATRS (Quintin), painter, XIV. 355.
- Mattarah, or Matrah, Arabian town, III. 360
- Matthias, Jewish patriot, XII. 769.
- MATTHEW (Stanislaus), XIV. 355.
- Matter, divisibility of, VI. 443; VIII. 66—four primary elements of, according to the Greeks, IV. 448—early opinions on the constitution of, I. 935. See Idealism, Materialism.
- Mattencci, on animal electricity, I. 961; VIII. 571—on the electricity of the solar rays, 569—electric fishes, 577—his theory of hail, 586; and of sheet lightning, 587—his phosphorus electrometer, 622—on thermo-electricity, XXI. 655.
- Matheut on reconson of the text of New Testament, XIX. 836.

MAT—MAX

- Mattheson on Handel, XI. 206.
- Matthew de Gradibus, II. 756.
- of Westminster, XIV. 357.
- (St), evangelist, XIV. 355—Gospel of, 356.
- (St), island, XIV. 357
- Matthew's Bible, IV. 702.
- Matthias (Anabaptist), II. 742
- Matthiessen (Mr), on diamagnetism, XIV. 30
- MATTHISSON (Frederic von), poet, XIV. 357.
- MATTO GROSSO, in Brazil, XIV. 357.
- Matresses, floating, XIII. 440
- MATURN (Charles Robert), XIV. 358—his Montono, XIX. 277—sum paid for his tragedy of Bertram, XXI. 178
- MATY (Matthew, M.D.), XIV. 358
- MAUBEUGE, town in France, XIV. 358
- MAUCH CHUNK, in Pennsylvania, XIV. 358.
- MAUGHLIN, in Ayrshire, XIV. 358
- Maud, daughter of Henry I., VIII. 671
- Maudslay and Field, their marine steam-engines, XX. 639.
- Mauduit on birds, XVI. 729
- on the springs in the plain of Troy, XXI. 357
- Mau, island, XVIII. 270.
- MAULE, river and province in Chile, XIV. 359; VI. 543, 547
- MAUND, river, XIV. 359
- MAUNDAY THURSDAY, XIV. 359.
- Maupouana, II. 739.
- MAUPERTUIS (P. L. M. de), XIV. 359—the first eminent mathematician who taught the Newtonian philosophy in France, I. 608—on the laws of motion, VIII. 343—on the length of the degree, IX. 549—on refraction, 517—on the political economy of France as due to England, XVIII. 220, *n*. 3.
- MAURETANIA, XIV. 360; XV. 596; II. 566.
- Maurice, of Nassau (Count), his administration in Brazil, V. 282
- OF NASSAU, Prince of Orange, XIV. 361; XI. 571 *et seq.*
- (St), knights of, II. 645.
- (Thomas), XIV. 361.
- Maurneau (Francis), on midwifery, XIV. 461.
- MAURICIUS (F. Tiberius), emperor of Constantinople, XIV. 361.
- MAURITIUS, XIV. 362, II. 229—slavery in, XX. 323, 327—sugars of, 795, 796—weights and measures of, XXI. 812.
- MAURO (Fra), cosmographer, XIV. 364.
- MAUROLYCO, or Maurolycus (Francis), XIV. 365—his contributions to mathematics, I. 552—distinguished for his skill in optics, 624—formed a right judgment of the defects of short-sighted and long-sighted eyes, ib.—explained why light admitted through a hole of any shape, and received upon a plane, always illuminates a round space, and through a large one, a space the shape of the aperture, ib.—nearly discovered the functions of the different parts of the eye, ib.—supposed that light acquires colour by refraction in passing through the water-drop of the rainbow, ib.—on optics, XIII. 449; XVI. 525
- Maury (Capt), on spider lincs for telescopes, XIV. 744, *n*. 2
- (JEAN SIFFREIN), cardinal, XIV. 365.
- (Lieut.), his works on physical geography, XVII. 572—on the superiority of fish for food when found in the colder seas, 635—on the currents of the Polar regions, XVIII. 176—his charts, XX. 26.
- MATSOLEUM, XIV. 365—origin of the name, III. 680; XIX. 867—of Adrian, III. 478—of Augustus, ib.
- Mausolus, king of Caria, III. 680; XIX. 857.
- Mavrocordato, XI. 24, 26 *et seq.*
- Maxence, centre employed for the bridge of VI. 377.
- MAXENTIUS (M. A. Valerius), Roman emperor, XIV. 366; XIX. 351.
- Maxilla, in birds, III. 85—crustacea, VII. 589—insects, IX. 82.

MAX—MAZ

- Maxillary sinus, III. 30.
- bones, in man, III. 21, 23—in the mammalia, 78—in birds, 85
- MAXIMIANUS (G. Valerius), Roman emperor, XIV. 366, XIX. 351
- (M. A. VALERIUS), Roman emperor, XIV. 366, XIX. 350.
- Maximilian I., emperor, IV. 302.
- MAXIMINUS (C. J. Verus), Roman emperor, XIV. 366, XIX. 348.
- (G. VALERIUS), Roman emperor, XIV. 366; XIX. 352
- MAXIMUS, the Confessor, XIV. 366.
- (M. CLEMENS), Roman emperor, XIV. 366, VII. 310.
- (PETRONIUS), Roman emperor, XIV. 366.
- (PYRRANUS), Roman emperor, XIV. 366
- Maxtlaton, Mexican king, XIV. 701
- Maxwell (Clerk), on rolling curves, XIV. 392—his platometer, 415—on agriculture, II. 262
- (John, D.D.), IV. 373, *n*.
- (John), of Munches, on the condition of the peasantry in Kilkubright in 1720, XIII. 99.
- of Gribtown, trial of, XIII. 23.
- on electrical fishes, VIII. 577.
- (W. H.), on deer-stalking, XX. 212.
- MAXWELLTOWN, in Kirkcubrightshire, XIV. 366
- MAX, month of, XIV. 367—gardening operations in, XI. 759
- apple, plant, V. 180
- (Isle of), XIV. 367; IX. 795—dioptric lights of, XIII. 475; Report of the Royal Society on, ib.
- (THOMAS), poet, XIV. 367.
- May-bug. See Cockchafer.
- MAX-DAY, XIV. 367—May-games, XV. 598, 599.
- May-flies, their use in angling, III. 149.
- Maya language, XIII. 223
- Mayence, nat. order of plants, V. 213.
- MAZBOLE, town in Ayrshire, XIV. 367.
- MAYEN, in Rhemish Prussia, XIV. 367.
- MAYENCE, in Rhemish-Hesse, XIV. 368; XI. 363—early printing at, IV. 708, 708; XVIII. 527.
- MAYENNE, in France, XIV. 368
- river in France, XIV. 369.
- MAYER (Tobias), XIV. 369—his lunar tables, I. 695, 781, 814, 838; III. 811; XIII. 687; XIV. 335—changed the sextant into a circle, and produced the repeating-circle, I. 749—his dipping-needle, XIV. 85—on magnetism, 5—his rule for calculating mean temperature, VI. 708—his catalogue of stars, IV. 80—on the proper motion of the stars, I. 846.
- (Frederic-Christian), on the arithmetic of sines, II. 547
- (John), of Hamburg, on anonymous books, IV. 711
- on the nerves, II. 806, 807.
- on the dynamical theory of heat, XI. 276
- Mayhew (Henry), his work on London, XIII. 674—on the London fish-market, IX. 649; VIII. 728
- Mayhill group of rocks, XV. 197
- Maynard (George), on binocular vision, XX. 685.
- MAYNOOTH, XIV. 369—College, XII. 533
- MATRO, Irish county, XIV. 369—agricultural statistics, XII. 516, 517.
- (John), his long beard, IV. 528.
- (Mr), on the nerves, II. 814.
- on animal magnetism, XX. 432.
- MATOMBA, or Mayumba, African seaport, XIV. 372.
- Mayor, Lord, of London, XIII. 677.
- MAZOTTA, island, XIV. 372.
- MAZOW, or Mayo (John), XIV. 372, 450; II. 761—his chemical discoveries, IV. 506
- MATPU, river in Chili, XIV. 372; VI. 453.
- MATSVILLE, in Kentucky, XIV. 372; XIII. 70.
- MAZAMBE, French town, XIV. 372.
- MAZANDERAN, in Persia, XIV. 372; XVII. 421, 423—silk produced in, 424.

MAZ—MEC

MAZARIN (Jules), XIV. 373; X. 34—Colbert's connection with, VII. 97—his enmity to the Prince of Condé, VII. 232, 233.
 Mazarine library, XIII. 403
 Mazaruni, river in British Guiana, XIV. 342
 Mazes (Abbé), on atmospheric electricity, XIV. 660—on the colours of mixed plates, XVI. 623.
 MAZEPPA (John), hetman of the Cossacks, XIV. 374; VII. 423; XIX. 479
 MAZZARA, seaport in Sicily, XIV. 374, XX. 246—atmospheric phenomena near, ib. Mazzini, XII. 658.
 MAZZOCCHI (Alessio Simmaco), XIV. 374.
 Mazzoni, VII. 493
 MAZZUCELLI (Conte G. Maria), XIV. 374
 MEAD (Dr Richard), XIV. 374, 462—controversy arising out of a work by, XX. 813, n. 1.
 —a beverage, IX. 765—used by the Anglo-Saxons, XVII. 698—the drink of deified heroes, XV. 767
 MEADAY, town in India, XIV. 375
 Meadow, irrigation of meadows, II. 326, XII. 611; XIII. 648, 649
 —plants, V. 221
 Meadows (General), XI. 498.
 Meal, mountain, mineral, XV. 70.
 Meals, posture of the Greeks and Romans at, II. 80—number of daily, and intervals between, IX. 768
 Mealy Mountains, XIII. 139
 Meanwood church, clock of, VII. 19, 20
 Mearns, Scotch county, XIII. 89. See Kincardineshire
 Measure, in music, XV. 717.
 Measurement of brick-work, V. 736—stone-walling, 740—plasterers' work, 745—slaters' work, 746—carpenters' work, 749—joiners' work, 753—plumbers' work, 756—of the human figure, VIII. 172—of timber, XXI. 280. See Barometrical Measurement, Mensuration, Tonnage, Trigonometrical Survey
 MEASURES, XIV. 375—tables of, III. 584, XXI. 804 *et seq.*, 809—Dr Cumberland on Jewish, VII. 580—Egyptian, VIII. 517—foreign land, II. 115—proposals for a new system of, VII. 702, 230—Roman foot, 230—French, X. 284. See Weights and Measures
 Measuring Machines, XIV. 414
 Meat, modes of preserving, IX. 767—preserved meats for the navy, XX. 24.
 MEATH, Irish county, XIV. 375—agricultural statistics, XII. 515, 517.
 MEAUX, French town, XIV. 378.
 Mecastor, oath, VIII. 370.
 MECCA, XIV. 378—taken by the Wahabys, III. 364, 366—recaptured by the Turks, ib.—various notices of, 364, 365—taken by Mahomed, XV. 300—caravans of pilgrims to, VI. 230—cabas, or black stone of, probably an aerolite, I. 459—balsam of, IV. 401—fair at, IX. 469.
 MECHAIN (P. F. André), XIV. 379, I. 775, n.—measurement of an arc of meridian by, 586, 337; VII. 702; IX. 551
 Mechanical arts, I. 801—their connection with physical science, 807—inventions in, presume a knowledge of physical laws, 808—what constitutes a mechanical philosopher, ib.
 —notation, I. 880.
 —power—electro-magnetism applied as a, XXI. 643. See Mechanics.
 —rocks, XV. 130, 130, 141.
 Mechanisms, ancient, X. 501.
 MECHANICS, XIV. 380—small progress made in the science before the end of sixteenth century, I. 590—state of, in the seventeenth century, 865—Guido Ubaldi, 590—Stevinus, ib.—revolution effected by Galileo, 591—Torricelli, 593—Descartes, ib.—Hooke, 595—Huygens, ib.—principle of *virtual velocities* enunciated, 651—Varignon's *Projet d'une Nouvelle Mécanique*, 651, 652—Newton's *Principia*, 652—improvements by Leibnitz, ib.—force of a moving body estimated by Descartes and Leib-

MEC—MED

nitz, 654—controversy which ensued, 655—principles relative to the force of moving bodies, 656—controversy as to the *vis viva*, 657—problems solved in the times of Newton and Leibnitz, 658—contributions of Halley, 658, 659—James Watt, 865—state of, in the seventeenth century, ib.—philosophical spirit infused into practical mechanics by Watt, 866—Robison, 870; his *Mechanical Philosophy*, 872; XIX. 239—Coulomb, I. 873—Young, 874—mechanical properties of solids, ib.—Young's mechanical writings, 875—Robert Stephenson, 876—Sir Marc Isambart Brunel, 878—self-acting machinery, ib.—impulse given to mechanics by the success of the block-machinery, 879—Tieffthick, 882—George Stephenson, 883—Poisson's *statistical couples*, 825—Poisson's treatise on, ib.—electro-magnetism as a prime mover, 987—discoveries in, by Galileo, X. 381—knowledge of, in ancient Egypt, VIII. 442; among the Druids, 187; in China, VI. 586. See Carpentry, Dynamics, Lever, Rotation, Statistics, Strength of Materials, Weighing Machines.
 Mechanics, animal, XIV. 461.
 —Institutions, importance of, VII. 457—at Manchester, XIV. 259; XV. 824—statistics of, for the United Kingdom, 825—Glasgow, X. 652—Leeds, XIII. 814.
 Mechanism, pure, XIV. 384—elementary combinations in, 390—transfers of, 400, 404—forces applied to, 403.
 MECHLIN, town in Belgium, XIV. 418—steeple of, III. 411—lace, XIII. 142, 143.
 MECHOACAN, in Mexico, XIV. 419, 724, 718.
 Meckel (Albert), on the lymphatics, II. 804.
 —(JOHANN FRIEDRICH), XIV. 419—his anatomical labours, II. 765—his *Manual*, 767; III. 73—on the veins, II. 767, 793—on the lymphatics, 804.
 MECKLENBURG, in Northern Germany, XIV. 419—weights and measures, XXI. 812
 —(Princess Anne of), XIX. 432.
 —SCHWERN, XIV. 419.
 —STRELITZ, XIV. 419.
 Meconic acid, its poisonous quality, XIV. 436.
 Medallions, Roman, XVI. 384
 MEDALS, XIV. 420—taking casts of, VI. 325—curious means of preserving, XXI. 504—method of copying by electricity, 635—Valliant on, 504—Academy of Medals and Inscriptions at Paris, II. 69. See Numismatics.
 MEDÉ (Joseph), XIV. 420—on the allusions to a future state by the Old Testament prophets, I. 474.
 MEDEA, XIV. 420.
 Medeenet-Haboo, antiquities at, VIII. 510, 462.
 MEDILLIN, in New Granada, XIV. 420.
 Medoterus, genus of insects, IX. 243
 MEDGYES, or Mediasch, in Transylvania, XIV. 420.
 MEDIA, XIV. 420—monarchy, XV. 413.
 Median language, XIII. 200, 208.
 Medieval history and historians, XI. 542, 543, 548—coins, XVI. 385—roofs, XIX. 390. See Middle Ages.
 Medical academies, II. 62; and societies, XIV. 461.
 —electricity, VIII. 603.
 —JURISPRUDENCE, XIV. 422, 463.
 —men, influence of their profession on their health, XIV. 442.
 —Missionary Society, XV. 278.
 —officers, naval, XVI. 112, 114.
 —police, XIV. 440.
 —profession, XIV. 450.
 —schools, in United Kingdom, XIV. 463—of United States, XXI. 493
 Mediceo-Laurentian Library, XIII. 414; XIV. 447.
 MEDICI, family of, XIV. 445, XII. 651; XXI. 397, 398—their patronage of

MED—MEG

science and art, XIV. 458; XVII. 62, XIX. 861, 862.
 Medici (Cosmo de), XIV. 446; XIII. 414
 —(Lorenzo de), XIV. 447, 459—Roscoe's *Life of*, XIII. 444, XIX. 417.
 —(Marna di), XIX. 161, 162
 Medicinal foods, XIX. 611.
 MEDICINE, XIV. 448—ancient, 449—modern, 457—clinical, 461—legal, 422—forensic, 425—study of, calculated to develop the intellect, I. 101—state of, in Turkey, III. 658 and n. 2—knowledge of, in ancient Egypt, VIII. 442, in China, VI. 585, among the Druids, VIII. 188, in Russia, XIX. 535—characters of abbreviations in, VI. 419—improved by the Crusades, VII. 535—employment of electricity in, VIII. 603—of chloroform, VI. 629—medicines distinguished from aliments and poisons, III. 179—alterative medicines, II. 633—ignorance of, in Persia, XVII. 430—active poisons form the best, XVIII. 135—serpents formerly used in, XIX. 49—distinguished from surgery, XXX. 809—Edinburgh School of, XXI. 484
 See Disease, Health, Physic, Physiology, Veterinary Science.
 MEDINA, or El Medinah, in Arabia, XIV. 467—various notices of, III. 355 *et seq.*—taken by the Wahabys, 364—recaptured by the Turks, ib.
 —DEL CAMPO, XIV. 463
 —DEL RIO SECO, town in Spain, XIV. 468.
 —group of rocks, XV. 199.
 —(Pedro de), his *Treatise on Navigation*, XVI. 2.
 —river in Isle of Wight, XXI. 861
 —SIDONIA, town in Spain, XIV. 468.
 —Sidonia (Duke of), XVIII. 384—commander of the Spanish Armada, VIII. 713
 MEDIOPLANUM, XIV. 468.
 MEDITERRANEAN SEA, XIV. 469; IX. 385—evaporation of, XVII. 573—saltness of, 574—Ptolemy on the, X. 467—springs of fresh water in, XVII. 574—railway and proposed canals between it and the Red Sea, XX. 430, VIII. 430.
 Medlar, V. 191; XVII. 763—culture of, XI. 716.
 MEDOC, in France, XIV. 471.
 Medulla oblongata, XVII. 558, 668, 669, 674, 699.
 —spinalis, XVII. 558.
 Medullary sheath and rays of plants, V. 81, 82.
 —tissue of animals, III. 171.
 —membrane of bones, II. 823.
 MEDUSA, Gorgon, XIV. 471; X. 717; XVII. 418.
 —genus of zoophytes, XXI. 996, 997
 Medusæ, XXI. 995, 996, 1006—their phosphorescent properties, 998, and n. 2—in the Greenland Sea, XI. 43.
 MEDWAX, river, XIV. 471; XIII. 65, XVIII. 716.
 Meenahs, VII. 598
 MEEANER, Indian town, XIV. 471.
 Meer Cossim, XI. 146, 147.
 —Jaffier, XI. 484, 487.
 MEERMAN (Gerard), XIV. 471—his work entitled *Origines Typographæ*, IV. 706.
 —(Jan), XIV. 471.
 Meerschum, mineral, XV. 84—pipe-bowls made of, XVII. 480—clay exported from Turkey, XXI. 384.
 MEERUT, in Hindustan, XIV. 471; XVI. 301; XVII. 480—outbreak of the mutiny of 1857 at, XVI. 302.
 Megacephala, genus of insects, IX. 78.
 Megacephali, family of insects, IX. 242.
 Megaceros, XVII. 170—teeth of, XVI. 466.
 Megachile, genus of insects, IX. 199.
 Megachirus, fossil shrimp, XVII. 102.
 Megacles, IV. 195
 Megaderma, genus of mammalia, XIV. 149
 Megadermus, genus of insects, IX. 144.
 Megalichthys, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 385; XVII. 125.
 science and art, XIV. 458; XVII. 62, XIX. 861, 862.
 Medici (Cosmo de), XIV. 446; XIII. 414
 —(Lorenzo de), XIV. 447, 459—Roscoe's *Life of*, XIII. 444, XIX. 417.
 —(Marna di), XIX. 161, 162
 Medicinal foods, XIX. 611.
 MEDICINE, XIV. 448—ancient, 449—modern, 457—clinical, 461—legal, 422—forensic, 425—study of, calculated to develop the intellect, I. 101—state of, in Turkey, III. 658 and n. 2—knowledge of, in ancient Egypt, VIII. 442, in China, VI. 585, among the Druids, VIII. 188, in Russia, XIX. 535—characters of abbreviations in, VI. 419—improved by the Crusades, VII. 535—employment of electricity in, VIII. 603—of chloroform, VI. 629—medicines distinguished from aliments and poisons, III. 179—alterative medicines, II. 633—ignorance of, in Persia, XVII. 430—active poisons form the best, XVIII. 135—serpents formerly used in, XIX. 49—distinguished from surgery, XXX. 809—Edinburgh School of, XXI. 484
 See Disease, Health, Physic, Physiology, Veterinary Science.
 MEDINA, or El Medinah, in Arabia, XIV. 467—various notices of, III. 355 *et seq.*—taken by the Wahabys, 364—recaptured by the Turks, ib.
 —DEL CAMPO, XIV. 463
 —DEL RIO SECO, town in Spain, XIV. 468.
 —group of rocks, XV. 199.
 —(Pedro de), his *Treatise on Navigation*, XVI. 2.
 —river in Isle of Wight, XXI. 861
 —SIDONIA, town in Spain, XIV. 468.
 —Sidonia (Duke of), XVIII. 384—commander of the Spanish Armada, VIII. 713
 MEDIOPLANUM, XIV. 468.
 MEDITERRANEAN SEA, XIV. 469; IX. 385—evaporation of, XVII. 573—saltness of, 574—Ptolemy on the, X. 467—springs of fresh water in, XVII. 574—railway and proposed canals between it and the Red Sea, XX. 430, VIII. 430.
 Medlar, V. 191; XVII. 763—culture of, XI. 716.
 MEDOC, in France, XIV. 471.
 Medulla oblongata, XVII. 558, 668, 669, 674, 699.
 —spinalis, XVII. 558.
 Medullary sheath and rays of plants, V. 81, 82.
 —tissue of animals, III. 171.
 —membrane of bones, II. 823.
 MEDUSA, Gorgon, XIV. 471; X. 717; XVII. 418.
 —genus of zoophytes, XXI. 996, 997
 Medusæ, XXI. 995, 996, 1006—their phosphorescent properties, 998, and n. 2—in the Greenland Sea, XI. 43.
 MEDWAX, river, XIV. 471; XIII. 65, XVIII. 716.
 Meenahs, VII. 598
 MEEANER, Indian town, XIV. 471.
 Meer Cossim, XI. 146, 147.
 —Jaffier, XI. 484, 487.
 MEERMAN (Gerard), XIV. 471—his work entitled *Origines Typographæ*, IV. 706.
 —(Jan), XIV. 471.
 Meerschum, mineral, XV. 84—pipe-bowls made of, XVII. 480—clay exported from Turkey, XXI. 384.
 MEERUT, in Hindustan, XIV. 471; XVI. 301; XVII. 480—outbreak of the mutiny of 1857 at, XVI. 302.
 Megacephala, genus of insects, IX. 78.
 Megacephali, family of insects, IX. 242.
 Megaceros, XVII. 170—teeth of, XVI. 466.
 Megachile, genus of insects, IX. 199.
 Megachirus, fossil shrimp, XVII. 102.
 Megacles, IV. 195
 Megaderma, genus of mammalia, XIV. 149
 Megadermus, genus of insects, IX. 144.
 Megalichthys, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 385; XVII. 125.

MEG—MEL

Megalodontes, genus of insects, IX. 182.
 Megalonxy, fossil mammals, XVII. 174, 638
 MEGALOPOLIS, XIV. 471.
 Megalops, genus of fishes, XII. 251—fossil, 347
 Megalopus, genus of insects, XI. 147.
 Megalosaurus, fossil reptiles, XVII. 151—jaw and teeth of, XVI. 436.
 Megalotis, genus of mammalia, XIV. 165
 Megalurus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 336
 Megapodius, genus of birds, XVI. 807
 Megaprotodon, genus of fishes, XII. 802
 MEGARA, XIV. 472—war with Athens, IV. 194—philosophic school of, XVII. 786.
 MEGARIS, in Greece, XIV. 472.
 Megascelus, genus of insects, IX. 147.
 Megaspira, fossil mollusks, XVII. 111.
 Megasthenes, III. 752.
 Megatherium, XVII. 174, 638—jaws, teeth, and dental tissues of, XVI. 441, 442
 Megilloth, Targum on the, XXI. 24
 Megrim, in horses, XI. 660.
 MEHMET ALI, or MOHAMMED ALI, or MOHAMMAD ALI, Pasha of Egypt, XIV. 472—history of, VIII. 489 *et seq.*—his massacre of the Mamelukes, 493—expeditions against the Wahabys, III. 365, 366, IV. 493, VIII. 493—his war with the Greeks, 494, with the Porte, ib.—his designs on Syria, V. 66—his occupation of Jerusalem, XII. 735—his death and character, VIII. 495—improvement of the manufactures and commerce of Egypt, 494—general policy, 496—his extension of cotton culture, VII. 448, VIII. 516—his political and commercial improvements, 515, 516—conquest of Syria, XXI. 374; XVII. 198—his rule there, XX. 911.
 MEHRIDPOOR, town in Hindustan, XIV. 472.
 MEHUL (Etienne Henri), XIV. 472
 Mehun, island, XVII. 413
 MEHWAS, in Hindustan, XIV. 473
 MEIBOM, or Meibomius (Marc), XIV. 473.
 —(Henry), II. 763
 Meigen (J. W.), his works on insects, IX. 12.
 Meigle, fortified fort at, IX. 792
 Meikle (Andrew), XIX. 10—his thrashing machine, II. 282, V. 750.
 —(Mr), on evaporation, IX. 413
 MEINERS (Christoph), XIV. 473
 MEININGEN, in Germany, XIV. 473.
 Meocene, XVII. 637.
 Meiomte, mineral, XV. 72.
 Meisenheim, XI. 363.
 MEISSEN, town in Saxony, XIV. 473—porcelain factory at, XVIII. 436
 MEISSENER (A. Gotthelb), XIV. 474.
 Mekka, See Mecca.
 MEKLONG, town of Siam, XIV. 474.
 MEKONG, or Mekong river, XIV. 474; VI. 113; VII. 48; III. 735; XX. 232.
 MEKRAN, or Mukran, in Beloochistan, XIV. 474
 MELA (Pomponius), XIV. 474.
 Melado suga, XX. 798.
 MELAMPUS, soothsayer, XIV. 475.
 Melancholia, XIV. 531
 MELANTHON (Philim), XIV. 475, XVIII. 821, *et seq.*, 826—his connection with Luther and the Reformation, XIII. 725, 726, *et seq.*—his approval of the *Paupertate* doctrines, I. 16, III. 537—quoted on moral distinctions, I. 20—approved of the execution of Servetus, VII. 482—his philological learning, XVII. 523—his theological writings, XXI. 183—his followers, ib.—his definition of God, 194—on theology, 199, *et seq.*
 Melandrya, genus of insects, IX. 132.
 Melana, fossil mollusks, XVII. 110.
 Melanism, in animals, XIV. 134.
 Melante, XV. 85.
 Melanochroite, mineral, XV. 106
 Melanoplectric membranes, III. 97
 Melanopsis, fossil mollusks, XVII. 110.
 Melanterite, mineral, XV. 97.
 Melanthaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 213.
 Melanthus, IV. 193
 Melaphyre, rock, XV. 135.
 Melas (General), V. 674; X. 118.
 Melasis, genus of insects, IX. 105.

MEL—MEL

- Melasoma, family of insects, IX. 128.
 Melastomaceæ, nat. order of plants, V 191
 —region of, 223; XVII. 629
 Melbourne (Lord), his administration, V
 664, 665. See Lamb (William)
 —in Australia, XIV. 477; IV. 286,
 287, 290
 MELCHISEDEC, XIV. 479.
 MELCHTHAL (Arnold of), XIV. 481
 MELDRUM (Old), in Aberdeenshire, XIV
 481.
 MELLAGER, Greek poet, XIV. 481
 —a Macedonian, XIII. 773
 Meleagrina, genus of mollusks, XV. 348.
 Meleagris, genus of birds, XVI. 786.
 Meleeta, genus of insects, IX. 200
 MELERA, island, XIV. 482.
 Melegnano, battle of, in 1859, XIX. 644
 MELÉNDEZ VALDES (Juan), Spanish poet,
 XIV. 482.
 Meles, genus of mammalia, XIV. 155—
 dentition of, XVI. 462.
 MELITUS, bishop of Antioch, XIV. 482.
 —founder of the sect of the Mele-
 tians, XIV. 483.
 —anatomist, II. 754.
 Meletta, genus of fishes, XII. 237.
 Meletus, one of the accusers of Socrates,
 XX. 380, 388, 389
 MELFI, town of Naples, XIV. 483.
 MELI (Giovanni), XIV. 483.
 Meliaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 187.
 Melichthys, genus of fishes, XII. 313
 Melipona, genus of insects, IX. 203.
 Melissodes, genus of insects, IX. 200.
 MELISSUS, philosopher, XIV. 484.
 Melita. See Malta.
 Melita, in Athens, IV. 169.
 Melithreptus, genus of birds, XVI. 769
 Melitophilus, family of insects, IX. 124.
 MELKSHAM, in Wilts, XIV. 484.
 Melinus, genus of insects, IX. 196.
 Melita, fossil echinoidæ, XVII. 100.
 Melitta, mineral, XV. 125.
 Meliturga, genus of insects, IX. 200.
 MELIOTI (Macedonio), XIV. 484; I. 955—
 the associate of Nobili, ib.—the thermo-
 multiplier improved by, ib.—his dis-
 covery of the singular transparency of
 rock-salt for heat, ib.—on the specific
 action of different substances on the
 rays of heat, 956—on the coloration of
 heat, ib.—explanation of the point of
 maximum heat in the spectrum, ib—
 on heat, XI. 265, 266, 276—his electro-
 scope, VIII. 622—his thermo-electric
 pile, XXI. 652—his death, I. 956.
 MELMOTH (William), senior, XIV. 485.
 —(WILLIAM), junior, XIV. 485
 MELODICA, musical instrument, XIV. 485.
 MELODICON, keyed instrument, XIV. 485.
 MELODION, XIV. 485.
 MELODY, XIV. 485; XV. 715.
 Meloë, genus of insects, IX. 135.
 Melogrammus blowpipe, IV. 792
 Melolontha, genus of insects, IX. 124.
 Melolonthidæ, family of insects, IX. 124.
 Melon on political economy, XVIII. 220,
 n. 3.
 —V. 193—culture of, XI. 733—struc-
 ture of, V. 138, 126, 87, 80, 193—melon-
 cactus, 103—superiority of, in Hungary,
 XII. 10, 17—Perma, XVII. 421.
 Melony, XI. 733.
 Melophagus, genus of insects, IX. 259.
 Melopiste, mineral, XV. 84.
 Melos, IV. 207.
 MELPOMENE, muse, XIV. 485; XV. 699.
 —planet, IV. 91.
 MELROSE, XIV. 485—Abbey of, III. 482;
 carved vegetables on, X. 668—fair at,
 IX. 468.
 Melshelmer (F. E.), his work on insects,
 IX. 24.
 MELSUNGTON, town in Hesse-Cassel, XIV.
 486.
 Melted bodies, electricity of, VIII. 565.
 MELTON-MOWBRAY, XIV. 486; XIII. 321.
 MELUN, town of France, XIV. 486.
 MELVILLE (Andrew), XIV. 486—M'Crie's
 Life of, XIII. 758.
 —(General), on Hannibal's route
 over the Alps, VI. 293, n.

MEL—MEN

- Melville (James), XIV. 489, n.
 —(Sir James), XIV. 489.
 —(Lord). See Dundas (Henry).
 —(Mr), on the colour of clouds, VII.
 39
 —BAY, XIV. 490
 —Island, in North America, XVIII.
 171, 178—flowering plants of, XVII. 628
 —coal in, XVIII. 180—climate of, II.
 674.
 —ISLAND, on the coast of Australia,
 XIV. 490.
 Melyridæ, family of insects, IX. 111.
 Melyris, genus of insects, IX. 111
 Mem de Sa, V. 281.
 Membracis, genus of insects, IX. 170.
 Membranes of the human body, II. 765—
 serous, 838—mucous, ib.—synovial, 840
 —cerebral, III. 56.
 MEMEL, Prussian seaport, XIV. 490
 —river, XVI. 263. See Niemen.
 MEMMI, or Di Martino (Simone), XIV. 490.
 MEMMINGEN, town of Bavaria, XIV. 491.
 MEMNON, XIV. 491; XI. 387 and n. 11
 —a governor of Thrace, XIV. 493.
 —Greek historian, XIV. 493.
 —(Statue of), VIII. 510.
 —the Rhodian, XIV. 492.
 Memnonium at Thebes, VIII. 509; XIV.
 492
 Memorandum, in marine insurance, XII.
 422
 Memory, XIV. 576, 577—its improvement
 in the blind, IV. 777, 778—Condillac on,
 VII. 234—artificial means of assisting,
 XV. 285—dependent on the state of the
 body, 286.
 MEMPHIS, in Egypt, XIV. 493—architect-
 ure of, III. 437—taken by Cambyses,
 VIII. 465—necropolis of, 499—site of,
 502—pyramids at, 437.
 —in Tennessee, XIV. 493; XXI. 156
 Memphic versions of the Bible, IV. 700.
 Memphremagog, lake, XXI. 550.
 Membrulnææ, XXI. 1005.
 MENA (Juan de), Spanish poet, XIV. 493;
 XVIII. 113
 Menecelmus, geometer, VII. 249; X. 499
 MENAGE (Gilles), XIV. 493—his Table-
 talk, II. 738.
 MENAI STRAIT, XIV. 494—suspension
 bridge, I. 875; XXI. 146—tubular
 bridge, XII. 607.
 MENAM, or Meinam, river of Siam, XIV.
 494, XX. 282.
 MENANDER, XIV. 494—his dramas, VIII.
 141.
 Menangkabau, in Sumatra, gold and iron
 ore of, XX. 804—iron and steel manu-
 factured at, 805
 MENASSER (Ben Israel), XIV. 495
 Mencheris, Egyptian king, VIII. 455.
 Mendana (Alonso de), his discovery of
 Solomon's islands, IV. 284.
 —islands, XIV. 313.
 MENDE, French town, XIV. 495
 MENDELSSOHN (Bartholdy Felix), XIV. 495
 —(Moses), XIV. 496.
 Menderé, river in the plain of Troy, XXI.
 356.
 Mendez (Alphonse), II. 56.
 —PINYO (Ferdinand), XIV. 497.
 Mendicancy, XVIII. 295—compared with
 pauperism, 298—extent of, in England,
 ib.
 MENDICANTS, or Begging Friars, XIV. 497
 —at Benares, IV. 644.
 —their proportion to the population,
 in France, X. 268—formerly in Ireland,
 XVIII. 298.
 MENDIP HILLS, XIV. 497; XX. 410—silver
 from, ib.
 Mendipite, mineral, XV. 106.
 Mendizabel, XX. 479.
 Mendosoma, genus of fishes, XII. 288.
 MENDOZA (Diego Hurtado de), XIV. 497
 —poetry of, XVIII. 113—his romances,
 XIX. 286.
 —(Don Pedro de), XVII. 780.
 —(Francis), on aeronautics, II. 167.
 —(Isigo Lopez de), XIV. 498.
 —(Jorge de), V. 727.
 —in La Plata, XIV. 499; XVII. 779.

MEN—MER

- Mendoza river, XIV. 499.
 MENDRISO, Swiss town, XIV. 499.
 Mene, genus of fishes, XII. 299.
 MENEDERMUS, Greek philosopher, XIV. 499
 MENETREUIL (Saute), French town, XIV.
 500.
 MENELAUS, king of Lacedæmon, XIV. 500
 —astronomer, X. 501.
 Menenius Agrippa, XIX. 299
 MENES, founder of the Egyptian empire,
 XIV. 500, VIII. 454
 Meneses (Don Torge de), Papua discovered
 by, IV. 262
 Menestheus, IV. 193
 Menetries (E), his work on insects, IX.
 20
 —(J. F.), his work on insects, IX. 21
 MENG-TSUI, Chinese philosopher, XIV.
 500
 Mengun (Felix), on the Wahabys, III. 364,
 n. 1.
 Mengute, mineral, XV. 101, 111.
 MENES (Antony Raphael), painter, XIV.
 500; XVII. 69
 Menilite, mineral, XV. 69.
 MENIN, town of Belgium, XIV. 501.
 MENIPPUS, Cynic philosopher, XIV. 501
 Menispermaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 181
 MENNO (Simons), XIV. 501.
 Mennonites, sect, XIV. 501, II. 743—in
 Prussia, XVIII. 664
 Menobranchus, genus of reptiles, XIX. 84
 Menopoma, reptile, XIX. 84—cranium,
 upper jaw, and teeth of, XVI. 430.
 Menotta (Ciro), XII. 655
 Menou (Abdallah), V. 583.
 —(General), VIII. 489, X. 96.
 Menptah, Egyptian king, VIII. 462
 Menschikoff (Prince), XIV. 500
 Menstruation, XVII. 682.
 MENSURATION, XIV. 502. See Measure-
 ment.
 MENTAL DISEASES, XIV. 526—mental
 alienation, 426. See Dæmoniac, In-
 sanity, Brain
 —philosophy, Bacon's reflections on,
 I. 32—its advancement promoted by
 the improvement of language, 39—
 Aristotle's, III. 548—applications of
 phrenology to, XVII. 565. See Ethical
 Philosophy, Metaphysics, Moral Phi-
 losophy, Phrenology, Brain, Ideas,
 Memory, &c.
 Mentel, the thoracic duct observed by, II.
 761
 Menteln, early printer, XVIII. 532
 MENTSCHIKOFF (Alexander), XIV. 540;
 VI. 333; XIX. 478, 480.
 MENTZ. See Mayence
 Menu on Hindu penance, XI. 469.
 Menura, genus of birds, XVI. 764
 MENZELER, lake, XIV. 540, VIII. 429;
 XX. 789
 Menzes (Michael), his invention of the
 thrashing-machine, II. 262.
 Meonite, mineral, XV. 72
 Mephitis, genus of mammalia, XIV. 157
 Mephitis, death from, XIV. 430
 MERRI, town in Holland, XIV. 540.
 MERQUINEZ, town in Morocco, XIV. 540.
 Mercantile axioms, VII. 192.
 —system of political economy, VII.
 192, 194; IX. 436; XVIII. 214.
 —navy, XX. 28, 29—state of, at dif-
 ferent periods, 119, 124, 127, 130, 134,
 137, 138—of Tuscany, XXI. 394
 MERCARA, town in India, XIV. 540.
 MEROATOR (Gerard), geographer, XIV.
 540; X. 495; XVI. 4.
 —(NICOLAS), XIV. 540
 Mercator's chart, X. 495, 488; XVI. 4;
 VI. 426; X. Plate.
 —sailing, XVI. 16.
 Mercenaries, Carthaginian war with the,
 VI. 290—in the continental armies in
 the eleventh century, VII. 677, n.
 Mercer's Hall, London, XIII. 687.
 Merchant Company, Edinburgh, VIII. 408.
 —Maiden Hospital in Edinburgh,
 VIII. 402.
 —seamen, XX. 28.
 —service, table of steamers in XX.
 669.

MER—MER

- Merchant Tailors' Hall, London, XIII. 678
 —school, 687
 Merchants, their character, VII. 197—un-
 accustomed to general views, 198—open
 to erroneous impressions, ib.—their
 opinion of the usury-laws, 199—health of,
 XIV. 442
 Merchants' House, Glasgow, X. 653.
 MERCIA, XIV. 540, VIII. 658.
 MERCIER (Louis Sebastien), XIV. 541.
 —de la Riviere, VIII. 376.
 MERCURIUS, Roman divinity, XIV. 541—
 caduceus of, VI. 51. See Hermes.
 Mercury, planet, IV. 65, 89—phenomena
 of, 51—disturbances of its orbit, 106—
 theory of its motion, 89—transits of, 62,
 63
 —a metal, VI. 497, XV. 65, 114—
 —discovery of the congelation of, I.
 759—sometimes rendered solid in nor-
 thern countries by the natural cold of
 the atmosphere, VII. 100; XIII. 236—
 employed in the barometer, IV. 450 et
 seq., and thermometer, 457—coefficient
 of expansion of, I. 957—method of com-
 puting its depression in barometers,
 VI. 218—Hutchin's experiments on the
 degree of cold at which it freezes, 352
 —its cohesion, VII. 57—table of its
 depression in glass tubes, VI. 219; VII.
 65—congelation of, 107—specific gravity
 of, XII. 88—its phenomena in capillary
 tubes, 94—poisoning with, XIV. 433;
 antidotes and means of detection, ib.—
 mode of combining it with other metals,
 II. 647—imports of, XV. 238—in Cali-
 fornia, VI. 98—mines of, XV. 237, in
 Bavaria, IV. 517—Europe, IX. 387—
 Idria, XII. 357—Peru, XVII. 471—
 Spain, XX. 489—its action as a poison,
 XVII. 702—solution of, called quicksilver
 water, X. 626—fulminating, XVIII. 707
 —advantages of, for thermometers,
 XXI. 221
 —Thermagists. See Hermes.
 Méré (Chevalier de), on probability, XVIII.
 598.
 Meredith (Sir William), V. 474
 Mereweather (Mr), his history of boroughs,
 XV. 683 n., 684.
 Mergansers, birds, XVI. 819.
 MERGUR, town in Hindustan, XIV. 541.
 Mergus, genus of birds, XVI. 819.
 Meria, genus of insects, IX. 195.
 MERIAN (Jean Bernard), XIV. 541.
 —(MARIA SIMYLLA), XIV. 542—her
 work on the insects of Surnam, IX. 3
 —(MATTHEW), painter, XIV. 542.
 MERIDA, town in Spain, XIV. 542.
 —town in Venezuela, XIV. 542.
 —town in Mexico, XIV. 542
 Meridian, IV. 1; X. 480, 468—first meri-
 dian, XIII. 685—of globes, X. 485—
 circles, IV. 153—to trace a meridian
 line on any plane, VII. 787.
 Meridional mounting of telescopes, XXI.
 143
 Merno sheep, introduced into England,
 II. 263; VIII. 724—in France, X. 248
 —wool of, XXI. 905; efforts to produce
 it in England, 910.
 —(Martin), his attempt to assassinate
 the Queen of Spain, XX. 483.
 Meriones, genus of mammalia, XIV. 182.
 MERIONETHSHIRE, XIV. 543—population
 and value of property, VIII. 754—auri-
 ferous rocks in, XV. 233
 Merit, popish doctrine of, XVIII. 336.
 Merlangus, genus of fishes, XII. 270.
 MERLIN (Ambrose), wizard, XIV. 544.
 —bird, XVI. 745.
 —in fortification, IX. 807.
 —(THE WILD), wizard, XIV. 544.
 Merluccius, genus of fishes, XII. 270.
 Mormalid, XIV. 217—in heraldry, XI. 334.
 Merman, XIV. 217.
 Merodon, genus of insects, IX. 241.
 MEROR, island, XIV. 545.
 Merom, lake, XVII. 185.
 Meromyza, genus of insects, IX. 257
 Merops, genus of birds, XVI. 772.
 Merou, genus of fishes, XII. 276.
 Merovæus, X. 2.

MER—MET

Merovingian dynasty, X. 2, 239.
 MERRICK (James), poet, XIV. 545—on the Greek poet Tryphiodorus, XXI. 362.
 Merrimac, river, XIV. 340.
 MERRY (Robert), XIV. 545.
 Merrythought, bone of birds, III. 86.
 Merse, IV. 679. See Berwickshire.
 MERSEBURG, town of Prussia, XIV. 545.
 MERSENER (Marr), XIV. 545; XV. 533—his opposition to Pascal, IV. 451.
 MERSEY, river, XIV. 546; VI. 529, VIII. 716, XIII. 177—quantity of matter suspended in the water of, XVI. 86—physical characteristics of, 84.
 —screw steam-frigate, XX. 665.
 Mertæ, Caledonian tribe, VI. 74.
 ΜΕΡΤΗΡ ΤΥΡΩΝ, XIV. 546—iron-works near, X. 642.
 Merton College, Oxford, XVII. 35; XXI. 459.
 MERV, or Meru, town in Turkestan, XIV. 546.
 Meryx, genus of insects, IX. 142.
 Merz and Mahler (Messrs), their telescopes, XXI. 121, 122.
 Mesembrina, genus of insects, IX. 249.
 Mesembryanthemaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 194—region of, 228; XVII. 629.
 Mesh of nets, IX. 638; XIX. 89, 91, 92.
 MESHED, or Mushed, Persian town, XIV. 546—valley of, XIII. 78.
 Mesitine-spar, XV. 92.
 Mesud, or Musjeed, Ah, Turkish town, XIV. 548.
 —Hossein, XIV. 546; XIII. 71.
 MESSMER (Friedrich Anton), XIV. 547; XX. 418.
 Mesmerism, IV. 374; XIV. 465; XX. 413, 416—mesmeric mania in Britain, 441.
 Mesocarp, in botany, V. 135.
 Mesoderma, genus of mollusks, XV. 350—fossil, XVII. 108.
 Mesogaster, genus of fossil fishes, XIII. 346.
 Messo-Gothic language, XIII. 210, 211.
 Mesole, mineral, XV. 75.
 Mesolite, XV. 75—pyro-electricity of, VIII. 560—its use in micrometers, XIV. 744.
 MESOLONCHI, XIV. 547—siege of, in 1826, XI. 29—death of Lord Byron at, 28; VI. 40.
 Mesophloeum, in plants, V. 82.
 Mesopithecus, fossil mammal, XVII. 167.
 MESOPOTAMIA, XIV. 548; IV. 364.
 Mesoprius, genus of fishes, XII. 276.
 Mesotype, XV. 75—pyro-electricity of, VIII. 560.
 Mesozoic epoch, in geology, XV. 195, 205; XVII. 587.
 Mesphres, XI. 386.
 Mesplus, genus of plants, XVII. 763.
 Messalina, XIX. 336; XX. 45.
 MESSALLA (C. Marcus Valerius), XIV. 548.
 MESSANA, or Messene, town in Sicily, XIV. 548—coins of, XVI. 366.
 Messance (M.), on the population of France, XV. 602.
 MESSENE, town in Greece, XIV. 549.
 Messengers-at-Arms, XI. 321.
 MESSENIA, in Greece, XIV. 549; XI. 13—coins of, XVI. 372—subdued by the Spartans, XX. 499.
 Messenian wars, XX. 499, 501.
 MESSIAH, XIV. 549; XXI. 207; VI. 634—meaning of the word, I. 480, n. 1—Jews' expectation of a millennium under the reign of, XV. 13.
 MESSIER (Charles), XIV. 549—on the solar spots, IV. 28, 29.
 MESSINA, in Sicily, XIV. 550; XX. 255—straits of, 241—Fata Morgana, in the straits of, IV. 490; XX. 41—university of, XXI. 492.
 Mestizos of Mexico, XIV. 719—of Peru, XVII. 474.
 MESSTRINO (Nicolo), violinist, XIV. 550.
 Mesue, ancient physician, XX. 815.
 Meta, South American river, VII. 133; XXI. 716.
 Metacarpal bones, in man, III. 33—in the mammalia, 81—in buds, 86.

MET—MET

Metacentre, XII. 83; XX. 154.
 Metachlorite, mineral, XV. 78.
 Metagalatine process, in photography, XVII. 549.
 Metallic couples, thermo-electric power of, XXI. 650.
 —colours, XV. 59—stones, 90.
 —produce of the world for 1854, XV. 248; and its value, 249—poisons, XIV. 432—barometer, IV. 460—money, XV. 416.
 —polarisation, I. 914, XVI. 541, 683—salts, in sea-water, XVII. 572.
 Metalloids, VI. 438, 455, 471.
 Metallurgy, knowledge of, in northern Europe, derived from foreign sources, III. 431—of lead, XIII. 398.
 Metals, in chemistry, VI. 482 *et seq.*—in mineralogy, XV. 60, 65, 113—alloy of, II. 895—annealing of, III. 218, XX. 756—distinction between cast and malleable, III. 219—influence of heat on the electric fluid in, VIII. 561—their diffusion into vapour by electricity, 559—fusion and oxidation of, by electricity, 592, 593—revival of oxides of, 593—magnetism of, XIV. 26—gilding of, X. 625—their power of conducting heat, XI. 261—expansion of, by heat, 268—operations depending on their contraction by cooling, 269—their poisonous qualities, XIV. 432 *et seq.*—films on, XVI. 603—colours of, 686, VI. 482—polarisation in, XVI. 542—distribution of, XVII. 620 *et seq.*—cohesion and strength of, XX. 756—their tenacity increased by mixtures, 787—different conducting power of metals for different electricities, XXI. 621—coloured rings formed on, by voltaic currents, 632—multiplication of works of art in metal by voltaic electricity, 635—thermo-electricity developed in, 649, 650—conductibility of, for thermo-electricity, 651, 652. See Precious Metals, Gold, Silver, Iron, &c.
 Metamorphic bodies, XII. 630.
 Metamorphic rocks, XV. 180, 150, 153; XVII. 587—schistose, XV. 154—classification of, 155—in Scotland, XIX. 792—as building-stones, XX. 712.
 Metamorphoses of insects, IX. 52.
 METAPHOR, XIV. 550; IV. 547, 548; XIX. 132 *et seq.*
 Metaphysical, misapplication of the term, I. 228—Influence of metaphysical studies, 1b.
 Metaphysicians on the nature and essence of the soul, I. 57—of the eighteenth century, 114—their enumeration of the mental faculties, XVII. 673.
 METAPHYSICS, XIV. 551—little advance made in, before the seventeenth century, I. 20—progress of, in the eighteenth century, 227—change in the meaning of the word since the publication of Locke's Essay, 1b—benefits arising from the study of, 228—the term affords a specimen of all the faults which the name of a science can combine, 310—abstraction in, II. 52—Aristotle on, III. 541—speculative inquiries of the Athenians, IV. 211—much cultivated in India, V. 271—Kant on, XIII. 46. See Mental Philosophy.
 METAPONTUM, in Magna Græcia, XIV. 625—coins of, XVI. 363.
 Metatarsus in birds, III. 86.
 METASTASIO (Pietro), XIV. 625—his tragic operas, VIII. 147.
 Metatarsal bones, III. 36.
 Metaurus, battle of, XIX. 311.
 Metawileh, followers of Aly, XX. 908.
 Metaxas (M.), on the debt of Greece, XI. 20.
 Metaxite, mineral, XV. 79, 80.
 Metayer system of farming, in France, X. 245, 249; Greece, XI. 15; Lombardy, XIII. 650; Tuscany, XXI. 394.
 Metcalfe (Rev. F.), on the Lofoden fishery, XVI. 827.
 —(Lord), governor of Jamaica, XII. 674—his law of 1835 relating to the newspaper press in India, XVI. 204.

MET—MEX

METELLUS, Roman family, XIV. 627.
 —Quintus Cælius Macedonicus, XIV. 627.
 —Celer, 1b.
 —Numidicus, 1b.
 —Pius, 1b.
 —Pius Scipio, 1b.
 METEMPSYCHOSIS, XIV. 628; XVIII. 711—*a favourite tenet of the Hindus*, XI. 470—taught by the Druids, VIII. 184.
 Meteora, rocks of, XI. 12.
 Meteoric iron, VI. 488; XV. 114—fragments of, in the British Museum, XIV. 635. See Meteorolite.
 METEOROLITE, XIV. 629—cause of them hitherto inexplicable, I. 580—Fusieri on the origin of, VIII. 584.
 METEOROLGY, XIV. 636, XVII. 571—proposed use of balloons in, II. 184—Influence of forests and mountains on climate, 671, 672—rain most abundant in elevated land, 671—Leshe's atmosphere, IV. 177—electricity of the atmosphere, VIII. 577—fire-balls and falling stars, IX. 586—great hail storm in France, X. 48—Harmattan wind, XI. 229—optical, XVI. 688—sea and land breezes in Sumatra, XX. 803—list of works on, XIV. 689. See Atmosphere, Barometer, Climate, Cold, Cloud, Dew, Evaporation, Fog, Hail, Hygrometry, Monsoon, Rain, Rainbow, Snow, Wind, &c.
 Meteors, XIV. 684—Chaldæi on, I. 892—Descartes' Treatise on, VI. 279—description of one seen at Windsor, 345. See Meteorolite.
 Meter (gas), X. 422.
 METRODISTS, XIV. 691; IX. 395—origin of the name, XIV. 454—their places of worship in England and Wales, VIII. 745—in Ireland, XII. 532. See Wesley, Whitefield.
 METRODUS, XIV. 694.
 —THE CONFESSOR, XIV. 694.
 METRONA, city of Messenia, XIV. 695.
 Methvin treaty of Great Britain with Portugal, VII. 193.
 Metis, planet, IV. 91.
 METRUS (Adrian), XIV. 695; X. 504—on the quadrature of the circle, XX. 521.
 —(James), alleged inventor of the telescope, XVI. 527.
 Méthvier (Comte de), his work on insects, IX. 24.
 METON, astronomer, XIV. 695; III. 788; VI. 665.
 Metonic cycle, in chronology, III. 788, VI. 79, 665; VII. 607.
 METONYMY, in rhetoric, XIV. 695.
 Metope, III. 510.
 Metopius, genus of insects, IX. 190.
 Mètre, French measure, X. 284; XXI. 806.
 Metrodorus, Greek painter, XVII. 67.
 METROXOME, XIV. 695, VI. 710, XIX. 150—pendulums, XVII. 286.
 Metternich (Prince), his policy, IV. 305, 306, 307; X. 162.
 METTRIE (Juhén Offray de la), XIV. 695.
 METZ, town of France, XIV. 696—aqueduct of, III. 335—population, X. 277.
 METZENSEIFEN (Ober und Unter), villages in Hungary, XIV. 696.
 METZENGER, in Württemberg, XIV. 696.
 METZU (Gabriel), painter, XIV. 696.
 Meunier, his attempt to assassinate Louis Philippe, X. 213.
 MEURSUS, or De Meurs (John), XIV. 696.
 MEURTHE, in France, XIV. 697.
 —river, XIV. 697.
 MEUSE, in France, XIV. 697.
 —river, XIV. 698; IV. 611; XI. 581.
 MEUSEL (Johann Georg), XIV. 698—notice of his Bibliotheca Historica, IV. 714.
 Meusnier (M.), his method of adjusting balloons, II. 173.
 Mevelavites, derwases, VII. 757.
 Mewar, in India, XVI. 615.
 Mexicans, their character and appearance, II. 684—affinity with Asiatics, 695—tradition of the Deluge, VII. 719.

MEX—MIC

—anthropophagy among the ancient, III. 270—picture-writing, II. 684.
 Mexico, XIV. 698, II. 633, 705—climate of, 673—mountains of, 674—civilisation of, 685—revolution in, 702—ancient architecture of, III. 438—castles in, VI. 316—government of, under the Spaniards, XIV. 707—conquest of, by Cortes, XIV. 418—dancing in, 644—French trade with, X. 260—volcanoes, XVII. 593—height of mountains in, 645—jalap plant, XII. 671—libraries, XIII. 430—silver mines of, XV. 235; XVII. 622—monarchy, XIV. 413—mythology, 767—produce of precious metals, XVIII. 461; XV. 248—Prescott's History of the Conquest of, 504, 506—war with the United States, XXI. 442—weights and measures, 812—map of, XIV. Plate.
 —city of, XIV. 722.
 —Gulf of, XVII. 577.
 —New, XIV. 729—ceded to the United States, 714—language of, XIII. 222.
 Meydoom, pyramid of, VIII. 503.
 Meyen, on zones of vegetation, V. 225, 227.
 —(Dr), on the pilot fish, XII. 294.
 —(Prof. F. T.), on the structure of animalcules, III. 208.
 Meyer (Dr Charles), on Celtic philology, XVII. 530.
 —(FELIX), painter, XIV. 730.
 —(JACQUES), XIV. 730.
 —(JOHANN HENRICH), XIV. 730.
 —(Moritz), on metal for cannon, VI. 173.
 —(M. Von), on fossil animals, XVII. 133 *et seq.*
 —(Prof.), his theory of apparitions, III. 315—his opposition to Dr Joseph Black's view of the nature of quicklime, IV. 738.
 Meyer's elliptic lamp, XIII. 172.
 Meyera, fossil lobsters, XVII. 102.
 Meynell's system of hunting, XII. 35.
 MEYTRICK (Sir Samuel Rush), XIV. 730.
 MEYWAR, XIV. 731; XVI. 515.
 MÈZE, French seaport, XIV. 731.
 Mezen, river, XIX. 516.
 MEZERAI (F. Eudes de), XIV. 731.
 Mezereon, order of plants, V. 205.
 MEZIERES, town in France, XIV. 731—engineering school of, IX. 821.
 MEZO BERENY, town in Hungary, XIV. 731.
 —HEGYES, Hungarian village, XIV. 731.
 —KOVESD, Hungarian town, XIV. 731.
 —TUR, Hungarian town, XIV. 731.
 Mezomorto, dey of Algiers, II. 571.
 Mezzanina, in architecture, III. 610.
 MEZZORANTI (Joseph Caspar), cardinal, XIV. 731.
 MEZZOTINTO engraving, XIV. 733, VIII. 799, 800, XIX. 465—on steel, VIII. 810—Invention of, XX. 270.
 M'Glashen's tree-fitter, XI. 698.
 MELIN, town in Russia, XIV. 734.
 MIACO, or Miaco, city in Japan, XIV. 734.
 Miami, river, XVI. 489.
 Miargyrite, mineral, XV. 122.
 MIATA, Hungarian town, XIV. 734.
 Mica, XV. 77—in granite, 136—decomposition of, II. 390—analysis of, 1b—solis from, 1b—used for window glass, X. 658—magnetism of, XIV. 27—its use in the polarisation of heat, XI. 267; I. 957 and n. 2.
 —schist, XV. 154—its distribution in Scotland, XIX. 792—in Sutherland, XX. 841.
 MICAH, prophet, XIV. 734.
 MICHAEL I. (Rhangabo), emperor, XIV. 734; VII. 313.
 —II., BABBUS, XIV. 735.
 —III., XIV. 735.
 —IV., the PAPYLAGONIAN, XIV. 735.
 —V., CALAPHATES, XIV. 735.
 —VI., STRATOTIOTUS, XIV. 735.
 —VII., PARAPINACHES, XIV. 735.

MIC—MID

- MICHAEL VIII., Palaeologus, XIV. 735, VII. 318.
 — (St.), island, IV. 335.
 — (Str.), one of the Azores, XIV. 735, IV. 335.
 — (St.), order of, XI. 340; XIII. 130, 111; XII. 448.
 MICHAEL'S MOUNT (St.), XIV. 735.
 MICHAELIS (Johann David), XIV. 735; XVII. 533—his works on biblical criticism, XIX. 828.
 MICHAELMAS, XIV. 736—Oxford and Cambridge term, XXI. 458, 463.
 MICHAUD on the Crusades, VII. 536.
 MICHAUX (André), botanist, XIV. 736.
 MICHEL ANGELO BUONARROTI, XIV. 736; XIX. 862—his architectural works, III. 452—his style of painting, 708, 709; XVII. 64—his genius, VIII. 171—compared with Raffaele, XVII. 67.
 MICHELET on Aristotle's metaphysics, XIV. 553, n. 3—on Richelieu, XIX. 164—his translation of Vico's *Scienza Nuova*, XXI. 582.
 MICHELINA, fossil corals, XVII. 97.
 MICHELL (Rev John), his apparatus for experimenting on the density of the earth, VI. 353, 354—on magnetism, XIV. 4—his artificial magnets, 690.
 MICHELOTI (Gnazio), on hydraulics, XII. 112.
 — (Prof.), on hydrodynamics, XII. 72, 112, 113, 115; XIX. 187, 189.
 MICHELLOZZI (Michelozzo), XIV. 738.
 MICHE (M.), of Nine Elms, his vertical steam-engines, XX. 611.
 MICHIGAN, North American state, XIV. 739; XXI. 419—debt of, 428—wine, 888.
 — LAKE, XIV. 740; XVII. 605.
 MICHA, king of Numidia, XIV. 741; XIII. 15.
 MICKIEWICZ (Adam), Polish poet, XIV. 741.
 MICKLE (William Julius), XIV. 742.
 MICOON, Athenian artist, XIV. 742.
 MICON, island. See MYCOE.
 MICRATER, fossil echinoides, XVII. 100.
 MICROCEPHALA, family of insects, IX. 104.
 MICROCONCHUS, fossils, XVII. 101.
 MICRODACTYLUS, genus of birds, XVI. 797.
 MICRODON, genus of insects, IX. 238—of fossil fishes, XII. 337.
 MICRODONOPHIS, genus of fishes, XII. 232.
 MICROGASTER, genus of insects, IX. 183.
 MICROGLOSSUS, genus of birds, XVI. 783.
 MICROICHTHES, genus of fishes, XII. 275.
 MICROLESTES, fossil mammal, XVII. 157.
 MICROMETRE, XIV. 742; XXI. 119—discovery of, by Huygens, I. 612—Cavallo's, VI. 346—Maskelyne's, XIV. 236.
 MICROMMATTA, genus of arachnides, III. 381.
 MICRONESIANS, in ethnology, IX. 347.
 MICROPELUS, genus of insects, IX. 104.
 MICROPEZA, genus of insects, IX. 263.
 MICROPHIS, genus of fishes, XII. 316.
 MICROPYLE, in botany, V. 133, 139.
 MICROSCOPE, XIV. 733—wonders disclosed by, III. 197—its utility in science, 198; in medicine, XIV. 464; in anatomy, II. 768—gardeners' portable, V. 66—invention of, XVI. 524, 529; I. 627; X. 376—mirrors for, XVI. 576—micrometers for, XIV. 760—magnifying power of, XVI. 598.
 MICROSCOPIC animals, III. 133—microscopic photographs, XVII. 552.
 — finder, XIV. 738.
 MICROSTOMA, genus of fishes, XII. 250.
 MICROTHERIUM, genus of fossil mammals, XVII. 165.
 MIDAS, XIV. 807.
 MIDDLE AGES, intellectual darkness of, I. 14—armies of, III. 635—drama of, VIII. 143—education in, XV. 808—fables of, IX. 462—historians of, III. 548—agriculture during, II. 251—progress of geography during, X. 468—libraries of, XIII. 386—funerals of the nobility and gentry during, XI. 341—coins of, XVI. 385—chronicles of, VII. 536—rate of interest during, XII. 428—painting,

MID—MIL

- XVII. 60—pantheism, 233—philology, 520—poetry, XVIII. 108—presbyterianism, 485—history of the city of Rome in, XIX. 365—masonry, XX. 710, 733—window tracery, 734—vaulting, ib.—spires, 735.
 MIDDLE TEMPLE, XII. 384.
 MIDDLEBURGH, in Holland, XIV. 807—settlement of the Brownists at, V. 689—captured by the Prince of Orange, XI. 568.
 — island, IX. 266.
 MIDDLESBOROUGH, in Yorkshire, XIV. 807.
 MIDDLESEX, XIV. 807—population and value of property, VIII. 754.
 — Hospital, London, XIII. 673.
 MIDDLETON (Conyers), D.D., XIV. 809—accused of plagiarism towards Bellen-den, IV. 637—his quarrel with Bentley, 659—on the classification of books, 715, 716—controversy excited by his Inquiry into the Miraculous Powers of the Christian Church, XXI. 729.
 — (Captain), voyage of, XVIII. 169.
 — (Sir Hugh), XIV. 810, 808; VIII. 647; XIII. 664.
 — (THOMAS), XIV. 810.
 — (THOMAS FANSHAIR), D.D., XIV. 811.
 — in Lancaster, XIV. 811.
 — in Ireland, XIV. 811.
 — Moor, limestone with chert nodules at, XV. 147.
 Middleton's perfecting machine, XVIII. 558.
 Middletonite, mineral, XV. 124.
 MIDDLETOWN, in Connecticut, XIV. 811.
 MIDDLEWICH, in Chester, XIV. 811.
 MIDHURST, in Sussex, XIV. 811.
 Mid-Lothian. See Edinburghshire.
 MIDNAPUR, in Bengal, XIV. 811.
 Midshipman, XVI. 102, 105.
 Midwifery, XIV. 461—use of chloroform in, VI. 629, 630.
 MIEDIAS, Polish kings, XVIII. 137, 138, 140.
 MIEL (Jan), XIV. 811.
 MIERS (Francis), XIV. 812.
 — (FRANCIS), junior, XIV. 812.
 — (WILLIAM), XIV. 812.
 Miers (Mr), on the Andes, II. 669.
 Miesste, mineral, XV. 106.
 Mignan (Capt), on the ruins of Babylon, IV. 345.
 MIGNARD (Nicolas), XIV. 812.
 — (PIERRE), XIV. 812.
 MIGNON, or Mimion (Abraham), XIV. 812.
 Mignonette order of plants, V. 132.
 Migration of animals, XII. 329—of birds, XVII. 633—fishes, 635—of herring, XII. 235, 329.
 Mignol (Don), V. 289; XVIII. 389, 390.
 MIGNIEL (St), French town, XIV. 812.
 Mikalitz, town in Turkey, XV. 674.
 Mikhail, king of Russia, XIX. 475.
 MILAN, XV. 1; XII. 645—academy of sciences at, II. 63—academies of architecture and the arts, 68—government of, XIII. 644—cathedral, III. 448—Ephemeris, 815—Ambrosian library at, XIII. 413—Napoleon's decree at, X. 149—ancient writings discovered at, VI. 744, 745—irrigation near, XIII. 648—insurrection at, in 1848, XII. 657—pavement of the streets, XII. 224—live-stock in the territory of, XIII. 649, 650—imperial institution of, XII. 661—early printing at, XVIII. 533—school of painting, XVII. 72, 73—production of silk in the province of, XX. 278. See Mediolanum.
 Milano (Joannes de), a poem, Regimen Sanitatis Salernitanum, ascribed to, XX. 816.
 MILAZZO, or Melazzo, town in Sicily, XV. 4, 746.
 MILBORNE PORT, in Somerset, XV. 4.
 MILDENHALL, in Suffolk, XV. 4.
 Mildew, V. 172—method of protecting garden peas from, XI. 738.
 Mileage of railway stock, XVIII. 784—mileage run by engines, ib.
 MILES, XIII. 112.

MIL—MIL

- Milesia, genus of insects, IX. 239.
 MILITARY, XV. 4—architectural remains at, III. 442.
 Milfoil, plant, V. 197.
 MILFORD, in Wales, XV. 5.
 — HAVEN, XV. 5; VIII. 721; XVII. 374.
 MILHAU, town in France, XV. 5.
 Milichia, genus of insects, IX. 257.
 Milioite limestone, XXI. 1007.
 MILITARY FRONTIER, XV. 5.
 — Academy at Woolwich, II. 71.
 — College (Royal), II. 71.
 — forces of the European States, IX. 398.
 — or martial law, XV. 5.
 — science, XXI. 698—terms used in, 702—military training of the people, 699.
 — tenures. See Feudal System, Chivalry, Knights and Knighthood.
 MILITIA, XV. 6—British, III. 666, V. 517, 518—Irish, XII. 524—of United States, XXI. 430.
 — Act, V. 605.
 MILIZIA (Francesco), architect, XV. 10.
 MILK, XV. 10—cow's, VII. 624—horse's, XI. 639—rein-deer's, XIII. 239—chemical composition and properties of, VI. 523—animalcules found in, III. 210—influence of food on the qualities of, VII. 621—average annual yield per cow, 622—adulteration of, IX. 769—use of, unknown to the Chinese, VI. 589—sugar of, VIII. 47. See Dairy.
 Milk-quartz, XV. 69.
 Milk-teeth, III. 26.
 Milk-tree, X. 367. See Cow-Tree.
 Milkweed order of plants, V. 199.
 Milkwort order of plants, V. 183.
 Milky Way, I. 842, 843, 844, IV. 86, X. 369—all visible stars belong to that system, I. 845.
 MILL (James), XV. 11—in treating of benevolence, has overlooked the delight from virtuous conduct, I. 396—his theory of government, 401—on education, ib.—on custom as a form of law, XIII. 258—on the civilisation of the Hindus, XI. 547—on British India, 488—on the character of Warren Hastings, 496—his statement of W. Hastings's case, 240—on Sanscrit poetry, V. 270—his article Colony in this work, VII. 134—his defence of commerce, XVIII. 231—on prisons, 564—on the character of Ricardo, XIX. 156.
 — (John Stuart), XV. 13—his work on logic, I. 808—on logic, XIII. 583—on social laws, 263, 264—on the sale of poisons, XX. 800—on the science of human nature, XIII. 263—on propositions in logic, 573, n. 1—on syllogisms, 624, n. 1, 625 n., 627—on Hume's argument on miracles, IX. 417—on fallacies, 476, 478—on statistics, XX. 549, 551, 562.
 — (JOHN), XV. 13—his New Testament, IV. 698; XIX. 837.
 Millar (Prof.), on castes, VI. 315—his account of Adam Smith's lectures, XX. 338.
 — (Walter), XIX. 779.
 Millbank Penitentiary, XVIII. 570.
 MILLEDGEVILLE, in United States, XV. 13; X. 565.
 MILLENNIUM, XV. 13; I. 510—a doctrine of the Koran, 303.
 Milloporidae, XXI. 1005—fossil, XVII. 96.
 MILLER (Hugh), XV. 15—on fossil ferns, V. 235—his classification of Old Red Sandstone rocks, XV. 200—on the Pterichthys, XVII. 120—on the Coccothoeus, 122—on Holoptichthys, 124—on the geology of Staffordshire, XX. 529.
 — (General), IV. 828.
 — (JOHANN MARTIN), XV. 16.
 — (John), railway bridge at Linton constructed by, XVIII. 762—his viaduct across the Union Canal, 762, 763.
 — (Mr), on the fall of rain at Seathwaite, XIV. 657.

MIL—MIN

- Miller (Patrick), of Dalswinton, his steamboat, I. 869; XX. 134, 637.
 — (Prof.), his analysis of coal-gas, X. 430—on the fermentation of snuff, XXI. 296.
 MILLERINUS, fossil echinoderms, XVII. 99.
 Millerite, mineral, XV. 16.
 Miller's safety-poles, XIII. 448.
 Miller's thumb, fish, XII. 280.
 Millers, diseases of, XIV. 443.
 Millemo, defiles of, X. 100.
 MILLET, XV. 16, XVII. 630—its culture in India, XI. 453—in Bengal, IV. 649.
 Military column, VII. 159.
 MILLIN DE GRAND-MAISON (Aubin-Louis), XV. 17.
 Milliners, diseases of, XIV. 442.
 Milling, in woollen manufacture, XXI. 922.
 MILLINGEN (James), antiquary, XV. 17.
 Millington (J.), notice from, regarding Sir Isaac Newton, XXI. 207.
 MILLOR (C.-Francois-Xavier), historian, XV. 17.
 Mills, slow improvement of, III. 706—commonly situated in towns, XIV. 284—fulling or scouring mill, X. 327—of Wolkmann, XII. 143, Barker's, 172—lead mill, X. 670—glass-cutter's, 674—rolling mills in iron manufacture, XII. 561—lapidary's, XIII. 231, 232.
 Millstone grit, XV. 203.
 Millstones, rock of the Abbey Craig, near Stirling, well fitted for, VI. 750—of Cairnmore, in Monaghan, XV. 410—of Kirkcudbrightshire, XIII. 99.
 Milman (Dean), his account of Manchester, XIV. 264.
 MILNE (Joshua), XV. 18—on annuities and assurances, III. 222, XII. 400; XV. 611, 625, 634—his article in this work on human mortality, 600, n.—on the mortality and population of the United States, XVIII. 340, 341.
 — (David), his Essay on Comets, I. 784, n. 1.
 Milne-Edwards (H.), his work on insects, IX. 16—on the blood of the annelides, XI. 292—on the young of terebellas, 295—on the mollusca, XV. 319—on the circulating system of the lobster, 357—on the compound ascidians, 331—on polypes, XXI. 1001—his arrangement of the Ichthyothoida, 1004.
 MILLNER (Isaac), XV. 18.
 — (JOHN), XV. 18.
 — (JOSEPH), XV. 18.
 MILNTHORPE, in Westmoreland, XV. 18.
 MILO (T. A. Papilius), XV. 18.
 — island, XV. 19.
 MILON, ancient wrestler, XV. 19.
 Miloschin, mineral, XV. 84.
 MILITAIRES, XV. 19; IV. 198.
 Mitogramma, genus of insects, IX. 243.
 MILTON, town in Kent, XV. 19.
 — (JOHN), XV. 20—Bentley's edition of Paradise Lost, IV. 659—on the censorship of the press, 712—examples of comparisons from his poems, VII. 219, 220—anecdote of, VIII. 41—his intimacy with Andrew Marvell, XIV. 324—MISS. of, at Cambridge, XIII. 397—poetry of, XVIII. 92, 95, 122—his definition of the qualities of poetry, 95—first edition of his works, 538—his opinion of Shakespeare, XX. 72—Warton's edition of his minor poems, XXI. 736.
 Milvian bridge, battle of, XIX. 352.
 Milvus, genus of birds, XIV. 743.
 MILWAUKEE, town in Wisconsin, XV. 35.
 Mimetesite, mineral, XV. 106.
 Mimosa bark, imports of, IV. 445—its use in tanning, XIII. 306.
 MINA (Don F. Espoz y), Spanish general, XV. 35; X. 186; XX. 475, 476, 479.
 — (Don Xavier), XIV. 710.
 Mina-bud, XVI. 763.
 MINAS GERAES, in Brazil, XV. 35—population of, V. 295.
 Minas on Fata Morgana, IX. 490; XX. 241.
 MINCHINGHAMPTON, in Gloucester, XV. 36.

MIN—MIN

MINCIO, river, XV. 36.
Mind, XV. 587 *et seq.*—phenomena of, entirely different from those of matter, I. 10; relation between them, 124, 125—misapplication of the word substance to, 242, 243—Aristotle on, III. 548—improved by bodily training, VIII. 25—of brutes, V. 703, XI. 762. See Ethical Philosophy, Metaphysics, Mental Diseases, Moral Philosophy, Phrenology, Brain.
MINDANAO, or Magindanao, island, XV. 36; XVII. 512.
MINDEN, XV. 36—battle of, V. 498; XXI. 714.
MINDORO, island, XV. 36; XVII. 512.
MINEHEAD, in Somerset, XV. 36.
Miner. See Sappers and Miners.
MINERAL WATERS, XV. 37—of Aix, II. 431—Carlsbad, VI. 241—Debyshire, VII. 755—Devonshire, 763—Down, VIII. 122—Germany, X. 584—Leamington, XIII. 303—Malvern, XIV. 119—Moffat, XV. 287—Monaghan, 409—New York, XVI. 215—Papal States, XVII. 242—Pyrenees, XVIII. 700—of Russia, XIX. 549—kingdom of Soudania, 433, 434—Switzerland, XX. 889—Spa, 457—Teflis, XXI. 193—Tunbridge, 363—Wurtemberg, 938—Wiesbaden, 860. See Baths, and the geographical articles generally.—principles, in living bodies, XVII. 655—degeneration, in pathology, 691, 696—concretions, 691.—manures, II. 412.
MINERALOGICAL SCIENCE, XV. 40.
MINERALOGY, XV. 40—use of the blow-pipe in, IV. 791, 792—crystallization, VII. 545; VI. 445—Dolomieu's classification of minerals, VIII. 97—Hauy on, XI. 244. See Minerals, Geology, Mines.
Minerals do not grow, III. 169—active molecules found in, 205—Bayens' analysis of, IV. 523—not fitted for nutrition, III. 179—phenomena of, when treated with the blow-pipe, IV. 792, 794—distribution of mineral products, XVII. 618—hardness of, XIII. 281, XI. 226—cutting and polishing, XIII. 281—pyro-electricity of, VIII. 529, 557—electricity of, 538, 539—electricity produced by pressure on, 562; and by cleavage, 564—phosphorescent effects of electricity on, 598, 599—magnetism of, XIV. 26, 27—microscopic cavities in, 806—distinguished from rocks, XV. 181—mineral constituents of timber, XXI. 268—of Cornwall, VII. 407—Europe, IX. 386—of Missouri State, XV. 280—of Prussia, XVIII. 668. See other countries; also Mines, Mineralogy, &c.
Miners, diseases of, XIV. 442—combinations among, VII. 163—laws relating to, XIV. 349—their tools, XV. 224—effects of want of light on their complexions, XIII. 460.
MINERVA, XV. 219—ancient statue of, XIX. 854.
MINES and MINING, XV. 219—blasting rocks, IV. 755; V. 45—mining pumps, XII. 176; XX. 575 *et seq.*, 611—ancient mines, VII. 188—temperature of, VI. 773—colonization with the object of profit from, VII. 145—damps in, 643—expedient methods for obtaining the results in cases of complicated directions, VIII. 340—gunpowder for, XI. 152—the proper heat of the globe manifested by the increase of heat in mines, I. 949—circulation of air in mines, XVIII. 77—extraction of noxious air from, 80—application of Hero's fountain to the draining of, 86—mines of America, II. 705—the Andes, III. 129—Austria, IV. 813—Bavaria, 517—Bolivia, 824—Brazil, V. 283, 284—Burmah, 778—Cardiganshire, VI. 282—Chile, 454—Cornwall, VII. 407—Cuba, 666—Cumberland, 577—Derbyshire, 754—Devonshire, 763—England, VIII. 725—France, X. 249—Hayti, XI. 255—Greece, 14—Hungary, XII. 17; IV. 813; V. 46—Illinois, XII. 662—

MIN—MIR

Ireland, 506, 507—Norway, XVI. 322—Russia, XX. 542, 550—Spain, 489—Sweden, 862—Persia, XVII. 422—Portugal, XVIII. 394—Tibet, XXI. 247. See Precious Metals, Collieries, Gold-mines, Iron-mines, &c., and the geographical articles.
MINES, military, XV. 249—gunpowder for, XI. 152.
Minette, rock, XV. 137.
MINGRELLA, XV. 249—coast of, IV. 745.
MINHO, river, XV. 249; X. 372; XVII. 647; XX. 487.—province, XV. 249; IX. 266.
MINIATURE PAINTING, XV. 249.
Minie rifle, XI. 101.
Mining, XV. 219.
Minion type, XXI. 401, 403.
Minion-Nonpareil type, XXI. 401.
Minium, XIII. 302; XV. 112.
Mink, in zoology, XIV. 157.
Minnesingers, poetry of the, XVIII. 118, 264.
MINNESOTA, in United States, XV. 249.
Minnow, XII. 256—angling with, III. 156—angling for, 161—its slow growth in confinement, XII. 222, n.
MINOR, in music, XV. 260.—a, in law, XVII. 275.
MINORCA, XV. 250—conquered by the French in 1756, V. 463—captured by the British in 1798, 565—weights and measures, XXI. 812.
Minority, iron bridge, XII. 600.
MINOS, XV. 251; VII. 493—his laws, 1b.—the warrior, VII. 493.
Minotaur, XV. 251; IV. 192; XIII. 141.
Minous, genus of fishes, XII. 263.
MINSK, in Russia, XV. 251, X. 521.
MINSTREL, XV. 252; XIX. 257 *et seq.*
MINY, of Great Britain, XV. 253; VII. 68; XIII. 662—ancient constitution of, VII. 73—new constitution of, 81—routine of its business, 84—amount of gold and silver coined at, from 1816 to 1853, 95—amount of money coined at, XIII. 662—mint-mark, XVI. 358.—of Bogota, IV. 810—of Paris, XVII. 282—of Sydney, New South Wales, XX. 897—of the United States, XXI. 427.—master of the, VII. 80.—plant, V. 202—oil of, XVI. 496.
Minto (Lord), on the State of India, XI. 522.—(Lord), his mission to Italy in 1847, XII. 656, 657; X. 230.
Minton and Co., their porcelain works, XVIII. 437, 441.
MINUSCULI (Felix), XV. 253—his campaign against Hannibal, VI. 295.
MINUET, dance, XV. 253.
Minx, in zoology, XIV. 157—its fur, X. 348.—(Lord), his mission to Italy in 1847, XII. 656, 657; X. 230.
Miocene period, in geology, XV. 214—flora of, V. 237.
Mionnet's scale, XVI. 353—his work on ancient medals, 360, 364.
Miorchinus, genus of insects, IX. 140.
MIOSIN, lake, XV. 253.
MIRABAUD, (Jean-Baptiste de), XV. 253.
MIRABEAU, (G. H. de Riquetti, Comte de), XV. 252; X. 41 *et seq.*; XIX. 234—his connection with Cabanis, VI. 45; and with Dumont, VIII. 241, 242—his death and character, X. 59—his friendship with Talleyrand, XXI. 9.—(V. R. Marquis de), XV. 262.
Mirabilite, mineral, XV. 97.
MIRACLES, XV. 262—pagan, I. 466—necessary to prove a divine revelation, 499; XV. 302—marvellous victory of the thundering legion of Antoninus, III. 280 and n.—healing at the pool of Bethesda, IV. 687—considered as conducing to the propagation of Christianity, VI. 638; X. 615, n.—Hume on, XII. 7 and n. 3; IX. 417; XV. 264—of Jesus, XII. 762—Mohammed made no pretensions to the power of working miracles, XV. 302—miraculous gifts in apostolical times, I. 489.
Mirage, XIV. 683—in Ireland, III. 285—Egypt, VIII. 422—Beykaner, IV. 690—

MIR—MIT

lateral, XVI. 691—now classed with pseudo-apparitions, III. 815.
MIRAMICRI, river, XV. 267.
MIRANDA (Don Francisco), XV. 267.—(SAA DE), Portuguese poet, XV. 267.
MIRANDOLA (Giovanni Pico della), XV. 268.
Mirbel (M.), on the physiology of plants, V. 102.
MIRECOURT, town in France, XV. 268.
MIREPOIX, town in France, XV. 268.
MIREVELT (Michael Jansen), XV. 268.
MIRGOROD, town in Russia, XV. 268.
Miriam, sister of Aaron and Moses, XIV. 325.
Mirki, monkey, XIV. 142.
MIRROR, XV. 268—colours of, VI. 650—divination by, 339—in kaleidoscopes, XIII. 39—foreshadowing of, IX. 750—burning mirrors, VI. 1; XI. 275; XIII. 451—for lighthouses, paraboloidal, 468, spherical, 471; curved, 474; catadioptric, 478—colours of concave, XVI. 619—mirrors for radiating heat, XI. 262, 275—reflection of light from, XVI. 553, 554—spherical aberration of, 574—cylindrical, 556, 696.
MIRZAPORE, town in Hindustan, XV. 268.
Miscopon, genus of insects, IX. 195.
MISENUM, XV. 268.
MISENA, XV. 269; XII. 777; XXI. 15, 16.
MISKOLCZ, town in Hungary, XV. 269.
Misletoe, V. 195—cells of, 66—veneration for among the Druids, VIII. 184, 188—time of cutting it, 186—ceremonies at the cutting of it, 184; II. 425.—order of plants, V. 185.
Misphragmuthosis, XI. 387.
Mispickel, mineral, XV. 115.
MISSAI, XV. 269, XIII. 516.
Missel-thrush, XVI. 752.
Misselden, on political economy, XVIII. 215, 216.
MISSIONS, RELIGIOUS, XV. 269—in Abyssinia, II. 56—America, 693—Asia, III. 753—China, VI. 570, III. 753—Ceylon, 398—Brazil, V. 281 *et seq.*—Japan, XII. 697—Labrador, XIII. 141—New Zealand, XVI. 238—Polynesia, XVIII. 270, 272, 273, 275, 276 *et seq.*—Paraguay, II. 691, 692—of the Scottish Established Church, XVIII. 494—of the Free Church, 495—of the Moravian brethren, IV. 813—of the Jesuits, XII. 754—illustrations of geography from, X. 468—to Asia, in the middle ages, 469—capacity of the indigenous American tribes for receiving Christianity considered, II. 692. See the geographical articles.
MISSISSIPPI, state, XV. 277; XXI. 419—debt of, 428—wine of, 888—reputation of debt by, 441.—river, XV. 278; XVII. 604, 647; XIX. 182—source of, XV. 250—its navigation, II. 675; XVI. 62—its deposits, XV. 141—bars in, 80—delta of, XVII. 588, XIX. 207—physical characteristics of, XVI. 84—basin of, XXI. 420.—scheme, XIII. 293.
Missolonghi, Lord Byron's death at, VI. 40.
MISSOURI, state, XV. 280, XXI. 419—debt of, 428—compromise, 440—wine of, 888.—river, XV. 281; XVII. 604, 647.
Mist, XIV. 657—river mists, 1b. See Fog.
Misterton Carr, trigonometrical base on, XXI. 331, 334.
Mistral, wind, V. 241; XIV. 470; XXI. 523.
Mistress of the Robes, XI. 776.
Misay, mineral, XV. 97.
MIRAU, town in Russia, XV. 282.
Mitcham, in Surrey, perfumes manufactured at, XVII. 408, 409—its flower-farms, XX. 886.
Mitchell (Dr), on the complexion of the Spanish Americans, VII. 224—on the health of factory operatives, XIV. 258.—(Dr), on the manufacture of sugar, XX. 793.

MIT—MOD

Mitchell (James), a blind and deaf boy, VII. 688; XVII. 677.—(James), his attempt to assassinate Archbishop Sharp, V. 429; XX. 93—his execution, V. 430.—(Mr), his analysis of claystone and blackband iron ore, XII. 540.—(Mr), his screw piles, XX. 738.—(Rev. Mr), his experiment on the density of the earth, I. 834.—(Sir Thomas Livingstone), XV. 282—his explorations in Australia, IV. 256, 257.—(Thomas), philologist, XV. 282.
Mitchell's patent ropes, XIX. 409.
Mitchelstown, in Cork, XV. 282.—caves, in Tipperary, XXI. 286.
Mites, III. 887—generation of, 175—their tenacity of life, 176—cheese-mite, 365.
MITFORD (Mary Russell), XV. 282.—(William), XV. 282—his History of Greece, VII. 137.
Mithras, Persian deity, mysteries of, XV. 753.
MITERIDATES, XV. 283; III. 615; VI. 222; XVII. 310, XVIII. 292, XIX. 322, 323—orthography of the name, XVII. 471, n.
Mitla, antiquities of, XIV. 725.
Mitian, runs at, XIV. 719.
Mitra, genus of mollusks, XV. 385—fossil, XVII. 110.
Mitre, in architecture, III. 510.
Mitre-shell, XV. 385.
Mitras, in heraldry, XI. 336.
MITROWICZ, Austrian town, XV. 285.
Mitscherlich (Prof), on optics, XVI. 545, 658, 681, 682.
MITWEIDA, town in Saxony, XV. 285.
MITYLENE, XV. 285; XIII. 342—war with Attica, IV. 194—razed by the Thebans, 204. See Lesbos.
Miyangan, town in Oude, XVII. 13.
Mizraim, VIII. 45, 419.
M'Nab (Mr), on the culture of heaths, XI. 787.
M'Naught (William), his compound beam-engine, XX. 607.
Mnemenda, zoophytes, XXI. 1001.
MNEMONICS, XV. 285.
MNEMONIC, XV. 287.
Mnevis, Egyptian deity, XI. 885.
Moa, gigantic New Zealand bird, XVI. 238.—island, XV. 288.
MOABITES, XV. 288.
MOAT, XV. 288.
Moating, process in woollen manufacture, XXI. 921.
Moawyah, III. 863.
MOBILE, town in United States, XV. 268.—river, II. 436.
MOBILIER, CREDIT, XV. 289.
Moccasin, XX. 208.
MOCHA, Arabian seaport, XV. 293; III. 355; XVIII. 518—its coffee, III. 345—weights and measures of, XXI. 812.—stones, II. 231.
Mocking-bird, XVI. 752; XVII. 633—rattle-snake attacked by, XIX. 68.
Modalism, in theology, XXI. 194.
Modality, in logic, XIII. 589.
Moda. See Mood.—in music, XV. 706.
MODEL, XV. 293—in cannon-casting, VI. 181, 184—modelling of statues, XIX. 844.
Modeller, V. 764.
MODENA, Duchy of, XV. 294—weights and measures of, XXI. 812.—city of, XV. 296—academy of arts at, II. 68—university of, XIX. 492—school of painting, XVII. 72.
MODERN, Hungarian town, XV. 297.—history, and historians, XI. 542, 543, 548.
Modestus, VII. 807.
Modesty, deficient in the blind, IV. 778.
MODICA, town in Sicily, XV. 297.
Modillon, III. 510.
Modiola, genus of mollusks, XV. 348—fossil, XVII. 106.
MODULATION, in music, XV. 297, 780.
Module, III. 610.
Modulus of elasticity, I. 874; II. 101; VI. 251.

MOD—MOI

Modulus of a machine, XIV 404.
 Modum, in Norway, XV 297.
 Modumite, mineral, XV. 118.
 Modata, VI. 74.
 Moehsen (Dr), on mortality, XV. 608.
 Moln, island, XV. 297.
 Moenis, XV. 297—Egyptian lake, VIII 430, 503.
 Mossia, XV. 297.
 Moffat, XV. 297—mineral wells of, VIII 288; XV. 37.
 Moffeta, II. 732.
 Mogador, in Morocco, XV. 297, 506.
 Moghilev, or Mohileff, in Russia, XV. 298; XIX 521.
 Mogi-das-cruzes, in Brazil, XV 298.
 Mogoo, in Persia, XV 298.
 Mooridge (George), XV 298.
 Mogul empire, III. 745, 746; XI 475, 478—decay of, 480—taxation under, 510.
 Moguls, XV. 298, XI 475 *et seq*; III. 745 *et seq*.
 Mohacs, town in Hungary, XV. 298—battle of, XXI 369.
 Mohair, XXI 908.
 MOHAMMED ALBE, XV. 298. See Mehemmet Ali.
 —Bey, VIII 488.
 Mohammed, prophet, XV. 299—works on his life and character, 300, 301—Prideaux's Life of, XVIII 512.
 —Abu Abdalla, XX 463.
 —I, II, III, IV, Turkish emperors, XXI 368, 369, 370, 372.
 —(Dost), V. 687.
 MOHAMMEDANISM, XV 299; IX 395—may be regarded as one of the corruptions of Christianity, I 534, n 2—advantageous to the Jews, XII 777—baneful effects of, XVII 428—predestination a doctrine of, XVIII 477—era of the Hegra, VI 673, XI 284. See Koran, Mohammed, Musselman.
 Mohammedans, their number, XV. 308—rarely converted to Christianity, 274—in India, XI 463; their connection with the rebellion of 1857, XV. 308; their conquest of India, XI 478—feasts, IX 494—geography advanced by, X 468—coinage, XVI 391—circumcision practised by, VI 732—their laws against usury habitually violated, XII 428—their conquest of Egypt, VIII 474, of Persia, XVII 436—in Jerusalem, XII 747—in Russia, XIX 529—their rule in Spain, XX 481 *et seq*, 466—their prejudice against the dissection of the human body, 815. See Arabians, Saracens.
 MOHAMMERAB, town in Persia, XV. 309.
 Mohawk Indians, II. 680.
 —river, XVI 213—falls of, 214.
 Moheau (M.), on the population of France, XV. 604.
 MOHLEV, XV. 309. See Moghlev.
 MOHILL, in Leitrim, XV. 309.
 Mohl (Prof.), on the cells of plants, V. 66 *et seq*—on vegetable respiration, 105—on the flow of sap in trees, 111—on Knight's theory of propagation from seeds, XI 702, n.
 Möhler on Mohammed and the Koran, XV. 301, 302, 303.
 Mohr on electrical induction, VIII 557.
 Mohs, his scale of the hardness of minerals, XV. 55—his arrangement of minerals, 67.
 Mohite, mineral, XV. 109.
 Mohun (Lord), his duel with the Duke of Hamilton, VIII 231.
 Moldore, Portuguese coin, XV. 442.
 Moigno (Abbé), on lamellar polarisation, XVI 676—on conical refraction in France, I 917, n.
 Moir (David Macbeth), XV. 309—on the Saracenic school of medicine, XX 816.
 Moira (Earl of), V. 554.
 —(Lady), on the manufacture of flax-cotton, IX 658.
 Moissac, town in France, XV. 310.
 Moisture, one of the chief elements in our notion of climate, XVII 610—distribution of, 613—its influence on health, XIX 608; combined with heat, 609.

MOI—MOM

MORTRE (Jean Guillaume), sculptor, XV. 310.
 MOIRVRE (A. de), XV 310. See Demoirve.
 Mokassin snake, XIX. 68.
 Mokha. See Mocha.
 MOKRIN, Hungarian village, XV. 310.
 MOLA, or Mola di Bari, town in Naples, XV. 310.
 MOLAR, or MOLAY (Jacques de), XV 310.
 Molanus, V. 60.
 Molar teeth, in man, III 25; XVI 407, 409—in brutes, III 107. See Odontology.
 MOLASSES, XV 310; VI 516; VIII 50; XX 792.
 Molbech (Prof.), Danish author, XIX. 696.
 Mold, town in Flintshire, XV 311.
 Moldau, river, XV 311, XVIII 448.
 MOLDAVIA, XV 311; XXI 684—invaded by Mohammed, XII 14—weights and measures of, XXI 812.
 Molé (M.), X. 202—his ministry, 212.
 Mole, in zoology, XIV 152; XXI 546, 547—its scapula, humerus, and carpus, III 81—peculiarities of its muscles, 92—its fur, X 351—dentition, XVI 450—shrew mole, XIV. 151—Cape mole, ib.; XVI 450—sand mole, XIV. 185—river, XX. 836.
 Mole-cricket, IX. 158.
 Molecular fluids, fibres, membrane, movements, XVII 649—theory of organisation, ib.
 Molecules, active or animated, III 205—forms of, in crystallisation, VII 560—molecule tissues, XVII 649.
 MOLESWORTH (Sir William), XV 313.
 MOLFETTA, town in Naples, XV. 314.
 MOLIÈRE (J. B. Poquelin), XV 314—his comedies, VIII 156.
 MOLINA (Louis), XV. 318.
 Molineux (Samuel), on the aberration of light, II 37.
 MOLINOS (Michael de), XV. 318, 757.
 MOLISE, province of Naples, XV 318; XX. 255.
 MOLITERNO, town of Naples, XV 318.
 MOLL, town of Belgium, XV. 318.
 —(Prof.), his electro-magnet, XIV 75—on the invention of the telescope, XVI 527.
 Mollenesia, genus of fishes, XII 252.
 MOLLUSSA, XV. 319, II. 772; IX. 60—their organs of smell, III. 94—eyes, 96—nervous system, 105—structure, 185—Lamarck's improved classification of, 183—characteristics and classes of, 185, 191, 192—Cuvier's arrangement of, ib.—hermaphrodite, 171—kinds used as food, IX. 765—their arrangement in zones at various depths, 773—order of their appearance in the strata of the earth, XVII 92—fossil, 103, 640—fossil genera of, 115—number known, 631—of Madeira, XIII. 800—distribution of marine, XVII 636.
 Morocco, or MOLOCH, XV 404.
 Molokai, island, XVIII 270.
 Molossi of Epirus, IX. 277.
 Molossus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 148.
 Molten-grease, disease in cattle, XXI 568.
 Molton (South), in Devon, XV. 404.
 MOLUCCAS islands, XV. 404—language, XIII 218—serpents, XIX. 73.
 Moluris, genus of insects, IX. 130.
 Molybdena-ochre, XV 112.
 Molybdenite, XV. 118.
 Molybdenum, VI. 494, XV 66.
 Molybdic acid, VI. 494.
 MOLEX (Peter), painter, XV. 405.
 MOLYNEUX (Lient), on the Jordan, XVII 186, 187.
 —(WILLIAM), mathematician, XV. 405—question regarding vision proposed to Locke by, XIV. 874, n. 2.
 MOMBAS, African seaport, XV 405.
 Mominig on Hadyn's imitative music, XV. 737.
 Mommson on the transition from a pastoral to an agricultural life, XVII 538.
 Momotombo, volcano in Nicaragua, XVI. 242, 244.
 Mompurwa, in Borneo, V. 47.

MOM—MOM

MOMPOX, town in New Granada, XV. 405.
 Moxus, XV 406.
 Mona, VIII. 188. See Anglesea.
 Monacanthus, genus of fishes, XII 313.
 MONACHISM, XV. 408.
 MONACO, in Italy, XV. 409.
 Menads, Leibnitz on, I 131, 255; VIII 327.
 MONAGHAN, Irish county, XV. 409—agricultural statistics, XII 516, 517.
 Monachs, table of English, VIII 714.
 MONARCHY, XV. 411, X. 733—Aristotle on, III 568.
 Monas, genus of animalcules, III. 199.
 Monasa, genus of birds, XVI 778.
 MONASTEEH, in Tunis, XV 415.
 Monasteries, II 14—St Dunstan's exertions in favour of, VIII 282—many erected by king Edgar, 660—suppression of, in England, 702—bells used in, IV 628—transcription of MSS in, XIII 386—chronicles written in, VII 535—in Jerusalem, XII 747—in France, X. 268.
 Monasticism, in Egypt, VIII 473—of the Buddhists, X. 722—a violation of religious unity, I. 508, 509.
 MONASTIR, town in Turkey, XV 415.
 Monaul, bird, XVI 783.
 Monazite, mineral, XV. 101.
 Monatoid, mineral, XV. 101.
 Monbodo (Lord). See Burnet (James).
 MONCEY (B. A. Jeannot), XV. 415.
 Monchen-Gladbach, in Rhenish Prussia, X. 640.
 MONCOLIERI, town in Italy, XV. 415.
 MONCRIEFF, (Sir H. Wellwood), Scottish divine, XV. 415—on the Secession, XVIII 499.
 —(James Wellwood, Lord), XV. 416.
 —hull, in Perthshire, XVII 457.
 Monday, VI 75; I. 458, n. 2.
 Mondego, river, XVIII 393.
 Mondino, or Mondini, anatomist, II 755; XIV 458.
 MONDONEDO, town in Spain, XV 416.
 MONDOTI, Sardinian town, XV 416.
 Mone (F. Joseph), early liturgies published by, XVIII 210.
 —(Dr Erdegar), palimpsest of Pliny discovered by, XVII 214.
 Monedula, genus of insects, IX. 195.
 Moneta, name of Juno, XIII. 20.
 Monetiagum, hearth-tax, XV. 435.
 Monecla oil, XVI 496.
 MONEY, XV. 416—ancient British, VII 69—Japanese, XII. 696—modern Egyptian, VIII 517—Greek, XI 15; XVI 383, 389—French, X. 284—Norwegian, XVI 328—Phœnician, 358, 359—Ionian islands, XII 446—Aristotle on, III. 569—a country no richer by keeping, VII 146—notion that money constitutes wealth, 192—money-table, III. 584—substitution of gold for silver, as money, XVIII 473, 474—invested in railways, 785. See Coin, Currency, Paper-money, Precious Metals, Interest.
 —Order Office, XVIII 418—amount of money-orders issued, ib.—conditions to be observed, 418—money-orders issued in Scotland, 414; in Ireland, ib.
 Money-cowry, XV. 384.
 Moneyers, VI 73, 74.
 MONFLAQUIN, town in France, XV 494.
 MONKE (Gasper), XV. 494; I. 701, n. 3—on capillary attraction, XII 94, 95, 97—on drops, 102—his Descriptive Geometry, 805—on mechanics, XIV 384, 391.
 MONGHIA, in Hindustan, XV 405.
 MONGOLIA, in Asia, XV. 495; III. 731—Felix, 732.
 Mongolian variety of man, II. 775; XI 541; IX. 844—its branches, II 776—language, IX. 389—Mongolian skull, III 29.
 Mongols, XIII 217; XV. 495. See Mongolian.
 Mongrel dogs, XX. 219.
 Monumaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 204.
 Monitor, genus of reptiles, XIX. 27.
 Monitorial system of teaching, XV. 827.
 MONK (George), Duke of Albemarle, XV. 496—his proceedings in reference to

MON—MON

the restoration of Charles II, V. 419; XIII 168; created duke by, II 420—his recommendation of Lord Stan to Cromwell, VII. 628.
 Monk-fish, XII. 313.
 Monkey-pot order of plants, V. 192.
 —plant, V. 136.
 Monkeys, XIV. 139, 140—voice of, III. 101—their geographical distribution, XVII 631.
 Monkland bridge, XII 605.
 —canal, XIII 176, XIX. 808.
 MONKS, XV. 497—their services to learning, X. 507; VII 535; XIII 386—their hymns, XVIII 108.
 Monkshood, plant, V. 123, 180; II. 96. See Aconitum.
 Monkwearmouth, in Durham, VIII 267—bridge at, XX. 807.
 MONMOUTH (James, Duke of), XV 497; V 427—defeats the Covenanters at Bothwell bridge, 430—aspires to the Crown, 433—executed, 435.
 —English town, XV. 497.
 MONMOUTHSHIRE, XV 497—population and value of property, VIII 754—great oak, in, XXI 270.
 Monner (M. Le), on electricity, VIII 578.
 Monocentrus, genus of fishes, XII 210, 283.
 Monochir, genus of fishes, XII 272.
 Monochlamydeæ, sub-class of plants, V. 203.
 MONOCHORD, XV 500.
 Monochromatic illumination of microscopic objects, XIV 798.
 Monoclinohedric system of crystallisation, V. 48—twin crystals in, 53.
 Monocotyledonous plants, V. 76, 141, 179—stem of, 83—germination, 166—number known, 224—fossil species, 233—number described, XVII 626.
 Monoculus, genus of crustacea, VII 543.
 Monodon, genus of mammalia, dentition of, XVI 443, 444.
 Monoculus plants, V. 126.
 MONOGRAM, XV. 500—of early printers, IV. 708.
 Mono-idealism, XVII 680.
 Monistic hypothesis on the origin of evil, IX. 421.
 Monomachus, VII. 315.
 MONOMANIA, XV 500; XIV 529, 530, 426.
 MONOMISER, in Southern Central Africa, XV 500.
 MONOMOTAPA, in Africa, XV 500.
 Monomyaria, genus of mollusks, XV. 344.
 MONOPHYSTES, heretics, XV 500, IX. 406.
 Monopleura, genus of mollusks, XV. 349.
 MONOPOLI, town in Southern Italy, XV. 501.
 Monopolies, in the reign of Elizabeth, V. 382—evils of, VII 195—of trade with colonies, 141—their influence on prices, XVIII 242—their abolition necessary for the prosperity of commerce, XIV. 274—of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce, II 600, n.—of the London theatres, VII. 168—in the woollen trade, XXI 916.
 Monopteros, in architecture, III 510.
 Monopterus, genus of fishes, XII 221.
 Monostoma, genus of entozoa, XXI 979.
 Monostomatida, zoophytes, XXI 1001.
 Monosyllabic language, XIII. 198, 199—people using, IX. 844.
 MONOTONIZES, heretics, XV. 501.
 Monotis, fossil mollusks, XVII 106.
 Monotomo, genus of insects, IX. 142.
 Monotrema, tribe of mammalia, XIV. 19.
 Monotriglyph, III 511.
 Monotropaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 198.
 Monradite, mineral, XV 80.
 MONRO (Dr Alexr.), primus, XV 502; XX. 819—his Elements of Anatomy, II. 767; III 73—first clinical lecturer in Edinburgh, XIV. 462; XX. 819, n. 4.
 —(Dr Alexr.), secundus, on the lymphatics, II. 766—on the amount of fluids within the cranium, XVII 698.
 —(Dr), on echinoderms, XXI. 988.
 MONROE (James), president of United

MON—MON

- States, XV. 502—his political doctrine, XXI. 440
- MONROVIA, town in Africa, XV. 502.
- Mons, town in Belgium, XV. 502
- MONSELICE, town in Austrian Italy, XV. 503
- MONSOON, XV. 503; III. 737—in Afghanistan, II. 202—Africa, 216—Ceylon, VI. 392—India, XI. 451—Sumatra, XXI. 803.
- MONSTER, XV. 503; XIV. 426.
- MONSTRELET (Enguerrand de), XV. 504
- MONT BLANC, XV. 509; II. 624—ascents of, 627, 628—height, XVII. 643
- Cenis, XIX. 633—road over, 288
- DE FRÉTE, XV. 504.
- Montacuta, genus of mollusks, XV. 350
- MONTAGNANA, town in Austrian Italy, XV. 504.
- MONTAGU (Basil), Queen's counsel, XV. 504.
- (LADY MARY WORTLEY), XV. 505
- style of her letters, XVIII. 327, 328
- (EDWARD WORTLEY), XV. 505
- his Ornithological Dictionary, XVI. 733, 815
- on the annelides, XI. 294 *et seq.*
- Montague (Charles), XVI. 207
- MONTAIGNE (Michel, Seigneur de), XV. 506
- his merits as a writer on the philosophy of mind, I. 49—had little scientific knowledge, 50—predisposed to scepticism, ib., XIX. 709—his education not neglected, I. 50, *n.*—character of his scepticism, 51—radical fault of his understanding, ib.—his Apology for Raymond de Sebonde, ib.—died a Roman Catholic, ib. and *n.* 1—his opinion of Sebonde's *Theologia Naturalis*, 52—poetical description of, by Voltaire, 53, *n.* 1
- reason why his name should be united with that of Rochefoucauld, 55—effects of his Maxims on the higher orders, 56
- MONTALEGRE, town in Brazil, XV. 507
- MONTALEMBERT (Marc-René, Marquis de), engineer, XV. 507—on fortification, IX. 816, 835
- Montalvet (M.), X. 212.
- MONTALVAN (Juan Perez de), dramatist, XV. 507.
- MONTANARA, town in Piedmont, XV. 508.
- MONTANCHES, town in Spain, XV. 508.
- MONTANUS, founder of the Montanists, XV. 508.
- MONTARGIS, town in France, XV. 508.
- MONTAUBAN, town in France, XV. 508—population, X. 277.
- Montbar, bucaner, V. 710.
- MONTBELLARD, town in France, XV. 509; VIII. 114
- MONTBLANCH, town in Spain, XV. 509.
- MONTBRISON, town in France, XV. 509.
- MONT-DE-MARSAN, town in France, XV. 509.
- Monteagle (Lord), on the loan for the Russian war, X. 342—his protest against the repeal of the newspaper stamp duty, XVI. 191
- Monte Bolca. See Bolca, Monte
- CHIARO, town in Lombardy, XV. 509.
- ROSA, XV. 512; II. 624, 627—height of, XVII. 642.
- SAN GIULIANO, in Sicily, XV. 512.
- MONTUCUOLI (Raimondo, Count de), XV. 510.
- (SEBASTIANO DI), XV. 510.
- MONTFALCONE, town of Italy, XV. 510
- MONTFORT, town of Naples, XV. 510
- MONTIGO, town in Jamaica, XV. 510.
- Bay, XII. 677.
- Montgre (M.), on the earth-worm, XI. 301.
- chimerical figure in heraldry, XI. 335.
- (M. de), his works on animal magnetism, XX. 424, 425.
- Monteith (Col.), on the Caspian Sea, VI. 811.
- MONTESONE, town of Naples, XV. 510.
- MONTMART, town of France, XV. 511.
- Montemayor, poetry of, XVIII. 114.
- MONTEN (Dietrich), XV. 511

MON—MON

- MONTENEGRO, Turkish state, XV. 511
- Montepetit (M.), on iron bridges, XII. 577.
- MONTERRAT, in France, XV. 512—battle of, X. 167.
- MONTES, town in Mexico, XV. 512.
- XIV. 728—taken by the forces of the United States, 714
- MONTESQUEU (Charles de S Baron de), XV. 512—main object of his work on the Spirit of Laws, I. 94—first connected jurisprudence with history and philosophy, ib.—examples of his peculiar style of thinking, ib., *n.* 2—his speculations directed to the practical conclusion pointed out by Bacon, 95—his Spirit of Laws gave the first blow to the study of natural jurisprudence, ib.—on natural religion, 277—on a historical work by the Abbé Dubois, VIII. 227—on usury among the Romans, XII. 428—on the law of nations, XIII. 280—on a standard of value, XV. 419
- MONTESVERDE (Claudio), musician, XV. 515
- (General), IV. 817.
- MONT-VIDEO, XV. 515, V. 602—weights and measures of, XXI. 812.
- Montezinho, Serra de, XVIII. 393.
- Montezuma, Mexican kings, VII. 418, 419, XIV. 701, 702.
- MONTFACON (Bernard de), XV. 516—on Roman aqueducts, III. 339—on paper, XVII. 248, 249.
- Montfort, in France, XII. 361
- (SMON DE), XV. 516, VIII. 679
- Montgallard (M.), on the character of Moreau, X. 132, *n.* 2—on the escape of the Emperor Alexander at Austerlitz, 140, *n.* 1.
- Montgery (M de), on artillery, III. 698 *et seq.*
- Montgolfier, balloon invented by, II. 173 *et seq.*—his ascent in one at Lyons, 176.
- Montgolfier's hydraulic ram, XII. 75, 173; V. 246
- MONTGOMERY (Alex.), poet, XV. 516
- (Sir George), his experiment in irrigation, XII. 619.
- (JAMES), poet, XV. 516—his hymns, XII. 189.
- (REV ROBERT), XV. 517.
- town in United States, XV. 518.
- town in Wales, XV. 517
- MONTGOMERYSHIRE, in Wales, XV. 518—population and value of property, VIII. 754—lead mines of, XV. 245.
- Month, VI. 75—Jewish, 670—Egyptian, ib.; VIII. 450—Syrian and Macedonian, VI. 671—Ethiopian or Abyssinian, 673—Armenian, ib.—Mahomedan, 674—Persian, 675—Chinese, ib.—Indian, 676—Greek, 76—Roman, ib.—Druidical, VIII. 186—different kinds of lunar, IV. 38—names of Attic months, VI. 666—Dupuis' theory on the origin of the Greek months, VIII. 263
- Montr (Vincenzo), poet, XV. 518.
- Montrcelite, mineral, XV. 89.
- MONTVILLIERS, town in France, XV. 519
- Montivaldia, fossil corals, XVII. 97.
- MONTLUON, town in France, XV. 519.
- Montmartre, XVII. 280—gypsum of, XV. 148—fossil animals found in the quarries of, XVII. 639.
- Montmiral, battle of, X. 167
- Montmorenci (Philip de), Count Horn, XI. 563 *et seq.*
- MONTMORENCY (Anne de), constable of France, XV. 519.
- (HENRI II, Duc de), XV. 520—order of knights connected with the house of, XIII. 121.
- MONTMORILLON, town in France, XV. 520.
- Montmort (Remond de), on chances, XVIII. 589, 603.
- Montmor, town in France, XV. 520.
- MONTORO, town in Spain, XV. 520.
- MONTPELLIER, town in United States, XV. 520.
- MONTPELLIER, town in France, XV. 520; XI. 342—swarm of ants at, III. 265—perfumery of, X. 256—population, 277—university of, XXI. 448

MON—MOO

- Montpensier (Duc de), X. 222; XX. 482
- Montrevel (M Tardy de), on magnetism, somnambulism, XX. 424.
- MONTREAL, XV. 521, VI. 133—climate, 139, 140—population, 144—tubular bridge at, 156—disturbances at, in 1837. 159.
- MONTREUIL, XV. 524
- (Marquis of), his victories in Scotland, V. 406—defeated at Philiphaugh, 407—executed, 413
- Monts de Piété, in Paris, XVII. 283; Belgium, IV. 624. See Pawn-Office
- MONTERRAT, West Indian island, XV. 525.
- MONTUCLA (Jean-Etienne), mathematician, XV. 525—on Descartes and Harriot, II. 486—on the arithmetic of sines, 547—on the claims of Newton and Leibnitz to the discovery of fluxions, IX. 678
- Monument of London, XIII. 675.
- Mood, in grammar, X. 766, 768 *et seq.*
- MOODKEE, in Hindustan, XV. 525.
- Moods of the syllogism, XIII. 613, 615, *n.* 623
- MOOLTAN, or Moultan, province of Hindustan, XV. 525
- city, XV. 525—capture of, by the British in 1849, V. 671—silks of, XI. 458
- MOON, XV. 526; IV. 81, 88—gravitation and revolution of, I. 676—Newton's theory of, a work of genius almost superhuman, 779—acceleration of, 814, II. 74; IV. 37, III. 812; XIII. 233—Hipparchus' discovery of the period of her revolution, III. 791—Ptolemy's discovery of her evection, 792—Mayer's lunar tables, I. 781, III. 811; XIV. 369—her oval and large appearance in the horizon, IV. 10—phases, 32—parallax, 33—magnitude, ib.—orbit, I. 833; IV. 33, 35, 38, 88—harvest moon, 34—equation of the centre, 36—evection, ib.—variation, ib.—annual equation, ib.—horizontal moon, IV. 10—inequalities of her motion, 37; IX. 373—rotation of, IV. 39—libration of (see Libration)—nature of her substance, 41—spots, 42—atmosphere, 43—eclipses and occultations, 45—extent of her shadow and penumbra, 48—tables for calculation of new and full moon, 120—application of the tables, 134—lunar months, 38—year, VI. 79—cycle, 81—Chinese festival at full moon, 570—tables of the moon's latitude in eclipses, IV. 129, 130—augmentation of, XVI. 39—meridian passage, ib.—Leslie on her light, IV. 41; discovery of heat in, XIV. 485—passages of the moon over the meridian, 689; by lunar distances, ib.—influence of, on the magnetic needle, 14; XVII. 618—fancied coldness of her rays, VII. 101, 766—how to take the altitude of, XVII. 32—regard paid by the Druids to her revolutions, VIII. 186—theory of the lunar origin of meteorolites, XIV. 613—luminous circles surrounding, see Corona, Halo, Chromatics—lunar theory, I. 814 *et seq.*, 825 *et seq.*, 849—moon's influence on the tides, XXI. 249; XVII. 580
- Moon's system for the blind, IV. 782; XVII. 554
- Moonseed order of plants, V. 181.
- Moonstone, XV. 70.
- Moor, town in Lower Hungary, XV. 526.
- (JAMES), XV. 526.
- Moorcroft's journey to the Himalaya mountains, XI. 447—on certain Indian animals, 455.
- MOORE (Edward), dramatist, XV. 526
- (Dr JOHN), XV. 527.
- (SIR JOHN), XV. 527—his expedition to Sweden, V. 603—his Spanish expedition, 604—retreat to Corunna and death, ib., VII. 421; XXI. 706, 821.
- (THOMAS), poet, XV. 530—his duel with Jeffrey, XII. 717—his poetry, XVIII. 126—his Epicurean, XIX. 282—on Sheridan, XX. 108, 109.

MOO—MOR

- Moore or More (Roger), rebellion of, V. 398; XII. 481
- (Sir Jonas), IX. 653
- (F.), on Asiatic silk—producing moths, XX. 289, *n.*
- Mooring anchors, III. 118.
- MOORS, XV. 538—of Africa, II. 220, 226; XV. 595—Algiers, II. 566, 569—their academies in Spain, 61—architecture, III. 449—ballads, XVIII. 113—pottery, 431 See Arabians, Moriscos, Saracens.
- MOORSHEBAD, in Hindustan, XV. 534, IV. 651.
- Moorsom (G.), on tonnage, XXI. 304, 307.
- Moorsom's (Capt.), percussion fuze, XI. 142
- MOOSH, in Asiatic Turkey, XV. 534.
- Moplays of Canara, VI. 162.
- Moquette carpets, VI. 272.
- Moquin-Tandon on leeches, XI. 303 *et seq.*
- MORA, town in Spain, XV. 534.
- Morabin (M.), on Bellenden's work on the affairs of Rome, IV. 637.
- MORADABAD, in Hindustan, XV. 534.
- Moranes of glaciers, II. 625; X. 635, 636; XV. 139; XVII. 603—among the Himalayas, XI. 443.
- Moral education, XV. 811.
- faculty, XIV. 580—necessity of moral judgments, 599—moral treatment of mental diseases, 637—moral sense, XV. 544—moral obligation, 563, XIV. 620.
- law, XIII. 233—Kant on, 48.
- perfections of God, XXI. 181.
- Philosopher, difficulties of, I. 310.
- PHILOSOPHY, XV. 635—little advance made in, prior to the seventeenth century, I. 20—the Economists on rights and duties, VIII. 376—Paley on, XVII. 200—Plato's system of, 807—opinions of Sociates on, XX. 398, 401. See Ethical Philosophy, Ethics
- proof of the existence of God, XXI. 187.
- MORAL-DE-CALATRAVA, town in Spain, XV. 534.
- MORALES (Ambrosio), XV. 575.
- (General), IV. 818
- (Luis), painter, XV. 575.
- Moralities, religious plays, VIII. 144
- Morality, Christian, VI. 673—the real in, XIV. 623—reciprocal influence of morality and law, XIII. 259—standard of, XIV. 621 and *n.* 1—poetry conducive to, XVIII. 91—under the law, I. 482; under the gospel, 483—as taught by Socrates, XX. 396, 397.
- Morals, medical, XIV. 464
- MORANO, town of Naples, XV. 575.
- MORAT, Swiss town and lake, XV. 575.
- MORATIN (L. Fernandez), Spanish dramatist, XV. 575.
- (N. FERNANDEZ), Spanish poet, XV. 575.
- MORAYA, river, XV. 576.
- MORAVIA, province of Austria, XV. 576, IV. 310, 309.
- MORAVIANS, XV. 576; IV. 812—origin of, XXI. 971—constitution of their churches, XVIII. 486—missions to Labrador, XIII. 141—in Scotland, XIX. 801.
- MORAY, or Elginshire, XV. 576—Firth, XIX. 794—floods in 1829, XVII. 600—agricultural statistics, XIX. 796, 797, 798—population, 799.
- Morbid growths, in physiology, XVII. 630—theory of, 694—origin and development of, ib.—propagation of, 695—decline of, 696.
- MORBIHAN, department of France, XV. 577.
- MORCHILLI (S. Antonio), antiquary, XV. 578.
- MORCONE, town of Naples, XV. 578.
- Mordian (Messrs), their locks, XIII. 535.
- Mordants in dyeing, VIII. 278—in calico-printing, 315.
- MORDAUNT (Charles), Earl of Peterborough, XV. 578; XX. 59.
- Mordecai (Captain), on gunnery, XI. 105, 106, 144.

MOR—MOR

- MORDEE BAY, XV. 579.
 Mordella, genus of insects, IX. 134.
 Mordellones, family of insects, IX. 133.
 MORRE (HANNAB), XV. 579.
 — (HENRY), XV. 580—accuses Descartes of nullibism, I. 246.
 — (J. S.), his edition of Stair's Institutions, VII. 630.
 — (Roger). See Moore (Roger).
 — (Sir ANTHONY), portrait-painter, XV. 579, 593.
 — (Sir THOMAS), XV. 582—character of, I. 232—anecdote of, IV. 528—his execution, VIII. 700—his patronage of Holbein, XI. 559.
 MOREA, XV. 584; XI. 12—silk produced in, XX. 278.
 MOREAU (Jean Victor), XV. 584, X. 101 *et seq.*, 129, 131—his campaign of 1796, V. 563.
 MORECAMBE BAY, XV. 585.
 Morel, edible fungus, V. 217.
 — (M.), his definition of insanity, XIV. 526.
 Morelia, Mexican town, XIV. 724.
 MORELL (André), antiquary, XV. 586.
 — (Mr), on human intelligence as distinct from that of brutes, XIV. 559, n. 2—on vision, 574.
 — (THOMAS), XV. 588.
 MORELLA, town in Spain, XV. 586.
 MORELLI (Giacomo), librarian in Venice, XV. 586.
 Morelos (Jose Maria), his exploits, XIV. 709—execution, 710.
 Morena (Sierra), XX. 487.
 Moresi (Loris), XV. 586.
 Moreschi on erectile tissue, II. 800.
 MORESQUE, XV. 586; III. 340.
 MORETO-Y-CABANA (Augustin), Spanish dramatist, XV. 586.
 MORETON BAY, XV. 587—penal settlement at, XVIII. 578.
 MORETON-HAMSTEAD, in Devon, XV. 587.
 MORETON-IN-THE-MARSH, XV. 587.
 MORGAGNI (G. Battista), XV. 587—his anatomical labours, II. 764—on the structure of the arteries, 791.
 Morgan, a buccaneer, V. 711.
 — (Sir Charles), on the consumption of fish, IX. 630—his work on fisheries, 618, n. 1.
 — (Mr), on annuities and life assurance, III. 222, 223; XII. 399, 401—his account of the Equitable Society, III. 224, 231—some of his tables criticised, 224—on mortality, XV. 614.
 — (Mr), on the effects of electricity on animals, VIII. 602.
 — (Mr), on Shakespeare's disregard of the unities, VIII. 153.
 — (Mr de), on logic, XIII. 578, 580, n. 602, n.—on probability, XVIII. 591.
 MORGARTEN, in Switzerland, XV. 587—battle of, XX. 584.
 MORGAN (R. Sanzio), engraver, XV. 587—reference to, VIII. 806.
 MORGAN (Daniel George), XV. 588.
 Moriah, Mount, XII. 731, 736, 745.
 Morichini (Dr), on the magnetism of the solar rays, XIII. 452; XVI. 595.
 MORIER (James), XV. 588—his account of Persia, XVII. 421 *et seq.*
 Morillo, IV. 818.
 MORN (M.), on breast-wheels, XII. 165—experiments on friction, XIV. 405—colouring matter, VIII. 295.
 Mornagaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 190.
 Moringua, genus of fishes, XII. 232.
 Moriscos, in Spain, their revolt, XX. 469—expulsion, 470.
 Mörk, Swedish romance writer, XIX. 701.
 Morla (Tomas de), on the velocity of cannon balls, XI. 133, n.
 MORLAIX, town of France, XV. 588.
 MORLAND (George), painter, XV. 588.
 — (Sir SAMUEL), XV. 588—his barometer, IV. 454—on the speaking-trumpet, XXI. 380.
 — (Samuel), on the pollen of plants, V. 152.
 Morlet on the magnetic equator, XIV. 57.
 Mormalyce, genus of insects, IX. 91.

MOR—MOR

- MORMONISM, XV. 589—residence of the Mormons in Utah, XXI. 498—places of worship in Scotland, XIX. 801.
 MORMYRIDÆ, family of fishes, XII. 251, 252.
 MORMYRIDS, genus of fishes, XII. 252.
 MORMYRUS, genus of fishes, XII. 252.
 MORNAT (Philippe de), XV. 593.
 MORN (Lough), VI. 273.
 MORMINGTON (Lord), XXI. 815. See Wellesley (Marquis of).
 Moro (Attom), XV. 593, 579.
 MOROCCO, XV. 593; II. 223—monarchy, XV. 413—heights of mountains, XVII. 644—leather, XIII. 310—Spanish war with, XX. 484—weights and measures, XXI. 812.
 — city, XV. 596.
 MORON, town in Spain, XV. 597.
 MOROSINI (Francesco), doge of Venice, XV. 597.
 Moroxite, mineral, XV. 94.
 MORRETT, XV. 598.
 MORPHEUS, XV. 598.
 Morpha, muriate of, V. 182; XVI. 518—its poisonous properties, XIV. 436—effect of, weakened by habit, XVI. 128.
 Morphne, XVI. 518.
 Morphus, genus of birds, XVI. 743.
 Morphi, genus of insects, IX. 208.
 Morphology of flowers, V. 117.
 Moria, timber-tree, XX. 172; XXI. 277.
 MORREN (Mr), on the pollen of flowers, V. 154.
 MORRHUA, genus of fishes, XII. 263, 269, 270.
 MORRIS (Corbyn), on mortality in London, XV. 601.
 — (F. O.), his work on insects, IX. 23.
 — canal, United States, XVI. 56.
 — DANCE, XV. 598.
 MORRISON (Robert, D.D.), XV. 599—on the Chinese language, VI. 571, 574—on the population of China, 587.
 MORIS, island, XV. 599.
 MORSE, XIV. 173—ivory of, III. 105.
 — key in electrical telegraphs, XXI. 99.
 — (Mr), his electric telegraph, I. 986, XXI. 101, 106.
 MORSEAN, town in Russia, XV. 599.
 MORTAGNE, town in France, XV. 599.
 Mortal sins, XXI. 201.
 MORTALITY (human), XV. 600—law of, 631—rate of, in England, VIII. 755—in the navy, XVI. 108—in Glasgow, X. 656—not increased by manufactures, XVIII. 238—diminution of the rate of, III. 229—greater in males than in females, 230—in founding hospitals, IX. 845; XIV. 444—variations of, in different countries, XVIII. 351—in the United States, 340; XXI. 421, 422; Prussia, XVIII. 604; Scotland, XIX. 800; Sheffield, XX. 98—annual per cent in London and England, XIII. 660—registration of deaths, XVIII. 831. See Annuities, Population, Probability.
 MORTAR and Pestle, XV. 651.
 — kind of cannon, XV. 651, XI. 141, 133—arrangement of, in sieges, III. 693—table of ranges for, XI. 147—for throwing a line over wrecked vessels, XIII. 442.
 — in brick and stone building, V. 732, 733, 738; XX. 713—its transverse strength and power of resistance, 717, 718—connection formed by mortar of lime or gypsum, VI. 381.
 MORTARA, town in Italy, XV. 651.
 MORTIER (E. A. C. Joseph), marshal of France, XV. 651, X. 166 *et seq.*, 211.
 Mortification, XVII. 690.
 MORTIMER (John Hamilton), XV. 651.
 — on husbandry, II. 259.
 — (Earl of), VIII. 682.
 Mortise and Tenon, VI. 284; XII. 810—mortising, V. 747.
 Mortlach, battle of, XIX. 745.
 Mortlake, in Surrey, its tapestry, XXI. 20.
 MORTMAIN, in law, XV. 651.
 MORTON (Cardinal John), XV. 653.
 — (Earl of), regent of Scotland, XIX. 741.

MOR—MOT

- Morton (Mr), on storing mangel-wurzel, II. 320.
 — (THOMAS), dramabst, XV. 653.
 — (Dr S. G.), on the aborigines of America, II. 677—his collection of skulls, XVII. 563.
 Morveau. See Guyton-Morveau.
 MOSAIC WORK, XV. 653, XVII. 59.
 — Dispensation, I. 466—law, 167—limited to one nation, that of Israel, ib. 468—abolition of, 468—a system of temporal rewards and punishments, 470—does not teach the doctrine of future retribution, 475, 478—distinguished by the multitude and minuteness of its regulations and observances, 469; the object of these, ib.—its ceremonial and civil laws, ib.—typical meaning of its ceremonies, 470—summary of its characteristic features, 479—not binding on Christians, 469, 479.
 Mosca, II. 683.
 Moschopolis on magic squares, XIII. 810.
 MOSCHUS, Greek poet, XV. 653.
 — genus of mammalia, XIV. 205—dentation of, XVI. 466, 479.
 MOSCOW, XV. 653—burnt in 1812, X. 157—burnt by the Tartars, XIX. 474—bells of, IV. 629—roof of large span at, XIX. 393, 394—university of, XXI. 492.
 — a Russian government, XV. 657; XIX. 521.
 MOSERAH, island, XV. 657.
 Mosley (Rev. Henry), on mechanics, XIV. 380, 381, 404, 418—on the stability of floating bodies, XX. 156, 157.
 MOSELLA, department of France, XV. 657; XIV. 697—wine, specific gravity of, XII. 89.
 — river, XV. 658; XIX. 144, 145; XXI. 672.
 Mosely (Prof.), on hydrodynamics, XII. 76—on Appold's pump, 180—on Self's pump, 178.
 MOSER (Johann Jacob), XV. 658.
 — (Justus), XIII. 726.
 — on magnetism, XIV. 13.
 MOSSES, XV. 658; XII. 766; XVII. 192—objections to his account of the creation, I. 455—makes no mention of a future state, 473—revelations probably made to, which were not intended for all the people, 474—his account of the deluge, VII. 721—whether the author of the Pentateuch, XVII. 400—psalms ascribed to, XVIII. 679—sanitary influence of the laws of, XIX. 602—slavery authorised by, XX. 319—law of, on divorce, VIII. 67. See Mosaic Dispensation.
 — a kind of boat, IV. 800.
 MOSHEM (J. Lorenz von), XV. 659—on the theological system of Luther, I. 21—on ancient mysteries, XV. 755.
 Moshesh, Kafarian chief, XIII. 35.
 MOSKONSKI, island, XV. 660.
 Moslem. See Mussulman.
 MOSOSANRUS, fossil reptile, XVII. 640.
 Mosoth (M.), on the micrometer, XIV. 747—on optics, XVI. 550.
 Mosque, XV. 660.
 Mosquito, insect, IX. 224—in Northern Asia, III. 741.
 — snore and coast, XV. 660.
 — Indians, in Honduras, XI. 610.
 Moss, order of plants, V. 216.
 MOSSES, XV. 665—organs of reproduction, V. 144—Irish moss, 218—rock, 217—rein-deer, ib.—Iceland, ib.—region of, 227; XVII. 627—Dellenius' Historia Muscorum, VIII. 30.
 — in Lancashire, XIII. 177. See Bogs.
 — (J. W.), his work on classical bibliography, IV. 711.
 Mossman on the colony of Victoria, IV. 288.
 MOSTAGANEM, town in Algeria, XV. 665.
 MOSTAR, town of Bosnia, XV. 665.
 MOSTRYN, in Wales, XV. 665.
 MOSUR, Turkish town, XV. 665; XVI. 272.
 Motacilla, genus of birds, XVI. 756.
 Motala, in Sweden, manufactures of, XX. 862.

MOT—MOU

- Motella, genus of fishes, XII. 270.
 MOTTE-LE-VAYER (François de la), XV. 666.
 Mother-of-pearl, XV. 348; XVII. 356—optical properties of, XVI. 540, 617—micrometer, VI. 346; XIV. 789.
 Moths, IX. 210—processionary, 213—great owl, 215—gamma, ib.—gooseberry, 216—clothes, 217—in furs, X. 350—their insensibility to pain, III. 177—their mode of entering bee-hives, IV. 575—their injuries to bee-hives, 585—destruction of, XXI. 549.
 MOTTON, XV. 666, VIII. 321—vibratory, I. 919—laws of, VIII. 326 *et seq.*, XIV. 402, 403—change of, VIII. 331—composition of, 333—reduction of motions, 340—accelerated and retarded, 344; XIV. 385—Aristotle on, III. 543—of the surface of a fluid, XIV. 386—of a rigid solid, 387—of a point, 384—resolution and composition of, 385—link-motion, 401; XV. 586—parallel, 591; XIV. 402—of air, XVIII. 58, 59—of rivers and canals, XIX. 182—forces acting on the motions of a ship, XX. 158 *et seq.*, 180—Zeno's arguments against, XXI. 769. See Dynamics, Mechanics, Statics.
 — of the human body, III. 40—voluntary, proper to animals, 170—of fishes, XII. 218—through the agency of muscles, XVII. 670—nerves of, 171, 172—in the leaves of plants, V. 108.
 Motril, town in Spain, XV. 666.
 Motschoulsky (Victor de), his works on insects, IX. 24.
 Motte (Henri de la), executed for treasonable correspondence, V. 504.
 Motteux, in heraldry, XI. 338.
 MOTTRAM-IN-LONGDENDALE, in Chester, XV. 666.
 Motya, taken by Dionysius, VI. 283.
 MOUETZ (Thomas), XV. 666—his work on insects, IX. 2.
 Mouffon of Sardinia, XIX. 634.
 MOUKDEN, Chinese town, XV. 666.
 MOULD, XV. 666—on cannon-casting, VI. 182—in flint-glass making, X. 673—moulds in stone masonry, XX. 729, 730—fungus, V. 217.
 — vegetable soil, VI. 524; XV. 216—its uses in the growth of plants, ib.—its formation ascribed to worms, 217.
 Moulding, of glass, X. 673—of specula, XXI. 135—in ship-building, XX. 184.
 MOULDINGS, in architecture, XV. 666, III. 489, 511—Greek, 467, 489; XX. 732—Roman, ib.; III. 476, 489—Italian, 477—in plastering, V. 743—in joinery, XII. 807, 808—to draw Grecian, XX. 732—of mediæval architecture, 734.
 MOULLE, in Guadalupe, XV. 666.
 Moulin (Du), on Fendal law, IX. 523—his work against Milton, XV. 27.
 — LILLE, XV. 666.
 Moulineau (M.), roof constructed by, XIX. 385.
 MOULINS, town in France, XV. 667.
 MOULMEIN, in Hindustan, XV. 667—teak-wood of, XXI. 276.
 Moulting, in annulose animals, IX. 57—in birds, 496.
 Moul's filter, IX. 582.
 Mound, in embanking, VIII. 644.
 MOUNT EVEREST, one of the Himalayas, XV. 667; XVI. 141.
 Mountain, party at the French Revolution, X. 71 *et seq.*
 Mountain-barometer, IV. 465.
 MOUNTAINS, XV. 667—attraction of, I. 834—snow line on, II. 624—afford proofs of beneficent design and adaptation to the wants of man, 669—their influence on climate, 671—barometrical measurements of, 403—cold of, VI. 772; VII. 100—heat of the sun's rays on, VI. 781—electrical phenomena of, VIII. 583—distribution of, XVII. 592; in Scotland, XIX. 793—height of, in different quarters of the world, XVII. 642—elevation of the German, X. 583.
 — of the moon, II. 213.
 Mounting of telescopes, XXI. 143, 144.

MOU—MUI

- MOUNTMELICK, Irish town, XV 667; XVIII. 729, 730
 MOUNTRATH, Irish town, XV. 667.
 MOUNT'S BAY, in Cornwall, XV. 667.
 MOUNTSORELL, in Leicestershire, XV. 667.
 Mounio, river in Lapland, XIII. 284.
 Mouravieff (General), XIX. 511.
 Mourgue (J. A.), on mortality, XV. 607, 622.
 Mourne Mountains, VIII. 122.
 MOURNING, XV. 607.
 MOURZUK, XV. 668; IX. 528.
 Mouse, XIV 181—means of destroying mice, XXI 548.
 Mousseline-de-laines, VIII 315.
 Moustache, IV 529.
 MOUT, or Moot, in Turkey, XV. 668.
 Mouth, human, III 47—in insects, IX. 31—annelides, XI 293—arachnides, III 373—diseases of, in domestic animals, XXI 564.
 Moutiers, in Sardinia, method of making salt at, XIX. 587.
 MOUTRON (Jean), musician, XV. 668.
 Moutay (Captain), V. 494.
 Mouzé (M.), on subterranean fortification, IX. 816.
 MOVEMENT in music, XV. 668.
 MOWER, one of the Sandwich islands, XV. 668—Cook's discovery of, VII. 340.
 Mowing of corn-crops, II. 313.
 Moxon (Joseph), his work on joinery, XII 804.
 —on type-founding, XXI 402.
 Moxos, South American tribe, IX. 349.
 Moy, Irish river, fisheries of, IX. 624, 625.
 Moyes (Dr Henry), blind mathematician, IV 780.
 Mozabites, African race, II 566.
 MOZABIQUE, XV. 668; II. 228—current, IV. 176—channel, XV. 670—weights and measures, XXI 812.
 MOZART (J. C. W. Gottlieb), XV 670.
 MOZDOK, in Russia, XV 673.
 Mozing, process in woollen manufacture, XXI 923.
 MOZUFURNUGUR, in Hindustan, XV 673.
 MZISLAVI, Russian town, XV. 673.
 Mu, Egyptian deity, VIII 437.
 Muclage, II. 380—its nutritive qualities, VIII 20.
 Muckersy (Rev. J.), savings bank established by, XIX 656.
 Mucous membrane, II. 835—papillæ of, 836—its connection with the skin, 838.
 Mucus, its properties as an aliment, VIII 19.
 Mudar fibre, XXI 782.
 Mud baths, XV. 39.
 —volcanoes See Volcano.
 Mud-fish, XII. 316.
 Mud-tortoise, XIX. 17.
 Mudge (Thomas), XV. 673—his invention of the lever escapement, VII 32—on the fuses of watches, 28.
 —(WILLIAM), XV 673—assisted in the measurement of the English arc of meridian, I. 775, 837; IX. 551—employed on the ordnance survey, XXI. 331.
 Mudie (Robert), on the elevated haunts of the ptarmigan, XX 226.
 Muffle-furnaces, X 356.
 MUFFIN, XV 673.
 MUGGLETON (Ludowick), XV. 673—Mugletonians, ib.
 Muggy, bird, XVI 756.
 Mugil, genus of fishes, XII. 291—fossil, 345.
 Mugilidæ, family of fishes, XII. 291.
 Mugiloidæ, family of fossil fishes, XII. 345.
 Mugiloides, genus of fishes, XII. 291.
 MUGLICK, town in Turkey, XV. 674.
 MÜHLENBACH, in Transylvania, XV 674.
 MÜHLHAUSEN, town in Prussia, XV. 674.
 Muir (Thomas), convicted of sedition, V. 550.
 —(Messrs), their Bavarian beer, V. 336.
 Muirhead (J. P.), his work on Watt's Mechanical Inventions, I. 866, n. 3, 870; XXI. 778, n.—his Life of Watt, ib.

MUJ—MUL

- Mujehbê, mound of, at Babylon, IV. 342, 343.
 MULA, town in Spain, XV. 674.
 Mulatto, XIV. 719.
 Mulberry, V. 206; XVII. 764; XX. 288, 291, 292—culture of, XI. 717—in China, VI 588—Granada, X. 794—Russia, XIX. 520—paper made from the bark of the tree, XII. 694—in Lombardy, XIII 653, 654—France, X. 254, 255—shoots used as fodder, XVI 142—only natural food of the silkworm, XX. 291—strength of the wood, 757.
 —order of plants, V. 206.
 MULCASTER (Richard), XV. 674.
 Mulder (M.), on agricultural chemistry, II 876, 877—his analysis of tea, XXI. 82, n.—on the components of grape-juice, 889.
 Mule-jenny, VII 442, 445; XX 510.
 Mules, in France, X 249—in Bolivia, IV. 827—Egypt, VIII 432—their barrenness, III. 175—strength, XIV. 417—(spinning), XX 511—self-acting mules, VII 445, XIV 251.
 Muley Hamet, king of Fez, XVIII. 383.
 —Moloch, XVIII. 884.
 Mulgrave (Lord), on the temperature of the ocean, VI. 777.
 MÜLHEIM-AM-RHEIN, in Prussia, XV. 674.
 MÜLHEIM-AM-RUBR, in Prussia, XV 674.
 MULHOUSE, or Mulhausen, in France, XV. 674.
 Mullo, genus of insects, IX. 233.
 MULL ISLAND, XV 674.
 Muller (C. L.), his work on insects, IX 11.
 —(Dr Max), XVII 529, 536, 537.
 —(F. Paludan), Danish poet, XIX. 695.
 —(G. FRIEDRICH), XV. 675.
 —(JOHANN), or Regimontanus, XV. 675.
 —See Regimontanus.
 —(JOHANN), Swiss historian, XV 675.
 —(J. F. WILHELM), engraver, XV 676.
 —(J. GOTTHARD VON), engraver, XV. 676.
 —(Johannes), on the rhizopoda, XXI. 1007.
 —(KARL OTTFRIED), XV 676; XVII. 525—on the plays of Epicharmus, IX. 271—on Euripides, 379—on the Heraclidæ, XI. 318—his history of the Doria race, VIII. 109—on the origin of the Etruscans, IX. 356, 357, n. 1—on the Etruscan language, 360—on the Pelasgi, XVII 370—on philology, 333.
 —(M.), of Bolbec, his photographic process, XVII. 549.
 —(Mr), on roofs, XIX. 382.
 —on fishes, XII. 249 et seq., 328—their classification, 226.
 —on theology, XXI. 200.
 —(OTHON FREDERIK), naturalist, XV. 677—on animalcules, III. 193, 194—on hydrachnæ, 388—on a species of vibrio, 200—his work on insects, IX. 6.
 —(Prof.), on the locomotive faculty, XIV. 568—on the field of vision, 573.
 —(Prof. Johann), on the erectile vessels, II 800, 801—on nervous matter, 809—on the brain, 820, 821—on the structure of the glands, II 768.
 —(WILHELM), poet, XV. 677—his poetry, XVIII. 119.
 —(WILLIAM JOHN), English painter, XV 677.
 Muller's glass, mineral, XV. 69.
 Mullet, fish, XII 290—as food, IX. 764.
 —in heraldry, XI. 326, 331.
 Mullite, mineral, XV. 101.
 Mullidae, family of fishes, XII. 279.
 MULLINGAR, XV. 677; XXI. 839.
 Mulling's quantity battery, XXI. 615—his intensity battery, 615.
 Mullion, in architecture, III. 511.
 Mullus, genus of fishes, XVI 279.
 Mulsant (E.), his work on insects, IX. 21.
 Multan, in the Punjab, XVIII. 690, 691—language of, XIII 207.
 Multifernan Abbey, Westmeath, XXI. 841.

MUL—MUR

- Multiple, in geometry, X. 517.
 Multiplication, in algebra, II 491, 495—in arithmetic, III. 558—of vulgar fractions, 598—of decimals, 601, 602, 603—by Napier's rods, XV. 777.
 Multipliers of electricity, VIII. 616—Cavallio on, VI 846.
 Multitubular horizontal steam-boilers, XX. 616.
 Mummius (Lucius), Roman consul, Cornith taken by, VII. 368.
 Mumax, XV. 678—Egyptian mummies, VIII 444—of the Guanches, VI 163.
 —See Embalming.
 —wheat, V. 164.
 Mumps, disease, XXI 564.
 Mun (Mr), on political economy, XVIII. 214, 216.
 Muna, pilgrimage to, XIV 379.
 MÜNCHHAUSEN (H. K. Friedrich von), XV 678.
 —on animalcules, III 204.
 Munck (Jens), voyage of, XVIII. 169.
 Munda, battle of, XIX. 327.
 MUNDAY (Anthony), dramatist, XV 678.
 MUNDEN, town in Hanover, XV 678.
 —(JOSEPH SAUNDERS), comedian, XV 678.
 MUNDI, in Hindustan, XV 678.
 MUNDINGOES, XV. 578. See Manding.
 MUNDRE, in Hindustan, XV. 678.
 Mundrucu, South American tribe, IX. 348.
 Mundus, VII. 312.
 MUNREPOOR, in Hindustan, XV. 678.
 Mungo trade, XXI. 918.
 MUNICH, XV. 678, IV. 519—Academy of Sciences at, II 67—royal library at, XIII. 419—Count Rumford's improvements in, XXI. 230—university, 492.
 MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, MUNICIPALITY, XV. 680; XVII 289, 293—rights, VIII. 781. See Borough.
 —cities and boroughs, VIII. 720, 721.
 Munjeet, Indian dye, V. 196.
 Munro (Sir Hector), XI. 438—his victory at Buxar, VI 25—fort of Trincomalee occupied by, XXI 350.
 —(Sir Thomas), on India, XI 514 n., 525 et seq.—on Canara, VI 160, 161.
 Munsa, one of the Shetland islands, XX. 113.
 MUNSTER, Irish province, XV. 686—united presbytery of, XII. 532.
 —town and government in Prussia, XV. 687; XXI. 844—university of, XVIII. 673—taken possession of by the Anabaptists, II 742.
 —(Count), on fossils, XVII 100 et seq.
 —(SEBASTIAN), XV. 688—on dialling, VII. 775—his Hebrew Bible, XIX. 835.
 MÜNSTERBERG, town in Prussia, XV. 688.
 Munt, Egyptian deity, VIII. 437.
 Munt-hotp, Egyptian king, VIII. 455.
 Muntians, in joinery, V. 751.
 Muntjaks, in zoology, XIV 209.
 Muntz (J. H.), on encaustic painting, VIII 654.
 —metal, XX. 174.
 MUNTZER or MUNZER (Thomas), anabaptist, XV. 688; II. 742, XIII 729, 731, 732.
 Munycha, a port of Athens, IV. 171.
 Muohwa oil, XVI. 496.
 Murad Bey, VIII. 488.
 Muræna, genus of fishes, XII. 231—M. Helena, 230.
 Murænesox, genus of fishes, XII. 232.
 Murænidæ, family of fishes, XII. 231.
 Murænoiblennia, genus of fishes, XII. 232.
 Murænoopsis, genus of fishes, XII. 233.
 MURAL ORACLE, XV. 688, IV. 163.
 Murano, near Venice, glass-works of, XXI. 589.
 MURAT (Joachim), XV. 688; V. 615; XII. 653; X. 187 et seq., 160, XX. 261, 262, 264.
 MURATORI (L. Antonio), XV. 689.
 Murchison (Sir Roderick Impey), his classification of Devonian rocks, XV. 199—on the rocks of Russia, 205, 215; XIX. 517, 518—on gold in Russia, XV. 238—on the rocks of Germany, X. 584—on

MUR—MUS

- the fossils called conodonts, XVII. 115—on the rocks of Scotland, XIX. 738 and n.
 Murchisonia, fossil mollusks, XVII. 109, 111.
 Murchisonite, mineral, XV. 70.
 MURCIA, Spanish province, XV. 690; XX. 493—climate of, 488.
 —Spanish city, XV. 691.
 Murder, XI. 604; XIV. 429, XV. 567—its punishment in China, VI. 566. See Infanticide.
 Murdoch (Mr), the inventor of gas-lighting, X. 410.
 —(Rev. Patrick), on the conical development, X. 498.
 —(William), his steam-carriage, I. 881—his steam-engine valves, XX. 582.
 Murdoch's boring apparatus, V. 44.
 MURE (Sir William), Scottish poet, XV. 691.
 —(Colonel), on Herodotus, XI. 356—Homer, 600—Taygetus, XIII. 147—lake Copais, VII. 345.
 MURER (Marc Antoine), grammarian, XV. 691; XVII. 523.
 —(M.), on the population of the Pays de Vaud, XV. 602—on births in Switzerland, XVIII. 348, 349.
 —town in France, XV. 692; X. 405.
 Murex, genus of mollusks, XV. 387—purple dye from, XX. 906; XXI. 406.
 Murghab, antiquities at, XVII. 432.
 Muricite, mineral, XV. 96.
 Muricatic acid gas, poisonous qualities of, XIV. 435; XVIII. 135. See Hydrochloric Acid.
 Muriazit, mineral, XV. 96.
 Muricidæ, family of mollusks, XV. 387—fossil, XVII. 109.
 Muridae, family of rodents, XVII. 632.
 MURILLO (B. Estevan), XV. 692, III. 712; XVII. 75—price paid for one of his pictures, 86.
 MURON, town in Russia, XV. 694.
 MUROS, town in Spain, XV. 694.
 MURPHY (Arthur), dramatist, XV. 694.
 —(JAMES CAVANAH), architect, XV. 694.
 —(ROBERT), mathematician, XV. 694.
 Murrain, in cattle, II. 264—renders their flesh poisonous, XIV. 439.
 MURRAY (Dr Alexander), XV. 694; XIII. 101.
 —(Andrew), his work on insects, IX. 24—on a species of malapterurus, XII. 261.
 —(Dr JOHN), chemist, XV. 695—his advocacy of Werner's views, XII. 684—his opposition to Leslie's views on the radiation of heat, XI. 264.
 —(JOHN), publisher, XV. 695.
 —(Sir JOHN), V. 613.
 —(Honourable Captain Erskine), his expedition to Tanganyika, V. 48, n.
 —(LINDLEY), XV. 695.
 —(Mr), British minister in Persia, XVII. 442.
 —(Mr), of Leeds, his boring machine, V. 43.
 —regent of Scotland, XIX. 780 et seq., 787.
 —(Sir ROBERT), XV. 695.
 —(WILLIAM), Earl of Mansfield, XV. 696—on the law concerning carriers, VI. 274.
 —Australian river, XV. 696, IV. 293, 296, 291.
 Murray's slide-valve, in steam-engines, XX. 581.
 MURRE, in Hindustan, XV. 697.
 Murrumbidgee, Australian river, XV. 697; IV. 255.
 MURVIEDRO, town in Spain, XV. 697.
 MURZUK, II. 223, 224.
 Mus, in zoology, XIV. 180.
 Musa (Ibn Nosseyr), XV. 697.
 —the ancient name of Mocha, III. 861.
 Musaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 211.
 Musæus, Greek poet, XV. 698.
 —German novelist, XIX. 291.

MUS—MUS

- Mrs. *Ætius*, grammarian, XV. 698.
Musca, genus of insects, IX. 249.
 Muscardine, in zoology, XIV. 180—hybernation of, III. 180
 —disease in silk-worms, XVII. 697
Muscat, XV. 698; III. 359—Imam or Imam of, 360—weights and measures, XXI. 812
Muscatel raisins, XVIII. 799
Muschelkalk, XV. 206—fossil fishes of, XII. 348—in Germany, X. 584.
Muschenbroeck. See *Musschenbroek*.
Muschman on magnetism, XIV. 42
Musci, nat. order of plants, V. 216. See *Mosses*.
Muscicapa, genus of birds, XVI. 749
Muscidae, family of insects, IX. 247.
Muscipeta, genus of birds, XVI. 749.
Muscles, II. 821, III. 87—Galen's knowledge of, II. 753—contractility of, 822; XVII. 652, 670, 671—general remarks on, III. 39—composition of, IX. 758—electricity of, XVII. 672—of brutes, III. 91—of the elephant's trunk, 101—not apparent in animalcules, 195—their great power in ants, 262—of fishes, XII. 218, IX. 768—of mollusks, XV. 326, 382 *et seq.*—reptiles, XIX. 14; serpents, 48—muscular tissue of animals, III. 171 juice of, its chemical composition, VI. 523—muscular sense, XIV. 669, XVII. 677—diseases of, in the domestic animals, XXI. 557.
Muscovado sugar, XX. 795
Muscovite, mineral, XV. 77.
MUSCULUS (Wolfgang), XV. 699
 Museum, in ancient Athens, IV. 169
 Museo Borbonico, at Naples, XV. 781.
Musses, XV. 699.
 Museum, XV. 699—museums in Italy, XII. 661—of the Capitol, XIX. 369.
 —British. See *British*
 —of university of Edinburgh, VIII. 399—Professor Jameson's exertions in forming, XII. 685—collection of skulls in, XVII. 563.
 —National Industrial, Edinburgh, VIII. 399; XXI. 324—Dr G. Wilson curator of, 874.
 Museums (trade), XXI. 323, 324—circulating, 324.
 Mushed, Persian town, XIV. 546.
 Mushet (Mr), on charcoal, VI. 421
 —(Mr), on cash payments, XV. 424
 and *π* 6—on par of exchange, IX. 432
 Mushet's furnace, X. 856.
 Mushroom anchor, III. 118.
 —order of plants, V. 217.
 Mushrooms, V. 187, 142—yellow dye from, VIII. 299—culture of, XI. 736—poisonous kinds of, XIV. 439—in Lapland, XIII. 242.
 Mushthahids, in Persia, XVII. 426.
Muscu, XV. 700—in Athens, IV. 211 and *n* 1—Austria, 318—China, VI. 580—Egypt, VIII. 443, 448—Etruscan, IX. 360—Hindu, XI. 477—Java, XII. 706—Denmark, XIX. 696—Vienna, XXI. 684—principles on which it is founded, I. 728—academies of, II. 68—air in, 430—Aretino's improvements in, III. 522—beating time in, IV. 529—taste for, in Brazil, V. 298—Cavallo on the temperament of musical intervals, VI. 346—characters used in, 419—composition in, VII. 226—design, 758—discord, VIII. 44—harmonics and harmony, XI. 340—intonation, 436—melody, XIV. 485—pleasure derived from, 564, *n* 4—symphony, XX. 898—temperament of the musical scale, XXI. 148—thorough bass, 287—tonality, 303.
 Musical glasses, X. 675; XI. 280
 —instruments, XV. 708, 740—principles of, II. 107, 109—manufacture of, at Myreocourt, XV. 268.
 —sounds, II. 107—distinction between them and other sounds, 108.
Muscians, blind, IV. 781.
Musgnano (Prince of), his catalogue of the cyprinidae, XII. 257.
Musx, XV. 743.
 —deer, XIV. 205; XVII. 632—of

MUS—MYH

- Java, XII. 704—of India, XI. 454—Nepaul, XVI. 143—Tibet, XXI. 247.
Musk ducks, XVI. 817.
 —ox, XIV. 215, XVII. 633
 —rat, XIV. 183—its fur, X. 348
Musket, sound of, II. 107
Muskets, XI. 96; XX. 211—Enfield rifled, XI. 101—boring of, V. 44.
Muskingum, river in Ohio, XVI. 489.
Muslems, in Syria, XX. 907.
MUSLIN, XV. 743—folding of, VI. 92—manufacture of, in India, VII. 437; IV. 650; XI. 458—first attempts to manufacture it in Britain, VII. 449—origin of the name, XV. 686—embroidery of XIV. 285—sewed muslins, X. 650, of Antrim, III. 286—manufacture of, at Mulhouse, XV. 674, in France, X. 253
Musmon, in zoology, XIV. 212
Musonius (C. Rufus), XV. 743.
Musophaga, genus of birds, XVI. 783.
Musquash. See *Musk Rat*
MUSCHENBROECK (Peter Van), XV. 743—on dew, VIII. 766, 767—on the Leyden phial, 526; I. 737—on magnetic force, XIV. 4—on meteorolites, 633—his pyrometer, XVIII. 702—his experiments on the strength of woods, XX. 767
Mussel, common, XV. 348, 345; IX. 765—fresh-water, XV. 349—river, *ib*—pearl, 343, 349.
MUSSELBURGH, XV. 744
MUSSER (L. C. Alfred de), XV. 744
MUSOUZEE, in Hindustan, XV. 744.
MUSULMAN, XV. 745, 300—his character in India, XI. 463.
MUSTAPHA, I, II, III, IV, Turkish sultans, XV. 745, XXI. 869, 870, 873, 876.
 —Bairactar, XXI. 372, 373
MUSTARD, XV. 745—culture of, II. 336; XI. 744—plant of Scripture, V. 199—adulterations of, IX. 770.
Mustela, genus of mammalia, XIV. 156, 157—teeth of, XVI. 479.
Mustelidae, dentition of, XVI. 461.
Mustelus, genus of fishes, XII. 324.
Mut, Egyptian goddess, VIII. 436.
Mutæ, tribe of insects, IX. 168.
 Mutation, crime of, XIV. 428. See *Castration*.
Mutilla, genus of insects, IX. 194.
MUTINA, XV. 745, 296—battle of, XIX. 328.
MUTINNY, XV. 745—in the British fleet at the Nile in 1797, V. 560; VIII. 252—of the Indian Sepoys in 1857, XVI. 301, measures for suppressing, 312.
MUTRUS (Caus), XV. 745, XVIII. 366; XIX. 298.
 —*SCALVOLIA*, XV. 745
Muttahr, III. 863.
Mutton, IX. 762.
MUTTRA, in Hindustan, XV. 745.
Mutual insurance societies, XII. 408
Mutula, in Doric architecture, III. 511.
Muyasco, Mexican race, II. 683.
MUZIANO (Girolamo), painter, XV. 745.
Mya, genus of mollusks, XV. 350—fossils, XVII. 108.
Myacidae, family of mollusks, XV. 350.
Myacites, fossil mollusks, XVII. 108.
Myalina, fossil mollusks, XVII. 106.
Mycale, battle of, IV. 200.
Mycelium of mushrooms, V. 147.
MYCENE, or *Mycenæ*, Grecian city, XV. 746—architectural remains at, III. 440—sculptured lions at, XIX. 853
Mycetes, genus of mammalia, XIV. 142.
Mycetobia, genus of insects, IX. 228.
Mycetophaga, tribe of insects, IX. 142
Mycetophagus, genus of insects, IX. 142.
Mycetophila, genus of insects, IX. 229.
MROONE, island, XV. 746.
Mycteria, genus of birds, XVI. 800.
Mycterus, genus of insects, IX. 133.
Mydas, genus of insects, IX. 232.
Mydas, family of insects, IX. 232
Mydæus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 138.
Myelin, mineral, XV. 84.
Mygale, genus of arachnides, III. 877.
 —genus of mammalia, XIV. 151—teeth of, XVI. 461.
MYHRE, in Hindustan, XV. 746.

MYL—MYT

- Mylabris*, genus of insects, IX. 135.
MYLÆ, ancient town in Sicily, XV. 746
MYLASSA or *Mylassa*, in Asia Minor, XV. 746
Myleannus, genus of fishes, XII. 247.
Myletes, genus of fishes, XII. 246.
Myleus, genus of fishes, XII. 247.
Myliobates, genus of fishes, XII. 328, 320, 326—fossil, 341, XVII. 119—teeth and jaws of, XVI. 422, 423, 424.
Myliobatidae, family of fishes, XII. 328—fossil, XVII. 119
Mylius on pseudonymous books, IV. 712
MYLNE (Robert), architect, XV. 746—his plan of Blackfriars Bridge, III. 409—his centre for it, VI. 382.
Myloodon, fossil sloth, XVII. 173, 639.
MYMUNING, in Hindustan, XV. 746.
Myniops, genus of insects, IX. 139
MYNPOOREE, in Hindustan, XV. 747.
Myochama, genus of mollusks, XV. 350
Myconcha, fossil mollusks, XVII. 108.
Myodites, family of insects, IX. 134.
Myology, III. 37—comparative, 91—of the domestic animals, XXI. 557. See *Muscles*.
Myopa, genus of insects, IX. 245
Myophora, genus of mollusks, XV. 349—fossil, XVII. 106.
Myoporaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 202
Myopotamus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 187.
Myopsideæ, family of mollusks, XV. 400.
Myopterus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 149
Myosen, Norwegian lake, XVI. 320.
Myothera, genus of birds, XVI. 753.
Myoxia, genus of mammalia, XIV. 180.
Myrmecil, system of irrigation at, II. 294
Myriacanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 340
MYRIAPODA, XV. 747—fossil, XVII. 108.
Myriaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 207.
Myrina, genus of insects, IX. 208
Mynpristis, genus of fishes, XII. 279—fossil, 343.
Myristaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 204
Myrmecia, genus of arachnides, III. 383.
Myrmecobius, marsupial animal, dentition of, XVI. 448.
Myrmecophaga, genus of mammalia, XIV. 191. See *Ant-eater*.
Myrmecophila, genus of insects, IX. 158.
Myrmellon, genus of insects, IX. 178
 See *Ant-lion*.
Myrmelonides, family of insects, IX. 178
Myrmica, genus of insects, IX. 194. See *Ant*.
Myrobalan, order of plants, V. 192.
MYROBALANS, XV. 750
MYRON, Greek statuary, XV. 750; XIX. 854
MYRRH, XV. 750; V. 190—order of plants, *ib*.
Myrsinus, king of Lydia, VI. 169
Myrsinaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 199.
Myrtaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 192.
Myrtle, order of plants, V. 190
Myrtle-wax, V. 207; XXI. 779.
Myrto, XX. 377.
MYRIA, in Asia Minor, XV. 751—coins of, XVI. 874.
MYRORE, in India, XV. 751—conquered by the British, XI. 502.
Mysonne, mineral, XV. 103
MYSTERIES, XV. 752—Eliensianian, VIII. 629—of free-masonry, XIV. 337—sacred dramas, VIII. 143—apostolic meaning of the word *Mystery*, I. 470—error of attempting to explain those of the Christian system, 517, 518.
MYSTICISM, XV. 755.
Mysticos, I. 327.
Mystriophis, genus of fishes, XV. 233.
Mystrosaurus, fossil reptiles, XVII. 152.
MYTENS (Daniel), painter, XV. 759.
MYTHOLOG, XV. 759—Egyptian, VIII. 435—Icelandic or Runic, 388—Bryant on, V. 705; VII. 711 *et seq.*—of Crete, 493—Strabo on, *ib*.—Heyne on, XI. 366—illustrations of, from coins and medals, XVI. 351—its relation to philology, XVII. 627—comparative, 537—pagan, in reference to a future state, I. 459—Russian, XIX. 546. See *Deluge*, *Egyptians*, &c.

MYT—NAN

- MYTLENE*, XV. 758—aqueduct at, III. 324
Mytilidae, family of mollusks, XV. 348—fossil, XVII. 106
Mytilus, genus of mollusks, XV. 348, 347—embryo of *M. edulis*, 355—fossil, XVII. 106.
MYTUS, in Caria, XV. 768.
Myxine, genus of fishes, XII. 227, 228.
Myximide, family of fishes, XII. 228.
Myxodes, genus of fishes, XII. 309.
Myxosporæ, V. 147.
Myzine, genus of insects, IX. 195.
MZENSK, town in Russia, XV. 768.
- N
- N, letter of the alphabet, XV. 769—in abbreviations, II. 19.
NAAS, Irish town, XV. 769; XIII. 83.
NABIS, Spartan tyrant, XV. 769.
NABLOOS, town in Palestine, XV. 769; XVII. 183.
NABONASSAR, XV. 769, IV. 382—era of, VI. 671
Naccari (F. L.), on birds, XVI. 731.
Nacht (M.), his object-glasses, XIV. 779, 780—his microscopes, 783, 784
NACHTSHEVAK, in Russia, XV. 769, 770.
Nacrite, mineral, XV. 79.
Nadir, IV. 1.
 —*SHAH*, XV. 770; IV. 639; XVII. 440; XI. 480.
NÆVIUS (Cneius), Roman poet, XV. 770
NAGASAKI, Japanese town, XV. 770, XII. 696, 697.
Nagode, or *Nagound*, Sepoy insurrection at, XVI. 811
NAGORE, in Hindustan, XV. 770—war with the rajah of, XI. 507.
Nagyagite, mineral, XV. 118.
NAGY, XV. 771.
NAGY-BANYA, in Hungary, XV. 771.
NAGY-BEGSKEREK, in Hungary, XV. 771.
NAGY-ENTVED, in Transylvania, XV. 771.
NAGY-KAROLY, in Hungary, XV. 771.
NAGY-KOROS, in Hungary, XV. 771.
NAGY-SZEBEN, XV. 771. See *Hermannstadt*.
NAGY-VARAD, XV. 771. See *Grosswardein*.
Naiadaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 214
NAIADS, XV. 771, XIX. 180
NAIGEON (Jacques André), XV. 771.
NAIUS, XV. 771—horse-shoe, or stubs, gun-barrels made from, XI. 96—number used at Christ's crucifixion, VII. 519
 —of the human body, II. 835; XVII. 667—fashion of wearing them long, IX. 488.
Nail-trade of Birmingham, VIII. 729.
Nain, in Labrador, XIII. 141.
NAIRN, XV. 771.
NAIRNSHIRE, XV. 772—agricultural statistics, XIX. 796, 797, 798—population, 799.
Nairne (Mr), on electricity, VIII. 589—his claims to the invention of the differential thermometer, XIII. 845—on pneumatics, XVIII. 89.
Nairs, XI. 467; IX. 104, 105.
Nala, genus of annelides, XI. 302.
Naushapur, in Persia, XVII. 422.
Naja, genus of serpents, XIX. 64.
Nama, sect of the, V. 267.
NAMAQUA LAND, XV. 772.
Names of hounds, XI. 770.
NAMUR, in Belgium, XV. 772—sieges of, VII. 65
Nana Sahib, rajah, XVI. 305—his atrocities at Cawnpore, *ib*, 306.
Nanak, first teacher of the Sikhs, XVIII. 692.
NANOWEY, island, XV. 773
NANCY, town in France, XV. 773; XIV. 697—population, X. 277.
Nandou, bird, XVI. 796.
Nandus, genus of fishes, XII. 277.
NANGASAKI, XV. 773. See *Nagasaki*.
Nangia, battle of, X. 167.

NAN—NAP

- NANI, or NANNI (Giovanni), artist, XV. 778.
- Nankeen-yellow, dyeing of, VIII. 300.
- cotton cloth, XV. 774.
- NANKING, in China, XV. 778—large bells in, IV. 629—treaty of, in 1842, VI. 897.
- NANTES, XV. 774—edict of, X. 33, 34; revocation of, XXI. 276—leeches found near, XI. 306—population, X. 277.
- NANTUCKET, American island, XV. 775—fisheries of, V. 480.
- NANTWICH, town in Cheshire, XV. 775—salt at, XIX. 582.
- Naos, in architecture, III. 511.
- NAPAKIANG, XV. 775; XIII. 691.
- Naphtha, in chemistry, VI. 473, 506—in mineralogy, XV. 123—of Baku, IV. 381—of the Caucasus, VI. 341—lamps for burning, XIII. 172—cool-naphtha, X. 433—from peat, XVII. 850—white and black, in Persia, 422—springs of, 602.
- Naphthalene, VI. 504.
- NAPIER (Sir Charles James), XV. 775—his defeat of the Amcees of Scinde, V. 669, XIV. 471—his proceedings in Scinde, XI. 509—his capture of Emmaum Ghur, VIII. 643—his entry into Hyderabad, XII. 59.
- (Sir Charles), admiral, his conquest of Acre, V. 688—his command in the Baltic, XIX. 502.
- (David), his improvements in steam-navigation, XX. 639.
- (JOHN), baron of Merchiston, XV. 776—his invention of logarithms, I. 563; III. 801; XIII. 552, 553—his depth and originality of mind, I. 563—his unrivalled merit, 564—his talents as a geometer, ib.—brought decimal notation to its utmost simplicity, 703—on burning mirrors, VI. 5—Napierian logarithms, II. 534—his Rods or Bones, XV. 777—his analogies, XXI. 345, 346.
- (Lord), on the fire of St Elmo, VIII. 588.
- (Macvey), XV. 778—Sir J. Mackintosh's letters to, respecting his Dissertation on Ethical Philosophy, I. 294.
- (Mr.), his printing machine, XVIII. 562.
- (Robert and Sons of Glasgow), on the cohesive strength of iron, XX. 174, 175, 778.
- (Robert), XIII. 553.
- (Sir William), on the British army, III. 662, 668—on Sir J. Moore's retreat to Corunna, V. 605, n.—on the character of Sir J. Moore, XV. 528—his account of the battle of Albuera, V. 609, 610—on Sir W. Drummond's conduct regarding the Spanish regency, VIII. 196—on the lines of Torres Vedras, IX. 806.
- (Wm. John, Lord), chief commissioner to China, VI. 596.
- NAPLES, XV. 778, XX. 255—academies of science at, II. 63—Academy of Recluseum, 70—acquired by Alfonso, V. 621—extensive poisonings at, with aqua tofana, III. 329—army, 655—end of Murat's government, V. 615—parliamentary discussion in 1821 relative to, 630—invaded by Charles VIII., X. 29—war with France in 1798, 110, its state at that time, XVI. 135—appended to Spain, XII. 651—its condition under the Spanish government, XIV. 332—insurrection of 1820, XII. 655—political events of 1848, 657—libraries, XIII. 415—coins, 442, 444; ancient, XVI. 362—monarchy, XV. 414—mortality, 624—savings-bank at, XX. 248—trade, ib.—university, 255; XXI. 492—soap, XX. 367—Virgil studies there, XXI. 693—weights and measures, 812, 805, 806. See Italy.
- Bay of, XX. 240.
- NAPOLÉON I., XV. 782; X. 80, 96, 99 *et seq.*—honours conferred on Volta by, I. 965—his road over the Simplon, II. 624, n.—his army and artillery, III. 639, 689, 690—on conscription, 642 and n. 2; number of men he raised by, VII. 297, n.—his Italian campaigns, X. 99, 118;

NAP—NAR

- IV. 304; V. 558—works at Cherbourg, 305—expedition to Egypt, 564; VIII. 488, 489, X. 109—on the battle of the Nile, VIII. 489—on the site of Alexandria, 420, n. 2—Invasion of Syria, V. 568; VIII. 489; X. 112—return from Egypt, V. 568, X. 115—letters to Geo. III., V. 569, 589, X. 116, 135—passage of the Alps, 118; V. 674—appointed first consul, 591; X. 116—irritated by the English journals, V. 592, 593; X. 127—his designs against Malta, V. 592; X. 127—plans for the aggrandisement of his family, 126—conversation with Lord Whitworth, V. 592; X. 127—Lord Whitworth's account of his behaviour at the Tuilleries, V. 594; X. 127—his threatened invasions of England, V. 596, X. 121, 128, 136; XVII. 742—his policy in regard to religion, X. 125, n., 267—his abdication in 1814, 168—return from Elba, V. 618; X. 171; XXI. 828—battle of Waterloo, V. 620; X. 172 (see Waterloo)—his character, 134—his second abdication, 173—surrender to Captain Maitland, ib.—sent to St Helena, 174—his death, 184—his remains conveyed to France, 215—his interview with the Emperor Alexander on the Niemen, II. 468—Canova's bust of, VI. 194—on field fortification, IX. 806—at Weimar, X. 698—his code, 182, XIII. 272—crowns himself with the iron crown of Lombardy, XII. 536—at the Kremlin, XV. 656—on the impolicy of bringing back Louis XVI. from Varennes, X. 61—his policy towards the Jews, XII. 782—his partiality to Ossian's poems, XVII. 7—his improvements of Paris, 279—his tomb in Paris, 282—his treatment of Pope Pius VII. 747—his treatment of the Poles, XVIII. 153—police under, 183, 191—post-office under, 421—his treatment of Prussia, and war with, 656, 657—policy in Spain, X. 479—his treatment of M. de Stael, 526—her unfavourable account of him, 527; his act of mediation for Switzerland, 886—manufacture of beet-sugar encouraged by, 798—his connection with Talleyrand, XXI. 13—his Italian campaigns, 705—his line of operations at Jena and Numburg, 706—his tactics in war, 708 *et seq.* See Chronological Table, VI. 691 *et seq.*, Wellington.
- Napoleon II., X. 239, n.
- III., Emperor of the French, X. 238, 239—his affair at Strasburg, 212—sent to United States, ib.—return from, 214—his expedition to Boulogne and imprisonment at Ham, 216; XI. 197—escape from Ham, X. 224—president of the republic, 238—Emperor of the French, ib.—visit to England, ib.—French army under, III. 640—on artillery, 684, 700, 702; XI. 137—newspapers suspended by, XVI. 200—public works in Paris executed by, XVII. 280—his operations in Italy in 1859, as commander-in-chief of the French and Sardinian armies, XIX. 643 *et seq.*
- com, XV. 441.
- Napoli-di-Romania, XV. 830.
- Nar, river, XVI. 289.
- NARANKJOS, islands, XV. 797.
- NARBO MARTIUS, XV. 797.
- NARBONNE, town in France, XV. 797.
- NARBOROUGH (Sir John), XV. 797; XX. 227.
- Narcine, genus of fishes, XII. 327.
- NARCISSUS, XV. 797.
- flower, XI. 752.
- Narcodes, genus of fossil fishes, XVII. 117.
- Narctopterus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 342.
- Narcotic poisons, XIV. 432; XVIII. 129; XIX. 611—treatment of sufferers from, XVIII. 184.
- Narcotic-acrid poisons, XVIII. 129.
- Narcotism, XIV. 436.
- NARDO, town of Naples, XV. 798.
- NARO, town of Sicily, XV. 798.
- Narration, historical, XI. 548.

NAR—NAT

- Narrow, various meanings of, VIII. 11.
- NARSES, XV. 798; VII. 806, XII. 641; XIII. 28, 30.
- king of Persia, XVII. 435.
- NARUSZEWICZ (A. Stanislaus), Polish historian, XV. 799; XVIII. 159.
- NARVA, in Russia, XV. 799—battle of, XIX. 478.
- Narvaez, XX. 432, 494.
- (Pamphilo de), his expedition to Mexico, XIV. 704.
- Narwhal, XIV. 130, 229, 230—skulls and tusks of, XVI. 444.
- Narwhalus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 229.
- Nasal-bone, III. 22—cavities, 30, 42—muscles, 39.
- NASEBY, XV. 799—battle of, V. 407; VII. 511.
- Naseus, genus of fishes, XII. 304, 212—fossil, 344.
- NASH (John), architect, XV. 799—on iron bridges, XII. 579.
- (Richard), XV. 799—his statue at Bath, IV. 498.
- (Thomas), XV. 799—his story regarding the Earl of Surrey, XI. 780—on English hexameters, 363.
- Nash-mill cast-iron bridge, XII. 588.
- NASHUA, town in the United States, XV. 800.
- NASHVILLE, town in Tennessee, XV. 800; XXI. 156.
- NASMYTH (David), XV. 800.
- NASMYTH (Alexander), painter, XV. 801.
- (James), on the surface of the Moon, IV. 89—of Saturn, 92.
- (James), his steam-hammer, XI. 201; XII. 563—his patent for purifying iron, 554—his pile-engine, 604.
- (Lieut.), on the siege of Silistria, XIX. 501.
- (Mr.), his telescopes, XXI. 128.
- (Patrick), painter, XV. 801.
- NASO, town in Sicily, XV. 801.
- NASSAU (Duchy of), XV. 801, X. 589, 591, 593—weights and measures, XXI. 812.
- (Maurice of), Prince of Orange. See Maurice.
- (William of), Prince of Orange, XI. 563 *et seq.*, 871.
- NASSICK, town in Hindustan, XV. 802.
- NASSIR-EDDIN AL-TUSI, X. 508.
- NASUA, genus of mammalia, XIV. 155—dentition of, XVI. 462.
- NATAL, XV. 802, II. 228; XIII. 32—Kafirs of, 37.
- town in Brazil, XV. 806.
- Natches, American tribe, II. 681.
- NATCHEZ, in Mississippi, XV. 806.
- Nathan (Isaac), his Concordance, IV. 695.
- Natica, genus of mollusks, XV. 384—N. melanostoma, ib.—fossil, XVII. 110.
- Naticidae, family of mollusks, XV. 384.
- Natopias, fossil mollusks, XVII. 110.
- National character, difficulty of estimating, IV. 210—diversity of national tastes, 544.
- Assembly of France, X. 50.
- debt. See Debt, National.
- defences, XXI. 700.
- EDUCATION, XV. 806—in Austria, IV. 318—Prussia, XVIII. 672—Russia, XIX. 580—Spain, XX. 491. See Education.
- Gallery, London, XIII. 674.
- government, seat of, in the United States, XXI. 432.
- Guard of France, X. 272.
- period of the history of the United States, XXI. 436.
- Nations, XI. 537—the proper subject of history, ib.
- law of, XV. 829. See Law of Nations—in universities, XXI. 446 *et seq.*
- Nativity, commemoration of the, XII. 787.
- NATOIA, or Anatolia, XV. 829, II. 753.
- Natrix, genus of serpents, XIX. 58.
- Natrolite, mineral, XV. 75.
- Natron, XV. 98—in Africa, II. 213—natron lakes in Egypt, VIII. 429.
- Natter-jack, reptile, XIX. 80.
- Nature Curiosi, academy of, II. 62.

NAT—NAV

- NATURAL HISTORY, XV. 829—Bacon's views of, I. 574, 575—defence of the study against the charge of cruelty, III. 177, 178—interest of the study, XIV. 121; IX. 26—useful to physicians, XIV. 463—Pliny's work on, XVIII. 10 *et seq.*—Smellie's works on, XX. 337. See Animal Kingdom, Botany, Mineralogy, &c., and the articles enumerated in vol. III. 193.
- laws, XIII. 254.
- order of plants, V. 180.
- PHILOSOPHY, XV. 829—its connection with mathematics, I. 505; and the mechanical arts, 807. See 4th, 5th, and 6th Dissertations, vol. I.; Mechanics, Hydrodynamics, Optics, Astronomy, Magnetism, Electricity.
- theology. See Theology, God.
- NATURALIZATION, XV. 829; II. 581—in Belgium, IV. 615—in what respect different from denization, VII. 738.
- NATURE, XV. 829—the word often used by philosophers as synonymous with God, I. 279.
- law of, XIII. 253.
- Nature-printing, XVIII. 555.
- Naucleus, genus of fishes, XII. 298—of birds, XVI. 744.
- Neucoria, genus of insects, IX. 165.
- Naucrates, genus of fishes, XII. 297.
- NAUDÉ (Gabriel), XV. 829—on the classification of books, IV. 715, 716; XIII. 374, 378—on the use of bibliographical works, 374—on classical books, IV. 709—on the Admirable Crichton, VII. 489, n. 5.
- NAUEN, town in Prussia, XV. 830.
- Naules, genus of fossil fishes, XVII. 117.
- NAUMACHIA, XV. 830.
- Naumannite, mineral, XV. 117.
- NAUMBURG, town of Prussia, XV. 830—library at, XIII. 421.
- NAUNTON (Sir Robert), XV. 830.
- NAUPACTUS, city of Ætolia, XV. 830; XIII. 339.
- NAUPLIA, town of Greece, XV. 830.
- Nautical Almanack. See Almanack.
- Nautilidae, fossil mollusks, XVII. 112.
- Nautilus, genus of mollusks, XV. 830 *et seq.*—N. Pomplius, 391—pearly, 394, Owen on the, 357, 391—fossil, XVII. 112.
- NAUVOO, in Illinois, XV. 830, 591.
- Naval Architectural School, VIII. 63.
- College at Portsmouth, II. 71; VIII. 83.
- knights of Windsor, XVI. 118.
- (Royal), benevolent society, XVI. 118.
- schools, XVI. 118, 119.
- tactics, XXI. 719—signals, XX. 24, see Signals (Naval)—early origin of naval terms, 125. See Navy.
- NAVAN, Irish town, XV. 831, XIV. 376, 378.
- NAVARRINO, in the Morea, XV. 831—battle of, XI. 30; V. 651; X. 194.
- NAVARRA, in Spain, XV. 831; XX. 493—Moorish kingdom of Navarre, 402, 404—conquered by Ferdinand, 406.
- NAVARETTE (D. Fernandez), Spanish missionary, XV. 832—on China, VI. 562, 568.
- (JUAN FERNANDEZ), deaf and dumb painter, XV. 832.
- (MARTIN F. DE), Spanish historian, XV. 832.
- Navicular disease in horses, XXI. 561.
- Navier (M.), French engineer, I. 876—his researches, ib.
- NAVIGATION, XVI. 1—improvement in, 109—use of the barometer in, IV. 457—currents affecting (see Currents)—expeditions methods employed in, for determining the ship's place, 340—in the United States, XXI. 426—action of the wind on ships, XVIII. 65—application of steam to, I. 866—effects of the introduction of steam, XX. 20—combination of steam with sails, 21—effect of the Crusades on, VII. 533—first Navigation Act, XX. 121. See Latitude, Longitude,

NAV—NEC

Resistance of Fluids, Navigation (Inland), Steam Navigation.

NAVIGATION (INLAND), XVI 53—modes of rendering small rivers navigable, XIX. 219—in Bengal, IV. 651—in America, II. 675—Canada, VI. 134, 152—China, 589—the Elbe, VIII. 530—France, X. 243—Ganges, 400; IV. 651—Tigris, 362—Tyne, XVI 166—New York, 214, 220—proposed navigation across the American isthmus, II. 711—effect of wave transmission in canals, I. 889. See Canals, Dredging, Brindley.

—Laws, XVI 88, 2; VII 189, 145; V 686, 671; VIII 787.

—Schools, in Belgium, IV. 622.

NAVIGATOR'S ISLANDS, in the Pacific Ocean, XVI 88, XVIII 277.

NAVY, XVI 89—suggestions for improving the British, V. 519—passion for enlarging it to excess, VII 145—proposal to lay up ships in ordinary on dry land, VIII 77—docks and dockyards, 74, 78—commissioners of, 85, 86—influence of colonies on, VII 144—manufacture of biscuits for, IV. 378—neglect of, in the early part of fifteenth century, XX. 122—Lord St Vincent's exposure of abuses in, XII 748—mutiny, in 1797, V. 350; VIII. 252—disposition of the British navy in 1818, XX. 185—table of ships in 1859, 188—Austrian, IV. 317—Brazilian, V. 297—Danish, VII 749—Egyptian, VIII. 515—Chinese, VI. 583—of Europe, IX. 398—French, X. 272—Greek, XI. 20, 31—Norwegian, XVI 339—Dutch, XI. 585—Portuguese, XVIII. 395—Prussian, 672—Russian, XIX. 534—Scottish, under James IV., 764—Sardinian, 638—navies of different kingdoms, XX. 138—Two Sicilies, 249, 253—Spain, 492—qualities of coal fitted for, 652—screw steamers in the royal navy of Great Britain, 670—Swedish, 866—of the United States, XXI. 430—Turkish, 382. See Dry Rot, Shipbuilding, Timber, Steam-vessels.

—BAY, XVI 121.

NAXOS, or NAXIA, XVI 121.

NAYLOR (James), fanatic, XVI 122.

—(Mr), his model farm, XV. 518.

NAZARETH, XVI 122; XVII 182, X. 374; XII 758, 759.

NAZARITE, or Nazarene, XVI 122.

NEARA, genus of mollusks, XV. 550—fossil, XVII 108.

NEARH (Lough), in Ireland, XVI 122; III 284; XII 505.

NEAL (Damel), XVI 123.

NEALCES, Greek painter, XVI 123.

Neale. See Smith (Edmund).

NEANDER, German theologian, XVI 123—on miracles, XV. 264—on the dates of St Paul's Epistles, XVII 350.

NEAP TIDES, XXI 249.

NEAPOLIS, XVI 124. See Naples.

NEARCHUS, XVI 124; III 752; X. 463; XIII 771.

NEATE, in Glamorgan, XVI 125; X. 642.

Neave (Sheffield), his evidence on banking, XV. 463.

NEBRASKA, in United States, XVI 125, XIII 42; XXI 419, 442.

Nebria, genus of insects, IX. 98.

Nebria, genus of fishes, XII 285.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR, XVI 126, VII 646, XIV. 421—his improvement of Babylon, IV. 341—his invasion of Egypt, VIII 465.

Nebulae, IV. 85, 86; I. 842—classification, ib.—resolvable and unresolvable, ib.—progressive condensation and breaking up of, ib.—distance of, 843—Lord Rosse's observations on, 863—on the cornua of the eyes of animals, XXI 577.

Nebular theory, I. 842, 843.

Nebula, in heraldry, IX. 325.

Necessity, doctrine of, I. 268—zealously maintained by Leibnitz, 128—opinions of Locke, 148 and *n.*; Collins, 148, 265; Baron de Grimm and M. Diderot, 150, 270; Hobbes, 268; Edwards, 148—schemes of, connected with atheism in

NEC—NEG

modern philosophy, 268—argument for, drawn from the divine presence, 270—considerations on, VIII 417. See Will.

NECK, vertebrae of the, III. 5, 74—muscles of, 38—wounds of the, XIV. 431—sprains of, in domestic animals, XXI 560.

NECKAR, river, XVI 126.

NECKER (Jacques), French financier, XVI. 126, X. 38, 39, 49 *et seq.*, 122, XX. 524.

Necrobia, genus of insects, IX. 111.

Necrodes, genus of insects, IX. 114.

Necrophorus, genus of insects, IX. 113.

Necropolis, in Egypt, VIII. 499, 511—in Glasgow, X. 656.

Necrosis, XXI 557.

Nectanebes I. and II., Egyptian kings, VII 466.

NECTAR, XVI 127; II. 664.

Nectaries of flowers, V. 125.

Nectarine, culture of, XI. 709.

Nectarina, genus of birds, XVI 769.

Necydalis, genus of insects, IX. 145.

Nedd, in Glamorganshire, XVI 125.

Nedham (Marshmont), early newspaper writer, XVI 181.

NEDJED, in Arabia, XVI 127; III. 341.

Need (Mr), his improvements in cotton manufacture, VII. 148, 149.

NEEDHAM (John Tuberville), XVI 127—on animalcules and mucus, III. 204.

Needle (Astatic), XIV. 90.

—(Dipping). See Dipping-needle.

—(Magnetic), XIV. 2 *et seq.*; XVII. 617—varian on declination of, I. 990, VII 692; XVII. 617—effect of lightning on, VIII. 600—effect of aurora on, IV. 248—its form and construction, XIV. 78.

Needle-ore, XV. 120.

Needle-spar, XV. 92.

NEEDLES, XVI 127—touch-needles, in assaying, III. 770—for net-making, XIX. 89, 90—dry needle, in engraving, XX. 746.

—THE (rocks), XVI 128.

Needlestone, XV. 75.

NEEROS (Peter), painter, XVI 128.

Neem oil, XVI. 486.

NEEMUCH, in Hindustan, XVI 128.

NEER (Arnould), painter, XVI 129.

—(EGLON HENDRICK VANDER), XVI. 129.

NEFF (Felix), missionary, XVI. 129.

Nefn, town in Wales, XVI 161.

NEGAPATAM, in India, XVI 129.

Negation, in logic, XIII 593, 594.

Negative electricity, VIII. 535, 537.

Negative, partial, XIII 588.

NEGRAIS, island, XVI 129.

Negretti and Zambra's thermometer, XXI. 224.

NEGRIO (Rio), South American river, XVI. 180; XVII 777.

—one of the tributaries of the Amazon, XVI. 180, 716; V. 292; XVII. 604.

NEGROES, XVI. 129—of Africa, II. 221, 225 *et seq.*; classified according to their languages, 221—in America, 704, 708—Mexico, XIV. 718—Algers, II. 566—Brazil, V. 295—Colombia, VII. 184—Jamaica, XII. 679—Morocco, XV. 595—United States, II. 707; their future fate in, 709—Nicaragua, XVI. 245—superior to the American Indians, II. 693—their skin, 834, 835—skull, III. 29—facial angle of, 80—complexion, VII. 222, 223—love of dancing, 644—insurrection of, in Hayti, XI. 255—languages, XIII. 218, 225—in ethnology, IX. 351—number of converts to Christianity among, XV. 272; their probable motives, 274—unknown to Europeans till seen by the Crusaders, XX. 320—negro variety of man, II. 775; XI. 541.

Negro-slavery, XX. 321. See Slavery and Slave-trade.

NEGROPOLE, town of Greece, XVI. 129; IX. 363.

NEGROIS, island, XVI 120.

Negundo tree, XVII. 762.

NEH—NEP

NEHEMIAH, XVI. 130, XII. 767—Book of, XVI. 131.

NEERING (Cursche), district in Prussia, XVI 131.

—(FRISCHE), district in Prussia, XVI. 131.

Neil (William), mathematician, IX. 671.

NEILGHERRIES, or Nilgheries, in Hindustan, XVI. 131; XVII. 599—height of, 644.

Neilgherry pepper, XVII. 404—nettle, XXI. 782.

Neill (Col.), XVI. 308, 310.

—(Dr Patrick), on the Siren, XIX. 85.

Nelson (J. B.), his hot-blast furnace, XII. 547, 539.

—(R.), his portable farm railway, II. 280.

NELSTON, village in Renfrew, XVI 131.

NEISSE, town in Prussia, XVI 131.

Nelt, or Neith, Egyptian deity, VIII. 437.

Neitha, fossil mollusks, XVII. 106.

Neiva, town of New Granada, XVI. 240.

NEJUN, town in Russia, XVI 132.

NEKO, or Necho, Egyptian king, XVI. 132; XI. 389; VIII. 464—voyage of, X. 461.

Neleus, a custodian of Aristotle's works, III. 538.

NELLORE, in Hindustan, XVI 132.

NELSON (Horatio, Lord Viscount), XVI. 132—battle of Cape St Vincent, V. 560—battle of Aboukir, 564, VIII. 489; X. 109—attack on Copenhagen, V. 580; VII. 346, 742, X. 120—battle of Trafalgar, V. 598; XXI. 724, 725—his intimacy with Lady Hamilton, XI. 201—his passage through the straits of Messina, XX. 241—his conduct at Naples, 261—his eulogium on Admiral Trowbridge, XXI. 355.

—(ROBERT), XVI 139.

—town and province in New Zealand, XVI. 234, 235.

Nelumbaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 181.

Nemacanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 340.

Nemalite, mineral, XV. 80.

Nematocera, genus of insects, IX. 127.

Nematodea, zoophytes, XXI. 977, 978, 980—eggs of, 981.

NEMLAUS, city of Galha Narbonensis, XVI. 140, 279.

NEMEAN GAMES, XVI. 140, X. 397.

Nemertes, zoophytes, XXI. 982.

NEMESIANTUS (M. A. Olympius), Latin poet, XVI. 140.

NEMESIS, XVI. 140.

NEMESIUS, Greek philosopher, XVI. 140.

Nemichthys, genus of fishes, XII. 296.

Nemobrama, genus of fishes, XII. 302.

Nemognathus, genus of insects, IX. 136.

Nemoptera, genus of insects, IX. 178.

Nemopteryx, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 346.

Nemosoma, genus of insects, IX. 142.

Nemotelus, genus of insects, IX. 237.

Nemoura, genus of insects, IX. 180.

Nemours (Duke de), X. 220; IV. 607.

—town in France, XVI. 140.

NENAGH, Irish town, XVI. 141.

NENE, or Nen, river, XVI. 141, 297, XII. 48.

NENNUS, historian, XVI. 141.

Nent Force Level, aqueduct, XV. 244.

Neocomian rocks, XV. 209.

Neotese, mineral, XV. 102.

Neologists, on the character of Christ, XII. 762.

Neophron, genus of birds, XVI. 740.

NEOPHYTES, XVI. 141.

NEO-PLATONISTS, XVI. 141; II. 475; XII. 194—their mysticism, XV. 755—their pantheism, XVII. 232.

NEOPTOLEKUS, king of the Dolopians, XVI. 141.

—king of Epirus, IX. 277.

NEORS (St), town in Huntingdonshire, XVI. 141.

Nepa, genus of insects, IX. 165.

NEPAUL, or Nipaul, in Hindustan, XVI. 141—invaded by the British, XI. 506—Buddhists of, X. 734—height of mountains, XVII. 643.

NEP—NER

Nepentheæ, nat. order of plants, V. 205.

Nepenthes, See Pitcher-plant.

Nephele, mineral, XV. 73—nephelene dolomite, 133.

Nephela, genus of annelides, XI. 306.

Nephercheres, Egyptian king, VIII. 454.

Nepheris, VI. 801—taken by the Romans, 302.

Nephrite, mineral, XV. 82; XII. 669.

Nephritis, among animals, XVI. 570.

Nephrotoma, genus of insects, IX. 227.

Nephthe, Egyptian deity, XI. 384.

Nephthys, Egyptian deity, VIII. 438.

—genus of annelides, XI. 299.

Nepides, tribe of insects, IX. 164.

NEPPOS (Cornelius), XVI. 149.

—(JULIUS), emperor, XVI. 149.

NEPOTIANUS (F. P.), VII. 303.

NEPTUNE, god of the sea, XVI. 149; XIV. 360—Isthmian games in honour of, XII. 632.

—planet, IV. 93—its existence indicated by Leverrier and Adams, ib.; I. 829, 830—discovery of, by M. Galle, IV. 93; I. 830—Professor Challis' search for, III. 817; IV. 94, I. 830 and *n.* 1—old observations of, as a fixed star, 831—principal inequality of, 832—satellite of, IV. 94, I. 890.

Neptunia, fossil mollusks, XVII. 110.

NERBUDAL, river, XVI. 150; XVII. 647.

NEREIDS, XVI. 150, 396—fossil, XVII. 101.

Nereis, genus of annelides, XI. 298.

NEREUS, sea-god, XVI. 150, 396.

NERI (Filippo de), XVI. 150.

NERNÆ, fossil mollusks, XVII. 110.

Neritæ, fossil mollusks, XVII. 111.

Neritoma, fossil mollusks, XVII. 111.

Neritopsis, fossil mollusks, XVII. 111.

NERJA, town in Spain, XVI. 150.

NERO (Claudius Cæsar), emperor, XVI. 150; XX. 46—reign of, XIX. 337—Rome partly rebuilt by, 360—his banqueting house, IV. 422—baths, 505—his golden house, XIX. 360.

—(C. CLAUDIUS), XVI. 150; XIX. 311.

—(CLAUDIUS DRUSUS), XVI. 150.

—Roman family, XVI. 150.

Nerophine, sub-family of fishes, XII. 316.

Nerophis, genus of fishes, XII. 316.

NERYSINSK, town in Siberia, XVI. 151—meteorological observations at, XIV. 687.

NERVA (Marcus Cocceius), Roman emperor, XVI. 151—reign of, XIX. 341.

NERVES, XVI. 151—Aristotle and others on, II. 750 *et seq.*—anatomical researches on, 764—their structure, 806—ganglions, 809, 811—plexuses, 812—terminations, 813—different uses, ib.—of the eye, III. 45; ear, 47; nose, 43; tongue, 49; larynx, 51—anatomy of the, 57—functions of the cerebro-spinal and sympathetic nerves, XVII. 675—of the teeth, XVI. 418—nerve cells, XVII. 650—nerve tubes, 653—electrical phenomena, 671, 672—cutting of, XXI. 576. See Nervous system.

Nervous diseases, in animals, XXI. 574.

—substance, III. 171.

—system, of man, XVII. 663—functions of, 669, 672—anatomy of, III. 51—of brutes, 103—of the invertebrata, 185; arachnides, 374; crustacea, VII. 538; insects, IX. 42, 55; annelides, XI. 291, 204; fishes, XII. 218; mollusca, XV. 322, 345 *et seq.*—zoophytes, XXI. 973—variations of, in different animals, III. 178—animals more intelligent the greater its perfection, 178—not apparent in animalcules, 186—pathology of, XVII. 698, 700—pathological laws regulating diseases of, ib. *et seq.*—congestive derangements of, 701—diastaltic or reflex derangements of, ib.—structural derangements, ib.—toxic derangements, 702—Galvani's experiments on, I. 959—Sir C. Bell on, IV. 630—works on, II. 768. See Nerves, Brain, Spinal-Marrow.

—tissue, II. 406.

NER-NEV

NERVII, Belgic nation, XVI 151.
 NESS (Loch), XVI 151; XII 438; XIX 794—never freezes, VI 777
 —river, salmon fisheries in, IX 611
 —difficulty of improving its navigation, XVI 78.
 NESTUS, genus of fishes, XII 291.
 NESTON, GREAT, in Cheshire, XVI 151.
 NESTOR, Greek leader, character of, XVIII 101.
 NESTONIANS, XVI 152—in India, XI 467.
 NESTORIUS, XVI 151.
 NESTA, of ants, III 264; of fishes, XII 259, 281, 305—of birds, XVI 737 *et seq.*—edible, 758; VI 394, XII 710.
 NESVISH, town in Russia, XVI 152.
 NETCHER (Gaspard), painter, XVI 152.
 NETHERLANDS, XVI 152; IX 399 See Holland, Belgium.
 NETS, stake, IX 617, 609—bag, 617, 610—Commissioners of Fisheries in Ireland on, 627—drift, 635—trawl, 636—net and cable fishing, 617, 611. See Retrauculation.
 NETT weight III 595.
 NETTING, XXI 780.
 NETTLE, order of plants, V 206.
 —V. 206—sting of, 75—nettles in India, XVII 628, of Nielderry, XXI 782.
 NETTLEFORD'S Bolt, XIII 541.
 NETTUNO, XVII 241.
 NEU-BRANDENBURG, XVI 152.
 NEU-STRELTZ, XVI 155.
 NEUBOLD (Captain), on the Dead Sea, XVII 188.
 NEUBURG, town in Bavaria, XVI 152.
 NEUCHÂTEL, or Neufchâtel, XVI 153; XX 882—cretaceous rocks of, XV 210—asserts its independence of Prussia, XVIII 661.
 —Lake of, XVI 154; XX 889—variation of its level, *ib.*
 NEUDORF, town in Hungary, XVI 154.
 NEUHAUS, town in Bohemia, XVI 154.
 NEUHAUSEL, town in Hungary, XVI 154.
 NEUHOF (Theodor, Baron von), XVI 154.
 NEULLI-SUR-SEINE, town in France, XVI 155—centre employed for the bridge of, VI 378, 381.
 NEUMAN (M.), on propagation by roots, XI 894.
 NEUMANN (C. A.), on pseudonymous books, IV 712.
 NEUMAN'S burning mirror, VI 11.
 NEUMARKT, town in Prussia, XVI 155.
 NEURUNSTER, town in Denmark, XVI 155.
 NEURALGIA, XVII 700.
 NEURLEMA, II 807, 810.
 NEURO-SPINAL disorders, XVII 700.
 NEUROITE, mineral, XV 73.
 NEUROLOGY. See Nervous System.
 NEUROPTERA, order of insects, IX 25, 174.
 NEUROLOGY, XXI 576.
 NEUSATZ, town in Hungary, XVI 155.
 NEUSIEDL, or Neusedler-see (Lake), XVI 155; XII 10.
 NEUSOHL, town in Hungary, XVI 155.
 NEUSS, town in Prussia, XVI 155.
 NEUSTADT, town in Prussia, XVI 155.
 —town in Austria, XVI 155.
 NEUSTADT-AN-DER-HAARDT, in Bavaria, XVI 155.
 NEUSTADT-AN-DER-ORLA, in Saxe-Weimar, XVI 155.
 NEUSTADT-AN-DER-WAAG, in Hungary, XVI 155.
 NEUSTADT-EBERSWALDE, in Prussia, XVI 155.
 NEUTER, in grammar, X 747.
 —among bees, IV. 570—ants, III 261.
 NEUTTSCHEIN, town in Austria, XVI 156.
 NEUTRA, town in Hungary, XVI 156.
 NEUTRALITY, XVI 156; XIII 288—armed neutrality of 1780, V. 494; VII 742.
 NEUBWIED, town in Prussia, XVI 160.
 NEVA, river, XVI 160; XVII 487, 647; XIX 816.
 NEVADA SIERRA, in Spain, XVI 160.
 —in California, VI 96.

NEV-NEW

Neve, the snowy region of glaciers, X 636.
 NEVERS, in France, XVI 160.
 NEVIN, in Carnarvonshire, XVI 161.
 NEVIS, island, XVI 161.
 —(Ben), XII 438; XIX 793, 794—height of, XVII 595, 643—electrical phenomena on, VIII 588.
 NEVILLE, or Neville (Alexander), XVI 161.
 NEW ALBANY, in Indiana, XVI 161.
 —Albion, II 448.
 —Aichangel, II 707.
 —BEDFORD, in Massachusetts, XVI 162; XIV 341.
 —BRITAIN, island, XVI 162; V 672; IV 264.
 —BRUNSWICK, British colony in North America, XVI 162; II 707—weights and measures, XXI 812.
 —BRUNSWICK, in New Jersey, XVI 164.
 —Caledonia, IV 266.
 —College, Oxford, XVII 35.
 —ENGLAND, XVI 170—cotton manufacture in, VII 459—newspaper press of, XVI 194—persecution of Quakers in, XVIII 719.
 —FOREST, XVI 170; XI 203; XX 209.
 —GRANADA, XVI 173 See Granada, New.
 —Guinea See Papua.
 —HAMPSHIRE, in United States, XVI 173; XXI 419, 431, 432, 433—wines of, 888.
 —HAVEN, town in Connecticut, XVI 174—Yale College at, VII 295.
 —Hebrides, islands, XI 280, IV 265.
 —Holland. See Australia.
 —IRELAND, island, XVI 175; IV 264.
 —JERSEY, American state, XVI 175; XXI 419—debt of, 428—wines, 888—newspapers of, XVI 194—colonised, XXI 433.
 —Lanark. See Lanark, New.
 —Leon, in Mexico, XIV 728.
 —London See London, New.
 —Mexico, XIV 729.
 —ORNEY, XVI 176.
 —ORLEANS, XVI 176—British attempt on, in 1814, V 617.
 —Oxford sheep, II 346.
 —Plymouth, town and province of New Zealand, XVI 234.
 —Providence, island, IV 365, 366.
 —River, XI 359.
 —SOUTH SHETLAND, XVI 179.
 —SOUTH WALES, province of Australia, XVI 179, IV 270—history of, *ib.*—gold discovery in, 275—gold diggings, *ib.* 277—gold exported from, 278—topography and appearance of the country, *ib.*—soil and climate, 279—productions, 280, 281—statistics of, 282, 284—currency, 285—carboniferous rocks of, XV 204—as a penal colony, VII 139—Parry's exertions for the improvement of, XVII 308—height of mountains in, 646—railway statistics, XVIII 787—railways and telegraphs in, XX 896—map of, IV. Plate.
 —YORK, American state, XVI 213; XXI 419—debt of, 428—wines, 888—settlers in, 433—cotton manufacture of, VII 459—life assurance in, XII 414—rate of interest in, 432—newspapers of, XVI 194.
 —YORK, city, XVI 221—library at, XIII 429; Astor library, 430—supply of water to, XII 131, 141—reformatories for the young at, XVIII 586—savings' banks in, XIX 871.
 —ZEALAND, XVI 232; IV 266—cannibalism in, VI 174—Captain Cook's visit to, VII 340—language, XIII 202, 208—scheme for the colonisation of, VII 160; XII 818—a botanical region, V 229; XVII 629—Kaune or Cowdie pine of, V 208—height of mountains in, XVII 640—stationary state of the aborigines in civilisation, I 451—demonia, or fossil birds of, XVII 634—volcanoes, 630.
 —Zealand flax, V. 212, 229; XVII 629.

NEW-NEW

New Zealand spinach, XI 742.
 —Company, XII 818, VII 150; XVI 238, 239.
 New-Light Seceders, XVIII 500.
 NEWARK, town in New Jersey, XVI 161.
 NEWARK-UPON-TRENT, in Nottingham, XVI 161—battle of, V. 405—Newark Dyke bridge, XII 596.
 NEWARS, of Nepal, XVI 144, 746.
 NEWBERN, town in North Carolina, XVI 162.
 Newbold (Mr), his proposals for fire insurance, XII 417.
 NEWBURG, town in New York, XVI 165.
 NEWBURGH, town in Fifeshire, XVI 165.
 Newburn-upon-Tyne, battle of, V. 396.
 NEWBURY, in Berkshire, XVI 165; IV 666—battle of, V 405.
 —Jack of, clothier, XXI 914 See Winchcombe.
 —PORT, in Massachusetts, XVI 165.
 NEWCASTLE, in Limerick, XVI 165.
 —(Duchess of). See Cavendish (Margaret).
 —(Duke of), on horsemanship, XI 633.
 NEWCASTLE-EMLYN, in Caermarthen, XVI 165.
 NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYNE, in Stafford, XVI 165.
 NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, XVI 165—method of working coal at, VII 121—Paris first supplied with coal from, 116—brick-clay at, V 346—high-level bridge at, XII 608, 604.
 NEWCOME (William), archbishop, XVI 170.
 Newcomen's steam-engine, XX 575, 636, I 770.
 Newel, in architecture, III 511.
 Newell's parantoptic lock, XIII 543.
 Newenham (Mr), on the Irish corn-laws VII 385—on the effect of the Irish cottage system, 431.
 NEWENT, in Gloucester, XVI 170; X 682.
 NEWFOUNDLAND, XVI 170—discovered by the Norwegians, II 698; by the Icelanders, XII 198; by Cabot, II 699—fisheries of, VIII 728, IX 647; XII 268—attempt to deprive the New Englanders of the fishery of, V 482—fogs of, XIV 654—trade with Labrador, XIII 140—weights and measures, XXI 812.
 —dogs, XX 220.
 Newgate, XIII 678—burnt in the Lord G Gordon riots, V. 492—condition of prisoners in, XVIII 568, 569.
 —novelists, XIX 288.
 NEWHAVEN, village in Mid-Lothian, XVI 174; IX 795.
 —in Sussex, XVI 174.
 Newkirkite, mineral, XV 112.
 Newman (Edward), his works on insects, IX 21.
 —(Mr), on the worship of the Virgin Mary, XIV 327.
 Newman's blowpipe, IV 793.
 NEWMARKET, XVI 176—Heath, VI 115—racing at, XI 641, 642, 686 *et seq.*
 Newnham (Mr), V. 522.
 Newport, (George), his works on insects, IX 21.
 —in Kentucky, XIII 70.
 —in Rhode Island, XVI 179; XIX 147.
 —in Monmouth, XVI 178—John Frost's riotous attack on, V. 667.
 —in Salop, XVI 178.
 —in Tipperary, XVI 179.
 —town in Isle of Wight, XVI 178—savings-bank at, XIX 664.
 —in Pembroke, XVI 179.
 NEWPORT-PAGWELL, in Buckingham, XVI 179.
 NEWRY, Irish town, XVI 179; VIII 122.
 Newsletters, XVI 180—French MS newsletters, 198.
 NEWSPAPERS, XVI 180—numbers delivered in United Kingdom, XVIII 414; XIX 810; in Scotland, *ib.*—sent to foreign places, XVIII 414—postage of,

NEW-NEW

and postal arrangement for, British and foreign, 417—paper for, XVII 259—of America, X 289, n 3—Germany, 593—Glasgow, 653—Leeds, XIII 316—London, 673—Edinburgh, VIII 403—Jamaica, XII 676—New York, XVI 221, 229—New Zealand, 294, 235—Norway, 381—New Mexico, XIV 730—Roman Acta Diurna, II 117—in Philadelphia, XVII 510—Sandwich Islands, XVIII 270, 273—Swift's Examiner, XX 872—in Turkey, XXI 883—Examiner, commenced by James Wilson, 875. See Gazette.
 Newton (Adam), VII 585, n. 6.
 —(Sir Isaac), XVI 205—remarks on some queries of, I 69—effects of his discoveries, 140—his contributions to metaphysics, *ib.*; to optics, 661 *et seq.*, 747, 588, II 39; VI 644 *et seq.*; XIII 451 *et seq.*, XVI 534, 579, 580, 581, 599, 601, 603, 606, 619, to astronomy, I 670, 678, 678; III 803—state of the sciences when he appeared, I 634—his genius and sagacity, 799—problem of the quadrature of the circle, 634—binomial theorem, *ib.*—his discovery of fluxions, 635; IX 671, 672—his controversy with Leibnitz, 636, VIII 354—his works on the new analysis, I 646—his tract on the quadrature of curves, 647—his book of Fluxions, *ib.*—discoveries contained in his Principia, 652; character of that work, *ib.*, 139, X 505—character of his Optics, II 88, I 139—his optical works, 670, n—his discovery of gravitation, 670 *et seq.*; II 221; IV 220—causes of the irregularities of the moon's motion, I 676—determined the mean quantity of retrogradation of the line of the moon's nodes, *ib.*—on the precession of the equinoxes, 673—his philosophy has received continual improvements, all confirming its truth, 679—on the tides, *ib.*, 680, 816, 817—on the orbits of comets, 681, VII 167—on the nature of gravity, I 684—compared with Leibnitz, 687—his thermometer, 757; IV 457—his theory of the moon, 779—his telescope, II 88; XVI 533; XIII 126, 127—his optical errors, II 89—his theory of sound, 103—on ether, 188—his formula of the chords of multiple arcs, 555—his attempt to solve a problem of Apollonius, III 302—on comets, IV 78—on the gradation of atmospheric density, 464—his burning mirrors, VI 11—Dr Clarke's translation of his Optics, 757—on the coinage, VII 79—on halos, 411—his theory of crystallisation, 546—his obligations to Dr Barrow, VIII 354—Leibnitz's envious detraction of, *ib.*—on the laws of motion, 327, 342—his inverse problem of centripetal forces, 301—on acceleration of forces, 356—on electricity, 624—on equations, IX 292, 294—on the earth's figure, I 677; IX 548—on projectiles, XI 108—on hydrodynamics, XII 71, 104, 105, 169—his theory of colours, XIII 453—his correspondence with Locke, I 118, n. 3—on magnetism, XIV 3—his reflecting microscope, 784—his opinions on the nature of light, I 896—on pneumatics, XVIII 55, 65, 67, 69, 70, 71—on the perfections and sovereignty of God, XIX 222—on the resistance of fluids, 195—his demonstration of the 28th lemma of the first book of his Principia, XX 622—on cohesion, 751—on the alternate attraction and repulsion of light by bodies, 752. See Newtonian Philosophy.
 —(E.), typefounder, XXI 403.
 —(GILBERT STEWART), artist, XVI 211.
 —(JOHN), English divine, XVI 211—his hymns, XII 189.
 —(THEOMAS), bishop, XVI 212.
 —(Sir W.), his mode of transferring collodion pictures to paper, XVII 548.
 —town in Cheshire, XVI 212.

NEW-NIC

Newton's metal, IV. 735.
 NEWTON-ABBOT, in Devonshire, XVI. 212.
 NEWTON-ARDS, in county Down, XVI. 212.
 NEWTON-IN-MAKERFIELD, in Lancashire, XVI. 212.
 NEWTON-STEWART, in Wigtownshire, XVI. 212; XXI. 863.
 NEWTON-UPON-ATK, XVI. 212, IV. 382.
 NEWTONIAN PHILOSOPHY, XVI. 210—slow reception of, I. 682—first publicly taught in Scotland, 683 n., 249 and n. 1—its progress in France, 688, 692, in England, 692, 693—Dr Clarke's mode of introducing it at Cambridge, VI. 757. See Astronomy, Attraction, Optics, Dynamics, Gravitation, Newton, &c.
 NEWTOWN, in Montgomeryshire, XVI. 212.
 NEWTOWN-BARRY, in Wexford, XVI. 212.
 NEWTOWN-HAMILTON, in Armagh, XVI. 212.
 NEWTOWN-LIMAVADY, in Londonderry, XVI. 212.
 NEWTOWN-STEWART, in Tyrone, XVI. 213.
 News, XIX. 82.
 NEWLEY RAILWAY, XVIII. 257.
 NEY (Michel), marshal, VII. 239; X. 137 et seq., 159, 180—at Waterloo, V. 619, 620—trial and execution of, X. 176—Duke of Wellington blamed for his death, XXI. 829.
 NEYVA, town of New Granada, XVI. 240.
 NEZIB, battle of, X. 215.
 NEAMI, lake, XVI. 240; II. 215, X. 477.
 NEANBOEI, Chinese province, XVI. 241.
 NIAGARA, river, XVI. 241—Falls of, VI. 185; XVII. 605—Sir C. Lyell on the recession of, VI. 135—suspension-bridge over, XII. 590—group of rocks, XV. 199, XVI. 215.
 NICAEA, in Bithynia, XVI. 241, 248. See Nice.
 — town of Liguria, XVI. 242, 247.
 NICAESE of Malignes, IV. 779.
 NICANDER, poet, XVI. 242.
 — (H.), on mortality in Sweden, XV. 605, 634.
 — (Erik August), Swedish poet, XIX. 700.
 NICARAGUA, republic of, XVI. 242—proposed ship canal through, II. 711; XV. 663; XVI. 245.
 — lake of, XVI. 243, 246; II. 711.
 NIGASTRO, town in Naples, XVI. 247.
 NICCOLINI (Giovanni), his tragedies, XVIII. 112.
 NICCOLO PISANO, or Di Pisa, XVI. 247. See Pisano.
 NICE, XVI. 247—its perfumes, XVII. 408
 — or Nicæa, Council of, XVI. 248, VIII. 478; XIX. 388—time of celebrating Easter fixed by, VI. 80.
 NICEPHORUS I., emperor of Constantinople, XVI. 249; VII. 313.
 — II. (PHOCAS), XVI. 249.
 — III. (BARTHOLOMEW), XVI. 249; VII. 316.
 — (CALLISTUS), XVI. 249.
 — Patriarch of Constantinople, XVI. 249.
 — Roman emperor, VII. 313.
 — (URANUS), VII. 313.
 NICERON (Père), on Rabelais, XVIII. 740, 741.
 NICETAS of SYRACUSE, astronomer, III. 788.
 NICHE, in architecture, III. 483, 511.
 NICHOLAÏFF, Russian town, XVI. 587.
 NIKOLAIAS I., pope, XVI. 249.
 — II., pope, XVI. 250.
 — III., pope, XVI. 250.
 — IV., pope, XVI. 250.
 — V., XVI. 250.
 — I., of Russia. See Nicolas I.
 — Sicilian diver, VIII. 56.
 — (St.), island, XVI. 250.
 NICHOLLS (Dr), on Bishop Sherlock, XX. 112.
 NICHOLS (John), XVI. 250.
 NICHOLSON (General), XVI. 304, 305, XVIII. 694.
 — (Margaret), her attempt to assassinate George III., V. 521.
 — (P.), his work on carpentry, VI. 253—on the employment of iron in roofs,

NIC-NIE

266—on carpentry, XII. 805—his rule for calculating the strength of a beam, XX. 780.
 NICHOLSON (William), XVI. 250; I. 965—his areometer, III. 391—spinning condenser of electricity, VIII. 614—revolving doubler, 615—hydrometer, XII. 86—on the colours of thick plates, XVI. 521—on the voltaic pile, XXI. 628.
 — (William), his printing machine, XVIII. 558.
 NICOLAS, Athenian statesman, XVI. 250, IV. 206—his expedition against Syracuse, XX. 899.
 — Greek painter, XVI. 251; XVII. 57.
 Nickel, metal, XV. 60, 61, 66, 246, VI. 492; XVII. 622—its combination with iron, VII. 600—specific gravity, XII. 88—magnetism of, XIV. 16, 26—mine of, near Inverary, III. 526, V. 246—in Chile, VI. 548—copper nickel, XV. 116—white, ib.
 Nickeline, or Nickel-ochre, XV. 104.
 — or copper-nickel, XV. 116.
 NICOBARS, islands, XVI. 251—bread-fruit of the, V. 301.
 NICOL (William), I. 913, n.—his prism, XIV. 789; XVI. 649; I. 913.
 — (Prof.), on the geology of Scotland, XIX. 811, 790—his geological map of, 792, n.—on geology of Roxburghshire, 453.
 NICOLAÏ (C. Friedrich), XVI. 251—on spectral illusions, III. 315, 317.
 Nicolaïef, IV. 743. See Nikolaïef.
 NICOLAÏTANS, Gnostic sect, XVI. 252.
 NICOLAS (Sir N. Harris), antiquary, XVI. 253—his edition of Nelson's Dispatches, 138 n., 139 n.
 — I. (PAVLOVICH), emperor of Russia, XVI. 252—his accession to the throne, XIX. 496—his treatment of the Poles, 498; and Circassians, ib.—his policy, ib.—his opinions regarding Turkey, ib. 499—death, 507—Peterburg improved by, XVII. 487—his cabinet in the winter palace, 491—his designs on Turkey, XXI. 375.
 — or Nicholas (St), town in Belgium, XVI. 252.
 NICOLAUS (Damasenus), XVI. 252; VII. 638.
 — (MYRSEUS), XVI. 252.
 — (PSEPOSTUS), XVI. 252.
 NICOLE (Pierre), theologian, XVI. 252—on the quadrature of the circle, XX. 622.
 NICOLL (Robert), Scottish poet, XVI. 254.
 NICOLU (San), town in the island of Timor, XVI. 254.
 NICHOLSON (William), archbishop, XVI. 254—his character of Sir Thomas Craig, VII. 479, n. 2.
 NICOMACHUS, Greek painter, XVI. 254.
 NICOMEDES I., Bithynian king, XVI. 254.
 — II. (EPIPHANES), XVI. 254; VI. 222.
 — III., XVI. 254.
 — geometer, X. 501—conchoid first proposed by, III. 143; X. 544—on the quadrature of the circle, XX. 621.
 — (Philopater), VI. 222.
 NICOMEDIA, XVI. 255, 254; XII. 629.
 NICOPOLIS, in Ancient Greece, XVI. 255— in Turkey, XVI. 255; VII. 653.
 NICOSIA, capital of Cyprus, XVI. 255—town in Sicily, XVI. 255.
 Nicotiana Tabacum, flower of, V. 134, 201. See Tobacco.
 Nicotine, XIV. 438; XXI. 283.
 Nicotating membrane, III. 98.
 NIDECH, town of Asia Minor, XVI. 264.
 NIDWALDEN, in Switzerland, XXI. 404.
 NIEBELUNGEN-LAY, German poem, XI. 603.
 NIEBUHR (B. George), historian, XVI. 265; XI. 543, 549—on the origin of the Etruscans, IX. 356—on the ruins of Babylon, IV. 344—on the Arabian laws, II. 246—his discoveries among the palm-seeds at Verona, XVII. 213, 214—on the Pelagii, 371—on Scaliger's scholarship, 523—his History of Rome, 525—Schmitz's edition of his

NIE-NIM

Lectures on Ancient History, IV. 344—on the passage of the Israelites through the Red Sea, XVIII. 819—on the Roman senate, XX. 44—on Seneca, 47—on Suetonius as a historian, 788—on Tacitus, XXI. 4.
 NIEBUHR (Carsten), traveller, XVI. 262—on Arabia, III. 352.
 NIEMCEWICZ (Juhán Ursán), Polish poet, XVI. 262; XVIII. 159.
 NIEMEN, river, XVI. 268; XVII. 647; XVIII. 662, XIX. 516.
 NIEMES, town of Bohemia, XVI. 263.
 NIENBURG, town of Hanover, XVI. 263.
 Niepece (Aldore), photographer, I. 923, n. 1.
 — (Necephote), his discoveries in photography, I. 922, XVI. 551; XVII. 545.
 — (de St Victor), his improvements in photography, XVII. 546, on the use of nitrate of uranium in, 551—his recent discoveries in photography, 552.
 Nieshyn, town in Russia, XVI. 182.
 Nieuport, battle of, XI. 572.
 NIEUWENTITZ (Bernard), Dutch philosopher, XVI. 263—his opposition to the geometry of Newton, I. 649; IX. 676.
 NIEUWLAND (Peter), XVI. 264.
 NIEVRE, in France, XVI. 264.
 NIGDEH, town in Asia Minor, XVI. 264.
 NIGER, XVI. 265; XVII. 608, 647—course and termination of, II. 210, 214; X. 477, XIII. 181—hypothesis of its connection with the Nile, X. 476; XVI. 270—expeditions of discovery to, X. 477. See Park (Mungo).
 — (C. PASCERNIUS), Roman general, XVI. 267, XIX. 346.
 Niger-seed oil, XVI. 495.
 Nightingale, XVI. 756; XVII. 633—Swedish, XIII. 236.
 — (Miss Florence), XIX. 506.
 Nightmare, or incubus, XVII. 630.
 Nightshade (deadly), V. 202—its effect on the pupil of the eye, III. 44; XVII. 702—poisonous properties of, XIV. 438, XVIII. 130.
 — order of plants, V. 201.
 Nightsoil, as manure, II. 301, 408.
 Nigra, mineral, XV. 110.
 NIGRITIA, or Soudan, XVI. 267; II. 228.
 Nihau, island, XVIII. 270.
 NIJAR-X-HUEBRO, town in Spain, XVI. 267.
 NIJINI-NOVGOROD, XVI. 267, XIX. 620, 591—fair of, IX. 469; XIX. 542.
 NIKOLAEV, Russian town, XVI. 268; IV. 743.
 NIKOLSBURG, town in Moravia, XVI. 268.
 NILE, river, XVI. 268, 348; II. 213, XVII. 607, 647—supposed connection of its overflow with the plague, 748—crocodile of the, XIX. 23—names of, VIII. 424—hieroglyphical character of, XI. 368—its source, II. 55, 213; VIII. 425—rise and inundations, 428, XVII. 600—observances connected with, VIII. 448—its water and deposits, 426—ascend of, 502—canal of the, II. 473—Bruce's journey to discover the source of, V. 689—worshipped by the Egyptians, I. 457—fertilising effect of its overflow, XII. 631—timber of people dwelling near, IX. 381—quantity of water conveyed to the sea by, XVII. 573—delta of, 586—slope and velocity of, 601—fertilising mud, 608.
 — battle of the, V. 564; VIII. 439, X. 109; XVI. 135.
 — Blue. See Bahr-el-Azrek.
 — White. See Bahr-el-Abyad.
 Nilo, genus of insects, IX. 181.
 Nilometer, VIII. 426, 448.
 Nilsson (Prof.), on the salmon of Scandinavia, XII. 241—on Swedish birds, XVI. 731.
 Nilus, Egyptian deity, VIII. 439; XI. 385, 393.
 Nimbus, rain cloud, XIV. 656.
 NIMBUS, in Holland, XVI. 271.
 NIMES, town in France, XVI. 272, 279.
 Nimrod, son of Cush, III. 778, 741, XX. 318.
 — on horses, XI. 647 et seq.—on riding, 674—on the terms used in deer-hunting,

NIM-NIT

XII. 39—his description of a full-headed deer, 40.
 Nimroud Birs, IV. 343—Nimroud, XVI. 273, 275.
 Nimroz. See Selstan.
 NINEVEH, XVI. 272; XI. 542—history of, III. 741—Layard on the buildings of, 499, 500, 501—Fergusson on the architecture of, 501, 502—taken by Cyaxares, XIV. 421—sculptured monuments of, XIX. 846—masonry of, XX. 710.
 Ning-Po, XVI. 277—opened to British commerce in 1842, VI. 597—exports and imports, 591.
 NINIAN, or St Ninian, XVI. 278.
 NINIAN'S (St), village in Shropshire, XVI. 278.
 NINOVE, town of Belgium, XVI. 278.
 Ninus, king of Assyria, III. 741, 778, XI. 542.
 NIOBE, XVI. 278—statue of, III. 708.
 Niobite, mineral, XV. 109.
 NIORT, town in France, XVI. 278; XX. 67.
 NIPEON, or Nipon, island, XVI. 278, XII. 688.
 — genus of fishes, XII. 275.
 Nipisigit, river in New Brunswick, XVI. 163.
 NIPISSING (Lake), XVI. 278.
 Nipples, III. 72.
 Nips, in coal beds, VII. 116.
 NISSEA, IV. 208.
 NISAR, Hebrew month, XVI. 279; II. 40.
 NISHAPOOR, town in Persia, XVI. 279.
 Nishni-Novgorod. See Nijni-Novgorod.
 Nisi PRUTIS, in law, XVI. 279.
 NIMES, or Nîmes, town in France, XVI. 279, X. 404—Roman aqueduct at, III. 336—amphitheatre at, II. 731—perfumes manufactured at, XVII. 408.
 Niso, fossil mollusks, XVII. 110.
 NISSA, or Nisch, town in Turkey, XVI. 280.
 NISUS, genus of birds, XVI. 743.
 Nitela, genus of insects, IX. 196.
 NITRE, river, XVI. 280, VIII. 239—valley of the, XIX. 790—close-time in, IX. 613.
 NITTHARD, French historian, XVI. 280.
 Niri, pass over the Himalayas, XVI. 280.
 Nidula, genus of insects, IX. 114.
 Nitidularia, family of insects, IX. 114.
 Nitókris, Egyptian queen, VIII. 455.
 Nitrate of soda, as manure, II. 305, 413—in Peru, XVII. 472—of potash, II. 413—of silver, VI. 499—chemical effects of the spectrum on paper washed with, XVI. 595—its use in photography, XVII. 545 et seq.
 — of Uranium process in photography, XVII. 551.
 Nitratine, mineral, XV. 98.
 Nitre. See Saltpetre.
 Nitric acid, VI. 463; VIII. 580; XV. 61, 64—sometimes found in the air, II. 376; V. 95; VI. 465—discovery of its composition, 353; VIII. 595—its poisonous quality, XIV. 435—specific gravity of, XII. 69—in tobacco, XXI. 293.
 — oxide, a poison, XIV. 435.
 Nitrocalcite, mineral, XV. 99.
 Nitrogen, or azote, VI. 461—a component part of the atmosphere, IV. 180—its specific gravity, 181; XII. 89; VI. 488—in plants, II. 375, 381, V. 94, 95—in different manures, II. 412—quantity removed from the land by different grain crops, 417—alimentary principles containing it, VIII. 18—combined with oxygen, VI. 462—deutoxide of, ib.—protoxide, ib.—illuminating power of coal-gas deteriorated by mixture with, X. 432—as an element in the crust of the globe, XVII. 613.
 Nitrogenous food, XIX. 610.
 Nitromagnesian, mineral, XV. 99.
 Nitrous acid, VI. 463—vapour of, poisonous, XIV. 435—nitrous acid gas, its singular action on the spectrum, XVI. 597, I. 915—specific gravity of, XII. 89.
 — oxide, XIV. 435—discovery of its properties, I. 967; IV. 565; VII. 668—its intoxicating quality, VIII. 197.
 NITSC (F. A.), his account of Kant's views regarding free will, I. 136.

NIT—NOM

Nitzsch, on the spirituality of God, XX 1 190.
 NIVELLES, town in Belgium, XVI 280—normal school at, IV 621.
 NIVERNAIS, French province, XVI 280, X 277.
 NIXDORF, town of Bohemia, XVI 280.
 NIZAM, Ali, XI 490.
 NIZAM'S DOMINIONS, XVI 280; XI 501 See Hyderabad.
 — fidelity to the British, in the sepoy revolt, XVI 811.
 Nizami, Persian poet, XVII 429.
 Nizolus (Marius), his revolt against the authority of Aristotle, I 25.
 NIZZA MONFERRATO, Sardinian town, XVI 280.
 — province, XIX 640.
 Noad (Mr.), on magnetic electricity, XXI 648.
 NOAH, XVI 280; III 267—his ark, 608—Bryant on, VII 711—dispersion of his posterity, VIII 44, 45—his communications with God, I 466 See Deluge.
 NOBET (M.), on microscopic lines, XIV 801, 804, 805.
 Nobili, the associate of Melloni, I 955—on heat, ib; XI 265—his thermo-multiplier, I 955; XXI 642—on the current of the frog, I 961—his improvement of the galvanometer, 976—on movements in electrolytic liquids, XXI 629—on colours formed on metallic plates by voltaic electricity, 632—his experiments on thermo-electric circuits, 650—his thermo-electric pile, 662.
 NOBILITY, XVI 280—Aristotle on, III 667, n 3—numbers of, in England, VIII 768—of France, X 46—Arabia, III 350—abolition of a hereditary, in Norway, XVI 818—effect of the Crusades on, VII 632—Italian, XII 662—Prussian, XVIII 664—Roman, XIX 816—feudal nobility of Europe, in fifteenth century, 761—Swedish, XX 864 See Duke, Marquis, Earl, Viscount, Baron.
 Noble (Mr.), his definition of insanity, XIV 526.
 — (M. le), his use of the magnet in medical cases, XX 414.
 — coin, XVI 388.
 Nobrega, a Jesuit, V 261.
 NOCERA DEI PAGANI, town of Naples, XVI 282.
 NOCI, town of Naples, XVI 282.
 Nock (Henry), his patent breech for guns, XI 97.
 Noctilio, genus of mammalia, XIV 148.
 Noctiluca, zoophytes, XXI 1000.
 Noctua, genus of birds, XVI 746.
 — genus of insects, IX 215.
 Noctuides, section of insects, IX 214.
 Nocturna, family of insects, IX 210.
 Nocturnal birds of prey, XVI 745.
 Noddies, birds, XVI 813.
 NODS, XVI 282; IV 12—of the moon's orbit, 33, 37—of the planetary orbits, 57—motions of the, I 812.
 — in botany, V 78.
 NODIER (Charles), XVI 282—his works on insects, IX 17—his novels, XIX 289.
 Noel's attack on Pascal, IV 450.
 NOGENT-LE-ROTOU, town in France, XVI 282.
 Nogent-sur-Seine, centre for the bridge of, VI 377.
 NORMANDIES, island, XVI 283.
 Noiset (General), his system of fortification, IX 821, 824.
 NOLA, town of Naples, XVI 283—battle of, VI 297.
 Nolanaceae, nat order of plants, XVI 201.
 NOLLE PROSEQUI, in law, XVI 283.
 NOLLEKENS (Joseph), XVI 283—character of his sculpture, XIX 867—Smith's work on, XX 248.
 Nollet (Jean Antoine), I 734, n 1—his controversy with Franklin, V 368—on electricity, VIII 627, 602.
 Nomada, genus of insects IX 200.
 NOMBRE-DE-DIOS, town of Mexico, XVI 284; XIV 727;

NOM—NOR

Nomenclature of anatomy, IV 443—chemistry, VI 453—chronological, in geology, XV 195.
 Nomes, divisions of Egypt, VIII 421.
 Nomenus, genus of fishes, XII 298.
 Nomia, genus of insects, IX 198.
 NOMINALISTS AND REALISTS, XVI 284; I 328.
 Nominative case, X 749.
 Nomophylaces of Athens, IV 214.
 Nomothetes, of Athens, IV 215.
 Nomisz (Jean), Dutch author, XVI 285.
 Non-conductors, in electricity, VIII 540.
 Non-intrusion controversy, XVIII 495; VI 405—Sir J. Gibson-Craig's share in, VII 476.
 NONAGESIMAL DEGREE, XVI 285, IV 117.
 NONAGON, XVI 285.
 NONCONFORMISTS, XVI 285 See Puritans, Baptists, Independents, Methodists, Presbyterians, Quakers.
 NOXES, XVI 286; VI 76.
 Nonus (Fernando and Pedro) See Nunez.
 NONUS, XVI 286; VI 713.
 NONNUS, Greek poet, XVI 286.
 Nonpareil type, XXI 421, 422, 423.
 Nontronite, mineral, XV 90.
 NOOAHHEVA, Nouheva, or Nonka-hiva, one of the Marquesas islands, XVI 287; XIV 313.
 Noort (Gerard), jurist, XVI 287.
 Noor-ed-Deen. See Nooredin.
 NOOTKA SOUND, XVI 287—dispute between Britain and Spain about, V 536.
 Nopal Plant, V 134.
 Nopalitlan, Mexican king, XIV 699.
 NORBERG, or Nordberg (George), XVI 287.
 Norbertines, XVIII 479.
 NOROIA, town in the Papal States, XVI 287.
 NORP, department of France, XVI 287.
 — CÔTES DU, XVI 288; VII 426.
 NORDEIN, town in Hanover, XVI 288.
 — (Sir J.), on agriculture, II 257.
 Nordenflycht (H. Charlotte), Swedish poetess, XIX 698.
 NORDHAUSEN, town in Prussia, XVI 288.
 NORDHEIM, town in Hanover, XVI 288.
 NORDKOPING, or Norrköping, in Sweden, XVI 288; XX 862, 864.
 NORDLINGEN, town of Bavaria, XVI 288.
 Nordmann on zoophytes, XXI 973 *et seq*.
 NORR, XVI 288—mutiny of, V 560; VIII 252.
 — Irish river, XIII 84, 87; XVIII 728.
 Norfolk Crag, fossils of, XV 215.
 — (Duke of), his case of divorce, VIII 70.
 — (Duke of), XIX 787.
 — English county, XVI 288—population and value of property, VIII 754—system of cropping, II 292—woollen trade of the town of, XXI 914.
 — ISLAND, XVI 281—pine of, III 396; V 209—as a penal settlement, XVIII 578, XXI 80.
 — in Virginia, XVI 291.
 Noma, hydraulic machine, XII 69, 183.
 NOMIC Alps, II 624.
 NORICUM, Roman province, XVI 291.
 NORIS (Henry), XVI 292.
 Norite rock, XV 135.
 Normal Schools. See Schools.
 Norman architecture, III 449—painted glass associated with, X 667—roofs, XIX 390.
 — conquest of England, VIII 665—its effects on the Anglo-Saxon nobility, 794.
 — (Robert), first observed the dip of the magnetic needle, VIII 42; XIV 2, XVI 4.
 Norman-Gothic architecture, III 480.
 NORMANDY, XVI 292; X 277—invaded by Henry I, VIII 670—Pliocene rocks in, XV 215.
 Normans. See Danes, Norwegians.
 Norms (Dr Hall), his photographic process, XVII 548.
 — (E.), philologist, XVII 534.
 — (John), XVI 292.
 — (Sir John), XX 132.

NOR—NOR

NORRISTOWN, in Pennsylvania, XVI 293.
 Norrland, division of Sweden, XX 864, XI 354.
 Norroy king-of-arms, XI 320.
 Norse language, VII 750.
 Norte (Rio del). See Rio del Norte.
 NORTH (Sir Dudley), XVI 284—on political economy, XVIII 217.
 — (FRANCIS), Baron Guildford, keeper of the Great Seal, XVI 294.
 — (FREDERICK), earl of Guildford, XVI 294—his administration, V 477 *et seq*—resignation, 500—coalition between him and Mr Fox, 506; X 852—secretary of state, V 506.
 — (Roger), XVI 294.
 — Briton, newspaper, V 467, 468.
 — CAPE, XVI 298; XIII 233.
 — Pole, Parry's attempt to reach, XVII 307—open water probably around, 583. See Polar Regions.
 — SEA, or German Ocean, XVI 298.
 North-east Passage, XVIII 163.
 NORTH-WEST PASSAGE, XVI 300; XVIII 166 *et seq*—list of modern north-west voyages, 171, n.—Cook's voyages in search of, VII 340, Franklin's, X 295, 298—ascertained to exist, but not navigated, by Sir R M'Clure, 474, 299—voyages in search of, 478—Davis's voyages in search of, VII 666.
 — TERRITORY, XVI 316; XI 791.
 — Company, X 346.
 NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES OF BENGAL, XVI 301—statistics of, XI 524.
 NORTHALLERTON, XVI 295.
 NORTHAMPTON, XVI 295—tables of mortality, XV 641, XII 399.
 — in Massachusetts, XVI 296; XIV 341.
 NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, XVI 297—population and value of property, VIII 754.
 NORRIS (James), painter, XVI 298—character of his works, XVII 80.
 Northern (Great) Railway, XVIII 794, 795—stations, 774—coal-waggons, 782—Jenkins' coal-burning locomotives on, XX 358.
 — CIRCARS, XVI 298; VI 728.
 Northfleet, in Kent, proposed dockyard at, VIII 78.
 Northmen, VIII 660, 661.
 Northmore (Mr.), his plan of a universal character, VI 417.
 Northon on the Belgian army, IV 599.
 NORTHEMBERLAND, XVI 299—addition to its area, VIII 719—population and value of property, 754.
 — (Duke of), his exertions in improving life-boats, XIII 446. See Dudley.
 NORTHWICH, in Cheshire, XVI 316—salt-mines of, VI 528; XV 246; XIX 582, 585.
 Norton (Mr.), on the various readings of the New Testament, IV 698.
 — CHIFFING, XVI 316; VI 600.
 Norval's rope machine, XIX 412.
 NORWAY, XVI 316; IX 402—belief in supernatural beings still prevailing in, I 464—its disjunction from Denmark, V 614, 615—union with Denmark and Sweden, VII 739—ceded by Denmark to Sweden, 743—glaciers of, X 684—Jews in, XII 788—language, XIII 211—leprosy in, 341—silver mines of, XV 236—metallic produce of, 248—elevation of, 167—mortality, 607, 631—newspapers, XVI 202—works on the birds of, 780—coins of, 389—proportion of insane, XIV 536—snow-level, XVII 602—increase of population in, XVIII 350—navy, XX 138—wars with Sweden, 845 *et seq*—annexed to Sweden, 860—weights and measures, XXI 812.
 Norwegian harrow, II 273—herrings, IX 641.
 Norwegians, their discovery of America, II 698—Invasions of France, X 9 *et seq*; of the Hebrides, XI 279; of England, VIII 663; Scotland, XIX 754—their early intercourse with Greenland, XI 38—were the first settlers of Ico-

NOR—NOV

land, XII 197—Norse language, VII 750—their naval enterprise, XX 119. See Danes, Normans.
 NORWICH, XVI 332—early newspapers of, 186—markets, 290—foreign weavers in, XXI 780—woollen trade of, 914, 918.
 — in Connecticut, XVI 335.
 NORWOOD, town in Surrey, XVI 335.
 — (RICHARD), XVI 335—measurement of an arc of meridian by, I 618, IX 548—on navigation, XVI 5.
 Nose, III 42—bone of the, 22—cavities, 42—muscles, 39—in brutes, 94—surgical restoration and repair of, XX 835; diseases of the, in cattle, XXI 571.
 Nosean, mineral, XV 74.
 Noseman on birds, XVI 720.
 Nosology, vegetable, V 170.
 Noss, one of the Shetland islands, XX 113.
 NOSSI-BE, or Nos-Beh, island, XVI 335.
 NOSTRADAMUS (Michel de), XVI 335.
 Nostrils, III 42, 94.
 Notables (Assembly of), X 41 *et seq*.
 Notacanthus, genus of fishes, XII 282.
 Notacanthidae, or Notacantha, family of fishes, XII 292.
 Notæus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 347.
 Notagodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 335.
 NOTARY, XVI 335—in Scotland, 336.
 NOTATION, XVI 336—Arabic, an acquisition from the East, I 556—in algebra, II 489—in arithmetic, III 582—of decimal fractions, 599—chemical, VI 451—trigonometrical, XXI 338.
 Notching, in carpentry, V 746.
 NOTES, in music, XVI 336.
 — See Bank Notes, Bill of Exchange.
 Nothosaurus, fossil reptiles, XVII 143.
 Nothosomus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 335.
 Nothus, genus of insects, IX 133.
 Notodamia, family of fishes, XII 324.
 Notodanus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 341, XVII 118.
 Notiophila, genus of insects, IX 255.
 Noro, Sicilian city, XVI 336; XX 255.
 Notodonta, genus of insects, IX 214.
 Notopnecta, genus of insects, IX 166.
 Notonectidae, family of insects, IX 166.
 Notopoda, genus of crustacea, VII 541.
 Notopteris, genus of fishes, XII 250, 249.
 Notothema, genus of fishes, XII 307.
 Nototherium, fossil mammal, XVII 175, 638.
 Notoxus, genus of insects, IX 134.
 NOTT (General), V 668—Ghuzni dismantled by, X 608.
 — (Dr), on Barbour's Bruce, IV 496; VIII 796—on the Earl of Surrey's translation of the *Æneid*, VIII 119.
 NOTTINGHAM, XVI 336—lace manufacture of, VII 451; XIII 143—meteorological observations at, XIX 688—rearing of silk-worms at, XX 292.
 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, XVI 339; VIII 754—lace manufacture in, XIII 145.
 NOUE (La), on chivalry, VI 624, 625—on romance, XIX 264, 265, 266.
 NOUET (M.), on the dimensions of the great pyramid, III 437.
 Nouns, X 748, 789—in Egyptian grammar, XI 428, 427—infection of, XIII 192.
 NOUREDDIN, Noor-ed-Deen, or Nur-ed-Din, Moslem rulers of Syria, XVI 341; XXI 911.
 — (Mahmoud), XVI 341—his invasion of Egypt, VIII 480.
 NOVA SCOTIA, XVI 342—barrons of, IV 469—war between Britain and France concerning, V 462—iron ores of, XII 542—trade with Labrador, XIII 140—weights and measures, XXI 812.
 Novacula, genus of fishes, XII 267.
 NOVALIS (F. L. von Hardenberg), XVI 341.
 Novanglus, Letters of, XVI 193.
 Novantæ, Caledonian tribe, VI 74; XIX 742.
 NOVARA, in Piedmont, XVI 342; XIX 640.

NOV—NUN

- NOVA ZEMBLA, XVI 345, XIX 552—degree of cold in, III 787.
- NOVATIANS and Novatians, XVI 345; XII 368.
- NOVEL, XVI 346; XIX 253, 269—Goethe's, X 699—of Eugene Sue, XX 787—effects of novel reading, IX 542—writers of Sweden, XIX 701. See Romance.
- NOVELDA, town in Spain, XVI 346.
- NOVELLARA, town in Italy, XVI 346.
- NOVELS of Justinian, VI 746.
- NOVEMBER, XVI 346—Gardening Calendar for, XI 760.
- NOVERRE on the ballet, IV 398.
- NOVOGOROD, or Novogorod, XVI 346; XIX 471, 473, 520, 521.
- city, XVI 346—its former commercial importance, XI 214; XII 817.
- NOVOGOROD-SIEVERSK, XVI 347.
- NOVI, town in Italy, XVI 347—battle of, X 113.
- NOVI-BAZAR, town in Turkey, XVI 347.
- NOVICE, XVI 347.
- NOVITSKA, destroyed by the allied fleet in 1854, XIX 507.
- NOVO-REDONDO, town in Africa, XVI 347.
- NOVO-TSCHERKASK, town in Russia, XVI 347.
- NOVAGURH, a raj of India, XVI 347.
- NOVANUGGER, town in India, XVI 347.
- NOVY-GYDN, town in Moravia, XVI 156.
- NOX, in mythology, XVI 347.
- NOY (Sir William), XVI 347.
- NOYON, town in France, XVI 347.
- NUBIA, XVI 347; II 224—temple of Amada in, III 441—mines of, VII 188—gold from, XV 230. See Nubians.
- steam-vessel, performances of, XX 165.
- NUBIANS, II 219; IX 351—their languages, XIII 227.
- NUBLE, in Chile, VI 547.
- NUCK (Mr), on the lacteals, II 762.
- NUCLEOBRANCHIATA, fossil mollusks, XVII 109.
- NUCLEOLITES, fossil echinoids, XVII 100.
- NUCULA, genus of mollusks, XV 349—fossil, XVII 106.
- NUDA, family of mollusks, XV 401.
- NUDDRA, in India, XVI 349, 350.
- NUDIBRANCHIATA, order of mollusks, XV 371.
- NUGENAH, town in India, XVI 350.
- NUGGETS, IV 276, 277.
- NUISANCE, in law, XVI 350; XIV 427—from smoke, IX 352, 359—Nuisances Removal Act, XVIII 205; XIX 603.
- NUM, Egyptian deity, VIII 435.
- NUMA POMPILIUS, XVI 350; XIX 296.
- NUMANTIA, XVI 350—taken by the Romans, XIX 315; XX 458.
- NUMBERS, abstract, II 52—mystical properties of, III 575—Chinese notion of virtue in odd numbers, VI 571—in grammar, X 747, 789—golden number, III 788—symbols of hieroglyphical numbers, XI 402—phenological faculty, XVII 563—Pythagorean doctrine of, XVIII 711.
- Book of, XVI 350; XVII 400.
- NUMENIUS, genus of birds, XVI 802.
- NUMERALS, XVI 350—numeral characters, VI 418—Roman, III 572—Chinese, 573—Greek, 575—denary or Arabic, 579; I 556, II 7.
- Numeration, or Notation, in arithmetic, III 582—digital, II 8.
- NUMERIANUS (M Aurelius), Roman emperor, XVI 350; XIX 349.
- NUMIDA, genus of birds, XVI 788.
- NUMIDA, XVI 350; II 566—Masinissa, king of, XIV 834—Mictipsa, king of, 741—horsemanship in, XI 678—its submission to Rome, XIX 326—slavery, XX 320. See Jugurtha, Juba.
- NUMISMATICS, XVI 351—as illustrations of history, III 422. See Coins, Money.
- NUMMULITES, fossil shells, XVII 93, 94—nummuloite limestones, 94; XXI 1007.
- NUX, river of Morocco, XVI 392.
- or Non, promontory, XVI 392; XV 594.

NUN—NYM

- NUN, Nonn, or Nomi, Chinese river, XVI 392.
- NUNCO, XVI 392.
- NUNCOREUS, XI 389.
- NUNDICOMAN, Hindu prince, V 529, 534; XI 494.
- NUNDIDROG, Indian fortress, capture of, V 541.
- NUNDINE, XVI 392.
- NUNEATON, town in Warwick, XVI 393.
- NUNZ, or Nomus (Fernando), XVI 393.
- African river, XVI 393.
- or Nonus (Pedro), XVI 393; III 798; X 504; XVI 393.
- NUNS, XVI 392—authority of abbess over, II 13.
- Nuoro, in Sardinia, XIX 640.
- NUREMBURG, town in Bavaria, XVI 393, IV 518—library at, XIII 421—Diet at, 760—peace of, XVIII 834.
- NUNA, genus of fishes, XII 257.
- NURPOOR, town in India, XVI 394.
- NURSERIES, culture of trees in, XVII 766—public, in Paris, 283—nursery for play-actors, XXI 171.
- NURSTA, Sabine city, XVI 394.
- Nursing of children, XIV 441.
- NURTINGEN, town of Wurtemberg, XVI 394.
- NUSARUYEH Mountains, XX 902.
- Syrian sect, XX 908.
- NUSHRYAN, Persian king, XVII 435.
- NUSSEER KHAN, IV 640.
- NUSSEERABAD, in India, XVI 394—sepoymutiny at, 309.
- NUSSENTE, mineral, XV 106.
- NUT, screw, XIV 397.
- NUT-GALLS, or gall-nuts, VIII 280; X 382—tannin and gallic acid from, VIII 281.
- NUT-HATCHES, birds, XVI 768.
- NUtation, IV 14; XVIII 459—solar, IV 15—of the earth's axis, 15—discovery of, III 805—solar and lunar nutation, XVIII 457.
- NUTBROOK Canal, VII 754.
- NUTCRACKERS, birds, XVI 765.
- NUZMEG, XVI 394—of Australia, IV 261—of the Banda Islands, 410—tree, V 204—value of the imports of, VIII 784.
- order of plants, V 204.
- NUTPE, Egyptian goddess, XI 382, n 9.
- NUTRIA, fur-skinned animal, X 348, 351.
- NUTRITION, XVI 395—atomy of the organs of, III 58—common to plants and animals, 170—perhaps the only indispensable function of animal life, 195—of annulacules, 1b—of bees, IV 571—organs of, in plants, V 75—their anatomy, 76, physiology, 94—fishes, XII 221—function of, XVII 656—diseases of, 668, 689. See Aliment, Food, Dietetics, Digestion.
- NUTS, XVI 395; V 138—trees bearing, XVII 768—as an article of food, IX 761.
- NUTTALLITE, mineral, XV 72.
- NUTTALL (Thomas), on American birds, XVI 738, 782, 786, 810.
- NUX VOMICA, XVI 395; V 200—poisonous properties of, XIV 438; XVIII 128, 130, 132. See Strychnia, Strychnos.
- NUYTS (Peter), his discoveries in New Holland, IV 253—Nuyt's Land, 1b.
- NYASSER, African lake, XVI 396; II 215; XVII 600.
- Nyctaginaceæ, nat. order of plants, V 203.
- Nyctelia, genus of insects, IX 129.
- Nycteribia, genus of insects, IX 259.
- Nycteris, genus of mammals, XIV 149.
- Nyctibius, genus of birds, XVI 769.
- Nycticorax, genus of birds, XVI 799.
- Nyctonomus, genus of mammals, XIV 148.
- NYRÉGHÁZA, town in Hungary, XVI 396.
- NYIRA, town in Hungary, XVI 156.
- NYKOPING, town in Sweden, XVI 396.
- NYL-GHAU, in zoology, XIV 210.
- NYMEGEN, town in Holland, XVI 271.
- Nymphæ, in anatomy, III 71.

NYM—OBL

- Nymphæaceæ, nat. order of plants, V 181.
- Nymphæals, genus of insects, IX 208.
- Nymphomana, XIV 532.
- Nymphon, genus of arachnids, III 386.
- NYMPHS, XVI 396.
- Nysson, genus of insects, IX 196.
- Nyssones, tribe of insects, IX 195.
- Nysten on the aorta, II 790.
- O, letter, XVI 397—interjection, 1b—in abbreviations, II 19.
- Oahu, one of the Sandwich Islands, XVIII 270—climate, 271.
- Oajaca, Mexican state and city, XIV 725, 718—antiquities of, 719.
- OAK, XVI 397; V 86, 113, XVII 755; XXI 268—age attained by the, II 235—British, XVII 757—evergreen, 761—Turkey, 1b—Turner's, 1b—live, 1b—different species, 765—American, 1b—oaks in Derbyshire, VII 754—reverenced by the Druids, VIII 184—specific gravity of, XII 88, 89—poison-oak, V 190—growth of, XXI 269—large oaks, 270—different species, 1b—foreign oak-timber, 276.
- knights of the, Moorish order of chivalry, XIII 121.
- order of plants, V 208.
- Oak-bark, its use in dyeing, VIII 304, n 3—tanning, XIII 306.
- Oak-leaf galls. See Gall.
- Oak-timber, XVII 755, 788, XXI 270—its use in joinery, XII 817—for the navy, XVI 100, 101; XX 113, 166—shrinkage of, in seasoning, 168—desiccation of, 170—strength of, 171, 172, 757, 758—size of, XXI 271—value, 1b—sowing of acorns, 272—measuring of, 280.
- OAKHAM, or Okeham, in Rutland, XVI 397—canal to, XIX 555.
- OANNES, Chaldaic legislator, XV 763.
- OASES, XVI 397.
- OATES (Titus), XVI 397; V 427.
- OATHS, XVI 398—oath of allegiance, II 588—Arabian, III 352—of calumny, VI 105—coronation oath, VII 412—of supremacy, VIII 700—regarded as antichristian, by Quakers, XVIII 717. See Perjury.
- Oatmeal, absorbent property of, VII 108.
- OATS, spikelet of, V 113—flower of, 125—seed, 138—culture and varieties of, 125—quantities used as seed, 311—manures for, 312—diseases of, 1b—as food, IX 758—analysis of, 759. See Corn-laws.
- OAXACA, XVI 399. See Oajaca.
- OBI, river. See Ob.
- OBADIAH, the prophet, XVI 299.
- OBAN, in Argyllshire, XVI 399, III 527.
- Oba, Obi, or Oby, river in Siberia, XVI 400; XVII 605, 647; XIX 548, XXI 297, 303.
- Obedience to law, XIII 253.
- Obeld, African town, II 225; XIII 181.
- OBELISK, XVI 400; II 472; III 457, 458; XI 387, 407; VIII 508—as gnomons, VII 778; X 464—at Torres, IX 787.
- Oberhauser's microscope, XIV 779.
- Oberland (Bernese), IV 670.
- OBERLIN (Jean Frederic), XVI 400.
- (Jeremie Jacques), XVI 401.
- OBERRAI, or Oberehnheim, town in France, XVI 401.
- OBIDOS, town in Portugal, XVI 401.
- OBJECT AND OBJECTIVE, SUBJECT AND SUBJECTIVE, XVI 401.
- Object-glass micrometer, XIV 746.
- Object-glasses, in telescopes, XXI 124 et seq.
- Oblata, genus of fishes, XII 287.
- OBULATE, XVI 401—oblateness of the earth, I 853.
- Obligation, created by law, XII 255—moral, XV 563. See Ethical Philosophy.
- OBLIQUE, XVI 401—cases, X 743.

OBO—OCT

- OBLONG, XVI 401.
- Obos, XV 710.
- OBOLAN, town in Russia, XVI 401.
- OBOLUS, XVI 401, 389; VII 67.
- fossil mollusks, XVII 105.
- O'Brien (Smith), V 671; XII 502.
- Obnum, genus of insects, IX 145.
- Obscenity, its prevalence in the middle ages, VI 610.
- OBSERVATORIES, XVI 402; I 847—establishment of, 616—principal, III 816—magnetical, XIV 18—in Belgium, IV 623—Edinburgh, VIII 400—Germany, X 592—Glasgow, 653—Greenwich, XI 47—Italy, XII 662.
- Observing machines, XIV 414.
- Obsidian, mineral, XV 72, 132.
- Obstetrics, XIV 463.
- Obstruction, disease in domestic animals, XXI 564, 568.
- Obverse, in coins, XVI 353.
- Obwalden, in Switzerland, XXI 494.
- Obz, island, XVI 402.
- OCANA, town in Spain, XVI 402.
- town in New Granada, XVI 402.
- OCAM, or Ockham (William of), XVI 402, 285—doctrines held by, I 326, 328—on moral evil, 435—his theory of rectitude, XV 550—on logic, XIII 585, n.
- Occipital bone, in man, III 18—in the mammalia, 78.
- OCCULTATION, XVI 402—of plants and stars by the moon, IV 50—of Jupiter's satellites, 70.
- OCCUPANCY, in law, XVI 402.
- Occupations of the inhabitants of Scotland, XIX 804; of London, XIII 660, of the United States, XXI 424.
- OCEAN, XVI 402; X 483, XVII 572 et seq—southern, colder than northern, II 673—its influence on climate, III 736; VI 770—temperature of, XIV 644—currents of, 652 (see Currents)—luminosity of, XIII 458. See Sea, Tides, Atlantic, Pacific, &c.
- OCEANIA, XVI 402. See Australasia.
- Oceanic stock of people, IX 346.
- Oceanides, water-nymphs, XVI 396.
- OCEANUS, in mythology, XVI 402.
- CELLUS LUCANUS, XVI 402—on spiritual essences, III 308.
- Ocelot, in zoology, XIV 170.
- OCHIL HILLS, in Scotland, XVI 403; VI 749, 750, XVII 457; XIX 791.
- OCHNO or Ochmus (Bernardino), XVI 402.
- Ochnaceæ, nat. order of plants, V 189.
- Ochran, mineral, XV 84.
- Ochres, XV 112—yellow ochre, 108.
- Ochsenheimer, his work on lepidoptera, IX 12.
- Ochterlony (Sir D.), XI 506, 508; XVI 148—his monument at Calcutta, VI 69.
- Ochthera, genus of insects, IX 256.
- Ochthuphila, genus of insects, IX 256.
- Ockham (William of). See Occam.
- Ockley (Simon), orientalist, XVI 403.
- Ockzakoff, IV 743—dispute in 1791 about, V 538.
- O'Clery (Michael), VIII 106.
- OCLESBER, town in India, XVI 403.
- O'CONNELL (Daniel), XVI 403; V 641; XII 501—elected member for Clare, V 653, 656—his progress through Ireland, 656—his anti-union agitation, 659—his plan of reform, 657—his attack on the king's speech in 1833, 662—his death at Genoa, 670—as an agitator, IV 240—Sir R. Peel's challenge to, XVII 362—Shell's co-operation with, in the repeal agitation, XX 100.
- Octadrite, mineral, XV 110.
- Objectis, Greek cycle, VI 665.
- OCTAGON, XVI 404.
- OCTAHEDRON, XVI 404; XV 41.
- Octastyle, in architecture, III 511.
- OCTAVIA, sister of Augustus, XVI 404.
- wife of Nero, XVI 405.
- Octavianus, or Octavius Cæsar, XIX 323. See Augustus.
- Other, northern navigator, XVIII 161.

OCT—OER

- OCTOBER, XVI 405—Gardening Calendar for, XI 760
 — Equus, XVI 405
 Octogonotes, genus of insects, IX 150.
 Octopoda, section of mollusks, XV 400
 Octopus, genus of mollusks, XV 401, 385.
 Octroi, French tax, X 273, 275; IX 448.
 Oculina, fossil coral, XVII 96
 Oculimida, polypes, XXI 1005.
 Ocydromia, genus of insects, IX 235.
 Ocyptete, genus of arachnides, III 389.
 Ocyptera, genus of insects, IX 248
 Ocyptera, family of insects, IX 244.
 Ocypterus, genus of birds, XVI 743
 Oczakow See Oczakoff.
 Odax, genus of fishes, XII 268
 ODE, in poetry, XVI 405; XVIII 102, 105, 123 See Lyric poetry
 ODEPORA, Indian raj, XVI 405.
 Odeum, in ancient Athens, IV 165, 170
 ODEANATHUS, Prince of Palmyra, XVI 405; XVII 221, XIX 349
 ODENSE, town in the island of Funen, XVI 405
 ODENSWALD, German mountains, XVI 405
 ODER, river, XVI 405, IX 384, 385, X 582, XVII 605, 647, XVIII 284, 662, XX 274.
 ODESSA, Russian city, XVI 405—port and trade of, IV 743, 746—corn trade of, VII 403—bombardment of, XIX 501
 Odier (Dr L), on mortality at Geneva, XV 622
 — (M), on the coverings of insects, IX 28.
 ODIERAM, town in Hampshire, XVI 406.
 ODIN, XVI 406; XV 767; X 300—his worship incentive of suicide, XX 799
 Odo, VIII 659
 ODOACER, XVI 406; XII 640
 Odocantha, genus of insects, IX 82.
 Odometer, XVII 406
 O'Donnell (Count del Abisbal), XX 475, 476, 483
 Odontacanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII 117.
 Odontaspis, genus of fishes, XII 324; XVII 118, 119.
 Odontus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 344.
 Odontognathus, genus of fishes, XII 237.
 Odontograph, XIV 396.
 ODONTOLOGY, XVI 407. See Teeth.
 Odontosaurus, fossil reptiles, XVI 139.
 Odontostomus, genus of fishes, XII 248.
 Odoniferous bodies, effect of electricity on, VIII 599. See Odours.
 Odours of flowers, V 152—caused by essential oils, XVI 492—of plants, XVII 408
 ODYSSEUS, Thracian tribe, XVI 485.
 Odynerus, genus of insects, IX 197.
 Oeades, king of Epirus, IX 277.
 OECOLAMPADIUS, XVI 485
 Oecophora, genus of insects, IX 219.
 OECUMENICAL COUNCILS, XVI 485; VII 465.
 Oedusa, genus of insects, IX 235
 Oedemera, genus of insects, IX 133
 Oedemerites, tribe of insects, IX 132.
 OEDENBURG, town in Hungary, XVI 485.
 Oedincemus, genus of birds, XVI 797
 Oedionychus, genus of insects, IX 150.
 OEDIPUS, Grecian king, XVI 485
 Oegopidae, family of mollusks, XV 399
 OEHLENSCHLAGER (Adam Gottdob), XVI 486; VII 750; XVIII 120; XIX 695.
 Oeland, island, XVI 503.
 OELS, in Prussia, XVI 488.
 Oeltzen's catalogue of stars, IV 95.
 OENIADAE, town in Acarnania, XVI 488.
 OENOTRIA, XVI 488; XII 633.
 OERSTED (Hans Christian), XVI 488; VII 750; XIX 696—his early studies, I 973—his discovery of electro-magnetism, 739, 973; VIII 531, 600; XIV 11; XXI 638—details respecting it, I 973—receives the prize of the Institute of France, 976—his scientific character, 1b—death, 977—on the compressibility of water, XII 78; I 723, 978—on voltaic electricity, XXI 627—his improved

OER—OKE

- electrical multiplier, 642—his compound circuits, 651
 Oersted (Andreas), VII 750
 Oerstedtite, mineral, XV 91.
 OESSER, island, XVI 488, IV 404—geology of, XIX 517
 Oesophagotomy, XXI 565.
 Oesophagus. See Esophagus
 Oesterline (Mademoiselle), Mesmer's treatment of her case, XX 416.
 Estracidae, family of insects, IX 245
 Estrus, genus of insects, IX 245—of the reindeer, XIII 238.
 Estrymnades, XVIII 161, n. 2.
 Eta, mountain in Greece, XI 12.
 ETINGER (F. Christoph), XVI 488
 Oeyras, town in Brazil, climate of, V 293.
 ORANTO, river in Italy, XVI 488; XII 638; XX 238.
 Ofen, or Buda, V 723.
 OFFENBACH, town in Hesse Darmstadt, XVI 488.
 OFFENBURG, town in Baden, XVI 489
 OFFICIAL, XVI 489
 Offsets, in canals, XVI 57.
 Ofhor, his edition of Tyndale's New Testament, XXI 400.
 Offsets of plants, V 79
 Offspring, care of, XIV 441
 Ofverborn on temperature, XIV 674.
 Ogané, African chief, IV 653.
 OGDENSBURG, town in New York, XVI 489.
 OGECHIE, or Ogeechu, river, XVI 489; X 565
 Ogee, in architecture, III 511
 Ogg (Mr), on the use of salt in preventing dry rot, VIII 211.
 OGILVY (John), XVI 489.
 Oggyes, IV 192; VII 710.
 O'Higgins (General), VI 553.
 OHIO, American state, XVI 489; XXI 419—debt of, 428—wines, 388.
 — river, XVI 491, 489, XVII 395, 604, 647.
 OHLAU, or Olan, town in Prussia, XVI 492.
 Ohm (Georg Simon), I 982—his laws of electrical conduction, 1b, 983; XXI 623—deductions from, I 984
 OHMDRUF, in Saxe-Coburg Gotha, XVI 492.
 OIOR (Loch), XVI 492; XII 493; XIX 807.
 Oldemna, genus of birds, XVI 816
 Oldum Tuckeri, vine disease, X 246, n 247; XXI 885, 887.
 Oikel, river, XX 841; XIX 425.
 OILS, XVI 492; XVII 409—plants yielding, II 335; IX 761—their use in angling, III 156, n—in lamps, XIII 169—in lighthouses, 480—in decreasing friction, XIV 405—in preserving timber, VIII 212—for clocks, VII 38—in plants, V 73—made in Brazil from turtles' eggs, 209—alimentary qualities of, VIII 20—surface of the water calmed by, 57—imports of, into the United Kingdom, 734, 735—filtering of, IX 582—specific gravity of various kinds of, XII 89—capillary attraction of, 92—in articles of food, XIX 611—French, X 255—olive-oil, V 199, XI 16, 32; XII 445, 451; XVI 494—of jasmine, V 199—cayenne oil, VI 63—cod-liver oil, XVI 328, 493—pilchard oil, VII 408—castor-oil, (see that entry)—of the cahoun tree, XI 610—volatile oils, VI 517, 518—fixed oils, 517—winter green oil, XVII 408—of pimento, 710—rosin-oil, XIX 87—as a preservative against vermin in domestic animals, XXI 579.
 Oil-gas, X 427—compared with coal-gas, 429—its deterioration by keeping, 432.
 Oil-painting, XVII 60, 63.
 Oil-thermometers, IV 457; XXI 221.
 Oil-varnish, XXI 526.
 Onomania, XIV 533.
 OISE, XV 497.
 Oka, Russian river, XVI 498.
 OKAMANDER, in British India, XVI 498.
 O'KEEFE (John), dramatist, XVI 498.
 OKEN (Lorenz), naturalist, XVI 498.

OKE—OLM

- Okenite, mineral, XV 78
 O'Keys, impostors as magnetic somnambulists, XX 427, 432
 OKHOTSK, in Russia, XVI 503, XIX 548
 — SEA OF, XVI 503.
 Olacaceae, nat order of plants, V 185.
 Olaf (St), XVI 317.
 OLAND, island, XVI 503.
 Olafeta (General), IV 813.
 Olan. See Ohlan
 Olave's invasion of England, VIII 661.
 Olax, order of plants, V 185.
 Olber's (Dr), his discovery of comets, I 835; of Pallas and Vesta, 1b; III 808; IV 68, 69—on the orbits of comets, VII 169.
 Olcott (H. S.), on the Chinese and African sugar-canes, XX 798
 Old age, XIV 425.
 Oldacre (Isaac), his method of raising mushrooms, XI 736.
 OLDCASTLE (Sir John), Lord Cobham, XVI 503, XVII 688 See Cobham (Lord).
 — town in Ireland, XVI 504.
 OLDENBURG (Grand Duchy of), XVI 504
 — postal system of, XVIII 424—weights and measures, XXI 812
 — (city), XVI 505
 — (HENRY), XVI 505; IX 672, 673
 Oldfield (Mrs), actress, XXI 172, 175.
 OLDHAM, in Lancashire, XVI 505
 — (JOHN), poet, XVI 506.
 Oldhamia, fossils, XVII 96, 98.
 Oldham's coupling of parallel axes, XIV 397.
 OLDYS (William), bibliographer, XVI 507.
 Oleaceae, nat order of plants, V 199
 Oleaginous principles from plants, IX 756; animals, 757.
 — cements, XX 715.
 OLEARIUS (Adam), traveller, XVI 507—on the use of tea in Persia, XXI 88.
 Oleaster order of plants, V 205.
 — XVII 764.
 Olefant gas, specific gravity of, XII 89
 Oleg, XIX 469
 Oleic acid, II 381.
 OLERON, island, XVI 507; VI 422
 Olfactory nerves, XVII 675.
 Olga, XIX 470.
 Olibanum, V 190.
 Oligoclase, mineral, XV 71.
 Oligon spar, XV 100.
 Olin (Dr), his account of modern Jerusalem, XII 745—on Judea, XVII 184.
 Olma on ornithology, XVI 725.
 OLINDA, city of Brazil, XVI 507; XVII 415
 Olstes, genus of fishes, XII 297.
 OLIVA (Fernan Perez de), XVI 507.
 — town of Spain, XVI 507.
 — genus of mollusks, XV 886—fossil, XVII 110.
 OLIVAREZ (G. G., Conde Duque de), XVI 507; XX 470.
 Olivary bodies of the brain, III 55.
 Olive order of plants, V 199.
 — (the), V 199—in Palestine, XVII 190—in Italy, XX 248
 — oil, XVI 494; XI 16, 32, XII 445, 451, 640; IX 761; XX 248—specific gravity of, XII 89.
 Olive-colour, in dyeing, VIII 312, 313, 320.
 Olivente, mineral, XV 103
 OLIVENZA, town in Spain, XVI 508.
 OLIVER (Isaac), miniature-painter, XVI 508.
 — (de Dian), X 28.
 — (PETER), XVI 508.
 OLIVES (Mount of), XVI 506; XII 736, 745
 OLIVET (Joseph Thoullet d'), XVI 508.
 Olivetan (Robert), his French Bible, IV 701.
 Olvia, treaty of, XX 352.
 OLIVIER (G. Antoine), entomologist, XVI 508—his entomological works, IX 8—on ants, III 261
 Olivine, mineral, XV 89—crystals of, in basalt, 133, 190.
 Olmsted (Prof.), on the geology of North Carolina, VI 246.

OLM—ONO

- OLMUTZ, in Moravia, XVI 509—university of, XXI 492
 OLNEY, in Bucks, XVI 509.
 — Hymns, XII 139.
 OLONETZ, in Russia, XVI 509; XIX 521.
 Olonids (L), a buccaner, V 710.
 Olophernes, VI 222.
 OLORON, town in France, XVI 509.
 OLROT, town in Spain, XVI 510.
 OLSENITZA, XVI 510, VII 674.
 Olympeum, in Athens, IV 163.
 OLYMPIA, in Greece, XVI 510.
 OLYMPIAD, XVI 510, VI 665
 OLYMPIAS, mother of Alexander the Great, XVI 510
 OLYMPIC GAMES, XVI 511, 510, 364; VI 665; X 398—their influence on Greek art, XVII 50—judges at, XI 289.
 — year, VI 665.
 OLYMPIODORUS, XVI 511
 OLYMPUS, mountain, XVI 511; XI 10, 11—height of, XVII 642
 OLYNTHIUS, XVI 512—Olynthians, XIII 763—their submission to the Macedonians, 761
 OMAGH, town in Ireland, XVI 512, XXI 408
 Omalisus, genus of insects, IX 107.
 Omallum, genus of insects, IX 104.
 OMAH, in Arabia, XVI 512; III 359.
 OMAR I (A. H. Ibn-al-Khattab), XVI 512; III 382—mosque of, at Jerusalem, XII 744—capture of Jerusalem by, 734—his conduct regarding the burning of the Alexandrian library, II 471; XIII 381; VIII 475.
 — II, XVI 513.
 — (Fasha), XIX 500; XXI 375.
 Ombos, ruins of, VIII 514
 OMEN, XVI 513.
 OMER (St), town in France, XVI 513—population, X 277.
 — Jewish measure, VII 421.
 OMERCOTE, town in India, XVI 513.
 OMETREPE, island, XVI 513.
 Omets, genus of insects, IX 123.
 Omichund, V 475.
 Ommastrephes, genus of mollusks, XV 399
 Omniades, dynasty of the, III 303.
 Omnibus, carriage, VII 42—omnibuses in London, XIII 679—New York, XVI 225.
 Omnipotence of God, XXI 191.
 Omnipresence of God, XXI 190.
 Omniscience of God, XXI 191.
 OMNITUM, XVI 514
 Omoa, port of, in Honduras, XI 612.
 Omophron, genus of insects, IX 98
 Omphalodes, dyeing lichen, VIII 289.
 OMSK, town in Russia, XVI 514.
 OMUKU, town in Guinea, XVI 514
 On, city, XVI 514. See Heliopolis.
 Onagraceae, nat. order of plants, V 192.
 ONATAS, Greek sculptor, XVI 514; XIX 854.
 Onchuna, genus of entozoa, XXI 982.
 Onchus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 339; XVII 116.
 Oncididae, family of mollusks, XV 374.
 Oncidium, genus of mollusks, XV 374
 Oncidioria, genus of mollusks, XV 374.
 Onoceras, fossil mollusks, XVI 112.
 ONDA, town in Spain, XVI 514
 O'Neale, or O'Neill (Sir Phelim), his rebellions in Ireland, V 399; XII 476, 478, 481, 185.
 ONEGA, Russian lake, XVI 514; XIX 516.
 — GULF OF, XVI 514—cape, XIX 516
 ONEGIA, in Sardinia, XVI 514.
 ONGOL, town in India, XVI 514.
 Onion, culture of, XI 741—potato onion, 1b—pearl, 1b.
 Oniscides, crustacea, VII 543.
 Oniticellus, genus of insects, IX 119.
 Onitis, genus of insects, IX 120.
 ONKELOS, Jewish rabbi, XVI 514—Targum of, IV 637; XIX 889; XXI 23.
 Onkosin, mineral, XV 84.
 Onnos, Egyptian king, VIII 455.
 Onofrite, mineral, XV 117.

ONO—OPI

ONOMATOPEIA, XVI. 514.
 Onondaga group of rocks, XV. 199.
 — salt springs, XVI. 215.
 ONOSANDER, philosopher, XVI. 514.
 ONTARIO, lake, XVI. 515; VI. 184. XVII. 605—harbours on, XVI. 214.
 ONTÉNIENTE, town of Spain, XVI. 515.
 Onthophagus, genus of insects, IX. 119.
 Ontological proof of the existence of God, XXI. 186.
 ONTOLOGY, XVI. 515, XIV. 803, 555, 610.
 Onychoteuthis, genus of mollusks, XV. 399—fossil, XVII. 117.
 ONYX, XVI. 515; VI. 67, II. 231; XV. 69.
 OOCHELYA, in India, XVI. 515.
 OODERPOOR CHOTA, in India, XVI. 515.
 OODERPOOR, in India, XVI. 515.
 OOEZEN, city in India, XVI. 515.
 Oolite, XV. 92, 146—period of the, 206—rocks, 206, 207—flora of, V. 236; XVII. 641—borings of, V. 44—corals, XVII. 97—bryozoa of, 98—fishes, XII. 350; XVII. 126, 127, 640—in Scotland, XIX. 793—as building-stones, XX. 712—in Sutherland, 841.
 Oom-er-Begh, river, XV. 594.
 OOMRAWUTTEE, town in India, XVI. 515.
 Oondee oil, XVI. 496.
 Oophordium, in botany, V. 144.
 Ooral. See Ural.
 OORCHA, town in India, XVI. 516; V. 763, 764.
 Oorians, XI. 466.
 OORT (Adam Van), painter, XVI. 516.
 OOSTERHOUT, town in Holland, XVI. 516.
 OOTAKAMUND, town in India, XVI. 516.
 Ootadiocog, in Hindustan, XI. 489.
 Ootrophic organs, III. 70.
 Opacity, XIII. 451; XVI. 551—in minerals, XV. 58.
 Opal, XV. 69—specific gravity of, XII. 88—mines of, in Honduras, XI. 613.
 Opalescence, XV. 58.
 Opasrum, genus of insects, IX. 130.
 Opdam (Admiral), V. 422; XI. 576.
 Opeleus, in Louisiana, XIII. 699.
 OPERA, XVI. 516—French, II. 68—Italian, VIII. 147—English, 165.
 Opera-house, London, XIII. 675; XXI. 174.
 Operations in surgery, XX. 820.
 Operculata, section of mollusks, XV. 375.
 Operculum, in botany, V. 145—in mollusks, XV. 366 *et passim*.
 Opetorhynchus, genus of birds, XVI. 769.
 Ophelia, genus of annelids, XI. 299.
 Ophellas, his alliance with Agathocles, VI. 265.
 Ophcephalus, genus of fishes, XII. 289, 290.
 OPHELIDE, XVI. 516; XV. 711.
 Ophidia, XVII. 634, XIX. 39—fossil, XVII. 153—dental system of, XVI. 431—geological distribution of, XVII. 154, 634—number known, XIX. 51, a.
 Ophidiidae, family of fishes, XII. 268.
 Ophidium, genus of fishes, XII. 268.
 Ophioglossaceæ, sub-order of ferns, V. 216.
 OPHTHOLOGY, XVI. 516. See Reptilia.
 Ophion, genus of insects, IX. 191.
 Ophiops, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 335.
 Ophiostoma, genus of entozoa, XXI. 980.
 OPIA, XVI. 516; VII. 185; X. 460; XV. 530; XXI. 27.
 Ophissurus, genus of reptiles, XIX. 41.
 Ophisternon, genus of fishes, XII. 231.
 Ophistridæ, family of fishes, XII. 232.
 Ophissurus, genus of fishes, XII. 232.
 Ophites, gnostics, X. 683.
 Ophura, XXI. 992, 993, 995.
 Ophiuridae, star-fishes, XXI. 984, 992, 995—fossil, XVII. 99.
 Ophurus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 347.
 Ophryssa, genus of reptiles, XIX. 34.
 Ophthalmia, in Egypt, VIII. 422, 423—in New South Wales, IV. 279—successful mode of treatment, VIII. 423, a. 9—in the domestic animals, XXI. 577.
 OPTE (John), painter, XVI. 517—his pictures, III. 716; XVII. 80.
 — (AMELIA), XVI. 517.

OPI—ORA

Opinion, the Economists on, VIII. 377, 378—its influence on laws, XIII. 259—Plato on, XVII. 797, 798.
 OPIS, fossil mollusks, XVII. 108.
 Opisthocœlia, fossil reptiles, XVII. 152.
 Opisthocormus, genus of birds, XVI. 786.
 Opisthodomus, in architecture, III. 511.
 Opisthognathus, genus of fishes, XII. 310.
 ORTZ (Martin), German poet, XVI. 517—poetry of, XVIII. 118.
 OPTUM, XVI. 517—an alimentary substance in the East, III. 179—of Hindustan, XI. 453, 528—specific gravity of, XII. 89—poisonous quality of, XIV. 436—XVIII. 127, 128, 130—trade, in China, VI. 591, 596—its effect on the brain, XVII. 702.
 — poppy, V. 182.
 Ophichthys, genus of fishes, XII. 282.
 Opobalsamum, IV. 401.
 Opomyia, genus of insects, IX. 256.
 OPOPONAX, V. 195.
 OPORTO, XVI. 518—revolution at, in 1820, XVIII. 388—newspapers, XVI. 203—porcelain factory near, XVIII. 438—wine trade of, XXI. 885.
 Opossum, XIV. 174; XVII. 631—dentation of, XVI. 448.
 OPPELN, in Prussia, XVI. 520; XX. 275.
 Oppert (Jules), on the inscribed tablets of Assyria, XIII. 382.
 OPIAN, Greek poet, XVI. 520—on hunting, XII. 32—his works, XIV. 124.
 OPIRIDO, town of Naples, XVI. 520.
 Oppidolo, XVII. 229.
 Optative mood, X. 769.
 Optic nerves, III. 45; XIII. 460, XVII. 675, 678.
 Optical instruments, XVI. 696—improvement in, III. 808. See Camera, Lens, Micrometer, Telescope, &c.
 — properties of minerals, XV. 56.
 — paradox, I. 897.
 OPTICS, XVI. 521—history of, ib., I. 619—631, 661—670, 746—755, 800, 801, 893—925—contributions of Euclid, 619, 896; Ptolemy, 620, Alhazen, 622, 623; Aristotle and Epicurus, 621; Roger Bacon, 628; Maurolycus, 624; Baptista Porta, ib.; Kepler, 625; Antonio de Dominis, ib.; Snellius, 627; Descartes and Fermat, 628, 629; James Gregory, 629; Dr Barrow, 630; Grimaldi, ib.; Huygens, ib., 631, 895; Newton, 661; Descartes, Hadley, Mayer, Dolland, &c., 747—749; Dr Robert Blair, 751; Fraunhofer, 752, 915, Sir W. Herschel, 752; Malus, 755, 901, 902; Thomas Young, 893, 896; Hooke, 895; Fresnel, 899, 903; Arago, 907; Biot, 909, 916; Foucault, 910; Sir David Brewster, 911; Seebeck, 916; Sir J. Herschel, 917; Airy, ib.; Sir W. R. Hamilton, 918; Dr Lloyd, ib.; Macculagh, 919; Cauchy, 918, 920; Jamin, ib.; Rudberg, Powell, &c., 920, 921; Ritter, 921; Wollaston, Mrs. Somerville, Niepe, Daguerre, Talbot, 922, 923, Stokes, Wheatstone, 924, 925 (see all these articles)—principles of the science applied to the improvement of light-houses, 753—first notions of photometry given by Marie, ib.—successive propagation of light, IV. 74—corona or halo, VII. 410—optical phenomena of the atmosphere, XIV. 679—optical properties of minerals, XV. 56—changes induced by magnetism, I. 981. See Astronomy, IV. 51, Aberration, Achromatic Telescopes, Burning-glasses, Camera, Chromatics, Colours, Kaleidoscope, Light, Polarization of Light, Meteorology, Micrometer, Microscope, Photography, Photometer, Refraction, Reflection, Spectrum, Stereoscope, Telescope.
 Optigraph, VI. 119.
 OPIRISM, XVI. 698—Leibnitz's scheme of, I. 126.
 Opyornis, extinct bird, size of its egg, XVII. 637.
 OR, in heraldry, XVI. 698; XI. 324.
 ORA, Saxon coin, XVI. 698; VII. 71.
 — Tube. See Utrape.
 Oracanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII. 117.

ORA—ORD

Orache, garden plant, XI. 741.
 ORACLE, XVI. 698, VII. 617—of Didona, VIII. 88—Delphi, VII. 709—Fontenelle's History of, IX. 754.
 ORAN, in Algeria, XVI. 699, II. 571, 574, 575.
 Orange-ouang, XIV. 137, 138; XVII. 631—its skull, III. 77—dentition, XVI. 456.
 ORANGE, town in France, XVI. 699.
 — fruit, XVI. 700—sweet and bitter, V. 155, 186—oil receptacles in the rind of, 78—imports of, VIII. 735—order of plants, V. 185—peel, oil of, XVI. 496; of the flowers, ib.—of the leaves, ib.
 — RIVER, XVI. 699, II. 214; X. 711.
 — SOVEREIGNTY, XVI. 700—tree, culture of, XI. 729—specific gravity of, XII. 89—perfumes from, XVII. 408.
 Orange-colour, dyeing of, VIII. 298, 312, 318.
 Orangemen, Irish party, XII. 497.
 Oration, funeral, X. 845.
 ORATORIO, in music, XVI. 700.
 Orators, among the Druids, VIII. 189—parliamentary, of the present day, XVII. 300.
 ORATORY, XVI. 700. See Rhetoric.
 ORAVICZA, town in Hungary, XVI. 700.
 ORB, town in Bavaria, XVI. 700.
 Orbels, mountain, XI. 10, 11.
 Orbiculate, family of crustacea, VII. 541.
 Orbigny (M. d'), his classification of South American tribes, IX. 849—on fossil sponges, XVII. 92; shells, 93; corals, 97, bryozoa, ib., crinoidea, 98—zoophytes, XXI. 1007.
 Orbitoides, fossil shells, XVII. 93, 94.
 Orbits of the skull, in man, III. 30—in the mammalia, 79.
 — of comets, the sun, planets, and satellites. See these articles respectively.
 ORAENA (Andrea), artist, XVI. 700; XVII. 62, XIX. 860.
 — (Bernardo), XVII. 62.
 Oranthus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 389.
 Orchan, XXI. 368.
 ORCHARD, XVI. 700; XI. 697—orchards in Bengal, IV. 649; in Herefordshire, XI. 349, Lanarkshire, XIII. 174.
 Orchesia, genus of insects, IX. 132.
 Orchestes, genus of insects, IX. 140.
 ORCHESTRA, XVI. 700; XV. 741—in Greek theatres, VIII. 135.
 ORCHESTRINO, XVI. 700.
 ORCHESTRION, XVI. 700.
 Orchidaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 211.
 ORCHILLA WOOD, XVI. 700; V. 217.
 Orchis, plant, V. 211.
 ORCHOMENUS, city of Arcadia, XVI. 701.
 — city of Boeotia, XVI. 701.
 Orco, falls of the, XVII. 604.
 Oryzrus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 345.
 ORZEL, XVI. 701—trial by, XIII. 22; in Madagascar, 793; in Burmah, V. 780.
 Order, in architecture, III. 511—ordais described, 441, 442, 451, 463—Greek, 463—Roman, 469—Modern Italian, 477.
 — of plants, characters and arrangement of, V. 180—their distribution over the globe, 222.
 — phrenological faculty, XVII. 563.
 ORDERICUS (Vitalis), XVI. 702.
 ORDERS, in the church, XVI. 702.
 — religious, in the Romish Church, XVI. 702. See Monachism, Mendicants, &c. &c.
 — holy, XVI. 702, 703, 704. See Ordination.
 — in natural history, V. 176—in mineralogy, XV. 68—sub-orders, V. 175.
 — of knighthood, XIII. 122, 123. See Knights and Knighthood.
 Ordinance, in architecture, III. 511.
 Ordinances, religious, errors regarding, I. 535, 536.
 Ordinaries, in heraldry, XI. 327.
 Ordinates, X. 642—to describe an ellipsis by, XX. 726.
 ORDINATION, XVI. 702—form of, in apostolical times, not fully recorded, I. 494;

ORD—ORI

reasons of this, ib.—views of the Independents on, XII. 371—Presbyterian, XVIII. 482—it may have happened, in the church, that some one who never underwent ordination, may have ordained others, I. 503—no one can trace his ordination up to the time of the Apostles, ib.
 ORDINANCE, XVI. 704—tables of, XI. 133—early use of, 150, XVI. 93. See Artillery, Cannon, Gun, Navy.
 — department of the British army, III. 664—map office at Southampton, XX. 452—survey, see Trigonometrical Survey.
 Oreades, mountain-nymphs, XVI. 396.
 OREBRO, town in Sweden, XVI. 705.
 OREGON, territory of the United States, XVI. 705; XVII. 594.
 Oreinus, genus of fishes, XIII. 257.
 OREL, in Russia, XVI. 706, 707; XIX. 521.
 ORELLANO (Francisco), XVI. 706.
 ORENBURG, in Russia, XVI. 707, 708, XIX. 521.
 ORENSE, XVI. 708—province, X. 372, 373.
 ORES, in mineralogy, XVI. 704—of iron, XII. 539—saline ores, VII. 99—sparry iron, ib.—oxidized ores, 107—tin ore, 109—manganese, 111—red copper, 112—grey antimony ore, 118—grey copper, 120. See Mines and Mining, Smelting.
 ORESTES, XVI. 708.
 Orestias, genus of fishes, XII. 252.
 Orestus, city of Eubœa, XI. 836.
 ORETAH, town in Turkey, XVI. 708.
 ORFILA (M.-J.-Bonaventure), XVI. 708—his work on poisons, XIV. 424—on poisons, 434, 436.
 ORFORD, town in Suffolk, XVI. 709.
 Orgagna (Andrea), XVI. 700.
 ORGAN, musical instrument, XVI. 709; XV. 740—at Haarlem, XI. 173—a novel one suggested, II. 108—at Birmingham, IV. 731.
 — mountains, XIX. 174.
 Organic and inorganic bodies, VI. 502, II. 747, XVII. 648.
 — chemistry. See Chemistry, Organic.
 — rocks, XV. 130, 142.
 — remains, in volcanic rocks, XXI. 607. See Palæontology.
 Organisation, molecular theory of, XVII. 649—cell theory, 651.
 — of literature and art, XIX. 107.
 Organism, definition of the term, XVII. 91.
 ORGANO-LYRICON, musical instrument, XVI. 713.
 Organs of the human body, II. 777—classification of, III. 2.
 Organzine silk, XX. 281.
 ORGIA, XVI. 711.
 Orygia, genus of insects, IX. 214.
 ORIA, town in Spain, XVI. 714.
 — town in Naples, XVI. 714.
 ORIBASIVS, Greek physician, XVI. 714; II. 751; XIV. 455—his knowledge of surgery, XX. 813.
 Oribatæ, genus of arachnides, III. 283.
 Orient (L'), town in France. See Lorient.
 Oriental, crystallisation of, VII. 563.
 — historians, XI. 548—coins, XVI. 390—versions of the Scriptures, XIX. 538.
 Orifice, in hydraulics, XII. 111—theory of fluids issuing from, 103; experiments on, 111.
 Oriflamme, standard, IV. 242.
 ORIGIN, XVI. 714—friendship between him and Ambrose, II. 662—on apparitions, III. 311—on the millennium, XV. 14—his Hexapla, XI. 384; XVIII. 266; XIX. 840—Lucret's edition of his works, XI. 793.
 Origenistæ, sect, XVI. 715.
 ORIZUELA, town in Spain, XVI. 716.
 ORINOCO, river, XVI. 716; XVII. 604, 647—basin of, II. 668—Ilanos of, XVII. 609.
 Orisle, golden, XVI. 754—Baltimore, 763—red-shouldered, 702.

ORI—ORP

Orion, genus of birds, XVI 754
 ORION, XVI 717—nebula of, I. 842, 843.
 —constellation, IV. 80.
 ORISSA, XVI 717
 ORISTANO, town in Sardinia, XVI 717.
 ORIZABA or ORIZAVA, town in Mexico, XVI 717, XIV. 725
 —or Orizava, volcano, XIV. 714; XVI 717
 ORKNEY ISLANDS, XVI 717—fisheries, IX. 840, 642—barrows in, IV. 473—duns in, VIII 244—vitrified cairns in, IX 792—agricultural statistics, XIX. 796, 797, 798—population, 799.
 Orlando, Cape, XX. 244.
 Orie, in heraldry, XI 330.
 Orleanais, French province, X. 277.
 ORLEANS, city in France, XVI 722; XIII 686—centre employed in building the bridge of, VI 378, the finest piece of carpentry in the world, XX. 772—university of, XXI 448
 —(Duke of), his aerial voyage, II. 177—death of, in 1842, X. 217.
 —HOUSE OF, XVI 722 See France
 —island in the St Lawrence, XVI 722
 —(Maid of), See Joan of Arc.
 —NEW, XVI 722, 176
 ORLEY (Bernard Van), painter, XVI 722.
 ORLOFF, or Orlov (Gregory), XVI 723.
 —(ALEXIS), XVI 723.
 —in Russia. See Orel.
 ORLOF deck, XVI 723.
 ORME (Robert), historian, XVI. 723—on India, XL 474, 475.
 ORMEA, in the Sardinian States, XVI. 723
 ORME'S HEAD (Great), XVI. 723.
 ORMOUD (Duke of), XVI 723, VI. 28.
 ORMSKIRK, in Lancaster, XVI 723.
 ORMUZ, or Ormus, island, XVI 724; XI. 460—composed of rock salt, XVII 623.
 ORNE, in France, XVI 724
 —river, XVI 724.
 Orneodes, genus of insects, IX 219.
 Orniomyia, genus of birds, XVI. 769.
 Ornithomites, XVII. 154.
 Ornithobla, genus of insects, IX 259
 ORNITHOLOG, XVI 725—blood-globules of birds, II. 779—bones, III 74, 83—muscles, 92—mechanism of pecking, ib—organs of smell, 94—eyes, 95, 97—ears, 99—tongue, 100—vocal organs, 102—nervous system, 103, 104—stomach, crop, and gizzard, 109—intestines, 110—organs of circulation, 112—lungs, 11—brain, 104—pairing, 181—hybrids, XII. 63—hibernation, 62—order of the appearance of birds on the earth, XVII 92—birds of Palestine, 192—development of the skulls of, 565—distribution of, 633—respiration, XVIII 75—Latham's works on, XIII. 247; Edwards' VIII 413—birds of the Polar Regions, XVIII 179—of America, II. 713—Arabia, III 347—Asia, 741—Audubon's works on, IV. 238—Wilson's American ornithology, XXI 873. See Bird, Fowling, Eagle, Hawk, Shooting, &c., and the geographical articles.
 Ornithomyia, genus of insects, IX. 259.
 Ornithorhynchus, XIV 193; III. 75; IV. 260; XVII. 631—teeth and jaws of, XVI 418, 488, 440—in Tasmania, XXI 31
 Orobanchaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 202.
 Onosio (Baltasar), XVII. 1.
 Orobida, genus of insects, IX. 140.
 ORODES, XVII 311.
 ORODUS, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 340; XVII 118.
 Orogastrius, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 335; XVII 125.
 Oronsay, lighthouse on, XIII 479.
 OROSTES, river, XVII 1; XX. 308.
 Orontideae, nat. order of plants, V. 214.
 Oros, Egyptian king, VIII. 461.
 OROSHAZA, town in Hungary, XVII. 1.
 OROSTES (Paulus), XIII. 1.
 OROSTATA, in Tenerife, XVII. 2; VI. 168.
 Orphan Hospital, Edinburgh, VIII. 402

ORP—OSM

Orphan schools for seaman's children, XVI 119
 ORPHEUS, XVII 2—hymns of, XII 118
 Orpiment, XV 122, VI 495—red, XV. 122
 ORRERY (Earl of), XVII. 2. See Boyle (Charles).
 —XVII 2, 753—is a mere plaything, IV 149—electrical, VIII 554.
 Orris root, V. 212
 Orselle, lichen. See Archil.
 Orsodacna, genus of insects, IX. 147
 Onsova (Old and New), towns on the Danube, XVII 2
 Ortalis, genus of insects, IX. 251.
 ORTELUS (Abraham), XVII. 2
 Orthacanthus, fossil fishes, XVII 117.
 Orthogomscum, sub-family of fishes, XII 314.
 Orthogoriscus, genus of fishes, XII 313, 314
 ORTIZ, town in France, XVII 3—battle of, V. 614.
 Orthidae, family of mollusks, XV 338—fossil, XVII 104.
 Orthus, genus of fossil mollusks, XV. 338, XVII 104
 Orthite, mineral, XV 90
 Orthoceratites, fossil shells, XV. 304; XVII 112
 Orthoceras, fossil mollusks, XVII 112
 Orthocerus, genus of insects, IX. 130.
 Orthochætes, genus of insects, IX. 140.
 Orthochile, genus of insects, IX. 244.
 Orthoclase, mineral, XV 70.
 Orthodox, in theology, I. 531.
 ORTHOGRAPHIC PROJECTION OF THE SPHERE, XVII 3
 ORTHOGRAPHY, XVII 3, II 611; X. 744—on architecture, III 511.
 Orthonyx, genus of birds, XVI. 753.
 Orthoptera, order of insects, IX. 25, 153
 Orthostyle, in architecture, III. 511.
 Ortila, genus of birds, XVI 785.
 Ortiz de Retz (Imigo), exploratory voyage of, IV. 262
 Ortolan, bird, XVI 760.
 ORTONA, town of Naples, XVII. 3
 Ortygis, genus of birds, XVI 792.
 Ortyx, genus of birds, XVI 791.
 Oruro, in Bolivia, XVII. 3; IV. 821—silver mines of, IV. 825—climate, 826—population, 828.
 ORVIERO, town in the Papal States, XVII 3—delegation of, 243.
 Orville (M. de), on Mount Aetna, II. 190
 Orycteropus, genus of mammals, XIV. 191—teeth of, III 105; XVI 413, 414, 440.
 Oryctes, genus of insects, IX. 122
 Orygma, genus of insects, IX. 254.
 Oryssus, genus of insects, IX. 134
 Oryx, genus of mammals, XIV 210
 OSAKA, or Osacca, city in Japan, XVII. 3
 Osbaldeston (George), XI. 676.
 Osborne House, VII. 470; XXI. 862.
 —eocene rocks, XV. 212, 213.
 Oscan alphabet, II. Plate.
 OSCHATZ, town in Saxony, XVII. 3.
 OSCHOPHORIA, festival, XVII. 3.
 Oscillation of fluids, XII. 164—of pendulum, XVII. 376—time of performing an, XX. 167. See Pendulum.
 —(centre of), XIX. 436—James Bernoulli's mode of treating the problem respecting, I. 719.
 OSERO, island, XVII. 4
 O'Shaughnessy (Dr), on hemp, XI. 312.
 Osiers, their use in basket-making, IV. 487—cultivation of, 488. See Willow.
 OSIMO, town in the Papal States, XVII. 4
 OSIRIS, XVII. 4; III. 620; VII. 711; VIII. 438, XI. 883—mysteries of, XV. 752—exploits of, ib.
 Osler (Mr), on the boring of shell-fish, XV. 358.
 Osman, founder of the Turkish empire, XXI. 368, VII. 319—other sultans of that name, XXI. 369.
 Osmanli, IX. 344, 368. See Turks.
 Osmazone, IX. 787; VIII. 19.
 Osmoroides, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 347.

OSM—OTH

Osmerus, genus of fishes, XII. 245—fossil, 347.
 Osmia, genus of insects, IX. 200.
 Osmic acid, VI. 499
 Osmiidium, XV 113
 Osmium, VI. 499—discovery of, XXI 154.
 Osmium-iridium, XV. 113
 Osmont (J. B. L.), notice of his Typographical Dictionary, IV. 714
 Osmundaceae, sub-order of ferns, V. 216
 OSNABURG, in Hanover, XVII. 4; XI. 211.
 Osnauburg, kind of linen, IX. 784.
 OSORIO (Geronymo), XVII. 4
 Osorkon, Egyptian king, VIII. 463.
 Osphronotus, genus of fishes, XII. 289, 290.
 Osprey, bird, XVI. 743
 OSSA, mountain in Thessaly, XVII. 4, 372, XI. 12.
 Ossates, IX. 390—their language, ib., XIII 216, XVII. 530.
 OSSIAN, XVII. 4—Dr Blair's Dissertation on, IV. 750—Cesarioth's Italian version of, VI. 389—Malcolm Laing's Dissertation on, XIII 158—Adelung's opinion of, 212, Dr Johnson's, XII. 801.
 Ossification, II. 829—of the human skull, III. 28 See Bones.
 OSSOLI (S. Margaret Fuller), XVII. 7
 Ossory, see of, XIII 84.
 OSTADE (Adrian Van), XVII. 8, 75.
 —(ISAAC VAN), XVII. 8
 OSTASHKOV, in Russia, XVII. 8.
 Ostell (Mr), his photographic process, XVII 548.
 OSTEND, XVII. 8—siege of, XI. 672.
 Osteogenciosus, genus of fishes, XII. 262.
 Osteoglossum, genus of fishes, XII. 249.
 OSTROLOF, XVII. 9—human, III. 4—of the lower animals, 74; XXI. 557—of fishes, XII. 207 See Bones
 Osteolepis, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 394; XVII 125
 Osteopanax, genus of fossil fishes, XVII 125.
 OSTROPE, in Hanover, XVII. 9.
 OSTREVALD (Jean Fidélité), Protestant divine, XVII. 9.
 OSTIA, Italian city, XVII. 9.
 Ostian road, XIX. 238.
 Ostracian, genus of fishes, XII. 313—fossil, 338.
 Ostracionidae, family of fishes, XII. 313; XVII 122.
 OSTRACISM, XVII. 9; IV. 199, n. 2, 399; XVIII 565.
 Ostracoda, fossils, XVII. 101.
 Ostrea, genus of mollusks, XV. 346—fossil, XVII 105.
 Ostreidae, family of mollusks, XV. 348—fossil, XVII 105.
 Ostreich, XVI 796; XVII. 634—African, II. 217; XVII. 270—in Arabia, III. 347—American, XVI. 796—tame ostriches, IX. 698—erroneous accounts of, by ancient authors, III. 361—respiration of, XVII. 75.
 OSTROG, in Russia, XVII. 10.
 OSTROGOMSK, in Russia, XVII. 10.
 Ostrogoths, X. 727, 728.
 OSTROWO, town in Prussia, XVII. 10.
 OSTUNI, town of Naples, XVII. 11.
 OSUNA, town of Spain, XVII. 11.
 OSWEGO, town in United States, XVII. 11.
 Oswell (Mr), African traveller, II. 211.
 OSWESTRY, town in Shropshire, XVII. 11.
 Osymandias, his library, XIII. 381.
 Osymandias, circle of, I. 616.
 OTAGO, XVII. 11; XVI. 235—Free Church colony at, VII. 180.
 OTAHUTE, XVII. 11. See Tahiti.
 Otaria, genus of mammals, XIV. 172—dentition of, XVI. 463.
 Otchakoff, Charles XII. at, XX. 844.
 OTTMAN (Ibn Affan), caliph, XVI. 11.
 —or Osman, founder of the Ottoman empire, XVII. 11. See Osman.
 OTTO (M. Salvius), Roman emperor, XVII. 12; XIX. 338.
 —or Otto I., the Great, XVII. 12; XII. 644.
 —or Otto II., XVII. 12; XII. 644.
 —or Otto III., XVII. 12; XII. 644.

OTH—OVA

OTHO or OTTO IV., XVII. 12
 —or Otto, of Freysingen, chronicler, XVII. 12
 —king of Greece, XI. 30, 31
 Otlopha, genus of reptiles, XII. 81.
 Otiocerus, genus of insects, IX. 169.
 Otis, genus of birds, XVI. 797.
 OTLEY, in Yorkshire, XVII. 13
 Otodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 341.
 Otolithus, genus of fishes, XII. 285.
 Otomi language, XIII. 221.
 OTRANTO, XVII. 13, XII. 185, XX. 212, 255
 Otadini, Caledonian tribe, VI. 79, XIX. 742
 OTTAJANO, Neapolitan town, XVII. 13
 OTTAWA, capital of Canada, XVII. 13.
 —river, XVII. 13, VI. 142, 145; XV. 521
 Otter, XIV. 150—its teeth, XVI. 461—fur, X. 348—sea-otter, ib.
 —hound, XII. 41—hunting, 40.
 OTTLEY (William Young), XVII. 13—his history of engraving, XVIII. 522, 524 et seq.
 Otto, his obligations to Cunningham, VII. 586
 —(M.), on the decrease of the Baltic, IV. 403.
 —of roses, See Atan
 Otlocan, IV. 302, 310.
 Ottoman army, III. 656. See Turkey
 Otomans, IX. 389.
 Ottonaques, clay eaten by the, II. 693.
 Ottilite, mineral, XV. 78.
 Otumba, in Mexico, XIV. 723—battle of, 705.
 Otus, genus of birds, XVI. 716.
 OTWAY (Thomas), tragic poet, XVII. 13; XXI. 171, 173—diamondic works of, VIII. 161.
 —(Cæsar), on the linen trade of Ireland, XII. 520
 Ouani, reptile, XIX. 28.
 Oubliettes, XVIII. 566
 Oum, or Oudh, Indian province, XVII. 1; XI. 500 et seq.
 —Nabob of, XI. 500 et seq.
 Oudenarde, battle of, V. 461; IX. 369.
 Oudenodon, fossil reptiles, XVII. 142
 OUDINOT (General), occupation of Rome by, XII. 659
 —(Nicolas - Charles), marshal of France, XVII. 23; X. 139 et seq., 159.
 Oudney (Dr), African traveller, II. 210; VI. 752.
 Oughter (Lough), VI. 347
 Oughtetard, in Galway, X. 390.
 OUGHTRED (William), mathematician, XVII. 23—on algebra, II. 489.
 OUGHTWICK, town in Russia, XVII. 24.
 Ouhills, monkeys, XIV. 144.
 OUNDE, in Northampton, XVII. 24.
 Oural, or Oorai Mountains. See Ural Mountains.
 Ourax, genus of birds, XVI. 785.
 OURG, or Orga, town of Mongolia, XVII. 24
 Ourique, battle of, XVIII. 380.
 OURIO PARZO, town in Brazil, XVII. 24.
 OURS, GREAT, XVII. 24; V. 721; VI. 114; XII. 48; XVI. 280.
 —LITTLE, XVII. 24; XVI. 289.
 —river, in Sussex, XX. 839.
 —river, in Yorkshire, XVII. 24.
 Outerop of beds, in geology, XV. 168.
 OUTLAW, XVII. 24.
 Outham (General), XVI. 307, 308, 311, 315—his Persian campaign, XVII. 443.
 Outworks, in fortification, IX. 822.
 Ouverture (Toussaint d'), XI. 266.
 Ouzel, bird, XVI. 754.
 Ova, of fishes, number in the cod, XII. 268—hatching of salmon, IX. 590; XII. 138, 139—estimate of number deposited in the Tweed, 616—of the herring, 238—of Balaichian reptiles, XIX. 74—mollusks, XV. 331, 334—changes in, after fecundation, XVII. 684.
 OVAPO, in Sardinia, XVII. 24
 Ovalo, III. 468, 476, 511.
 OVAR, Portuguese town, XVII. 24
 Ovary, III. 70; XVII. 682.
 —of flowers, V. 118, 130.

OVA—OXA

- OVATION, XVII 24; XXI 354.
 OVERALL (John), bishop, XVII 25.
 OVERBURG (Sir Thomas), XVII 25, VII 96.
 Overfalls, flow of water over, XII 121, 126, 127.
 OVERFLAKKEE, island, XVII 26.
 Overreach, in horses, XXI 562.
 Overseers for the poor-laws, XVIII 297.
 Overshot water-wheels, XII 167.
 Overstone (Lord), on joint-stock banks, XV 448—his evidence on banking, 450 n 482, n 2, 470 n—on limited liability, XVII 316—on free trade, XXI 62.
 OVERTON, in Flint, XVII 26.
 OVERTURE, in music, XVII 26.
 Overweg (Dr), his discoveries in Africa, X 478, II 211—death, 479—his exploration of Lake Tchad, XXI 80.
 OVERTSSEL, in Holland, XVII 26, XI 587.
 OVIDIUS NASO (Publius), XVII 26—Burman's edition of, V 788—poetry of, XVIII 105—his description of chaos, VI 415.
 OVILO, Spanish province and city, XVII 28, 29; IV 166—university of, XXI 492.
 —Y VALDEZ (G Fernandez de), XVII 30.
 Oviparous animals, II 772.
 Ovis, genus of mammalia, XIV 212.
 Ovule, in botany, V 118, 133.
 Ovulites, fossil shells, XVII 93, 94.
 Ovulum, genus of mollusks, XV 384.
 Ovum See Ova, Eggs.
 Owen (Dr), on the geology of Indiana, XII 514—of Iowa, 459, 460.
 —(JOHN), Puritan divine, XVII 30—on theology, XXI 197, 213 *et seq.*
 —(JOHN), epigrammatist, XVII 33.
 —(Prof. Richard), on animalcules, III 107—on the vertebrate skeleton, XII 205—on the osteology of fishes, 208, 209—names given by him to the different parts of the skeleton of fishes, 210, n—on ichthyology, 219 *et seq.*—his odontography, 332; XVI 408—on the structure of teeth, 407 and n 4 *et seq.*—on the pearly nautilus, XV 357, 361—on the vertebral structure of the skull, XVI 501—on the mollusca, XV 319 *et seq.*—on a fossil reptile, XVII 129—on the fossil animals of Australia, 638—on the distribution of fossil elephants, *ib.*—on the more speedy extinction of large than of small animals, 639—his classification of mammalia founded on the brain, XXI 31—on zoophytes, 981—on wool, 905.
 —(Robert), communist, VII 214—his observations on the effect of the manufacturing system, 215—his parallelagram at Oxboston, 312—his Book of the New Moral World, *ib.*—his manufactory at New Lanark, XIII 174.
 —(WILLIAM), portrait-painter, XVII 33.
 Owhyhee, discovery of, by Captain Cook, VII 340—his death there, *ib.*
 Owls, XVI 746.
 Owajannikow on the spinal marrow, XVII 669.
 Ox, XIV 215; XVII 632—ox-labour in agriculture, II 341—Galla ox, 55—flesh of, as food, IX 761—scriptural meaning of the term oxen, II 249—times of appearance of the permanent teeth in, XVI 468—chemical composition of the teeth, 418—fat of, 493—oil from the bones of the feet of, *ib.* See Bos.
 Ox-hot, XXI 569. See Oestrus.
 Oxæa, genus of insects, IX 200.
 Oxalate of lime, its pyro-electricity, VIII 561.
 Oxalic acid, VI 511, 515—a poison, XIV 435—used for discharging colours, VIII 316—antidotes to its poisonous effects, XVIII 134.
 Oxalidaceæ, nat. order of plants, V 187.
 Oxalis roots, culture of, XI 740.
 Oxalite, mineral, XV 125.
 Oxamic acid, VI 512.

OXE—OZE

- OXENSTIERNA (Count Axel), XVII 33; XX 847.
 OXENSTJERNA (J. Gabriel), Swedish author, XIX 698.
 OXFORD, XVII 34—Oxford marbles, III 720—libraries at, XIII 395—university of, VIII 745, XXI 443, 452, 462; colleges and halls, 459; roof of the theatre at, XIX 386; servants at, XX 312; examinations, IX 924—Radcliffe observatory at, III 817—meteorological observations at, XIV 688—early printing at, XVIII 534, 538—societies in, XV 363.
 —clay, XV 208.
 —EARL OF, XVII 36 See Harley.
 —or middle oolite, XV 206, 208.
 OXFORDSHIRE, XVII 36—population and value of property, VIII 754.
 OXIDATION, XVII 37—of metals by electricity, VIII 593.
 OXIDE, XVII 37; VI 483—antimony, 494—bismuth, 496—copper, 497—mercury, 498—silver, *ib.*—platinum, 499—iron, 489; cause of decay in stones, XX 712—lead, VI 497—manganese, 490—molybdenum, 494—tungsten, *ib.*—titanium, *ib.*—tellurium, 495—zinc, 491—tin, 493—vanadium, 494—uranium, 496. See Chemistry.
 Oxidized iron ores, XV 107.
 —stones, XV 68.
 Oxiuri, tribe of insects, IX 193.
 Oxley (Mr), his discoveries in Australia, IV 254, 255.
 Oxlip, plant, V 203.
 Oxna, one of the Shetland islands, XX 113.
 Oxus, river, XVII 37; III 753; V 758, XIX 549.
 Oxybelus, genus of insects, IX 196.
 Oxyera, genus of insects, IX 237.
 OXYGEN, XVII 37; VI 455—the most important of the elementary bodies, 458—a component part of the atmosphere, IV 180; VI 464; XIX 608—specific gravity of, IV 181, VI 448; XII 89—its use with hydrogen in the blow-pipe, IV 794—effects of food containing, VIII 24—in plants, II 375; V 85—its absorption by flowers, 148—combined with hydrogen, VI 458—attraction of metals for, 483—its functions in the animal economy, 522—binary compounds of minerals with, XV 61—combination of the non-metallic elements of minerals with, 64—as an element in the crust of the globe, XVII 618—magnetism of, I 981—consumed by respiration, XVII 662—necessary to combustion, XX 353—in the combustion of coal, 629.
 Oxyhydrogen microscope, XIV 789, 793.
 Oxylin, VIII 634.
 Oxymer process in photography, XVII 549.
 Oxymerite of potash, gunpowder from, XI 158. See Chlorate of Potash.
 Oxymeritic acid, or chlorine, IV 768. See Chlorine.
 Oxyopus, genus of arachnides, III 392.
 Oxyporus, genus of insects, IX 103.
 Oxypterus, genus of mammalia, XIV 228.
 Oxyrhina, genus of fishes, XII 324, 322—fossil, 341.
 Oxyrhynchus, genus of birds, XVI 763.
 Oxytostomus, genus of fishes, XII 229.
 Oxytelus, genus of insects, IX 103.
 Oxyurus, zoophytes, XXI 881.
 OYER and TERNIER, XVII 37.
 Oyes, III 822.
 Oyster, XV 348, 345; IX 765—pearl-oyster, XV 348; of Ceylon, VI 395—hammer-oyster, XV 348—tree-oyster, 345—Essex oyster-fishery, IX 836—fossil, XVII 106, 105—Burton oyster-bed, in Clare, VI 755.
 Oyster-catcher, bird, XVI 787.
 OZANAM (Jacques), mathematician, XVII 37—on dialling, VII 776.
 Ozark Mountains, II 675; XXI 420.
 OZELL (John), XVII 37.

OZE—PAG

- OZEROV (V. Alexandrovitch), tragic poet, XVII 37.
 OZIERI, town in Sardina, XVII 37.
 Ozokerite, mineral, XV 124.
 Ozone, VI 461, VIII 536, XIX 608.
 Ozorius, genus of insects, IX 104.
 OZORKOV, town in Poland, XVII 37.
 P
 P, letter of the alphabet, XVII 38—in abbreviations, II 20.
 Paamyles, XI 385.
 PACARAIMA (Sierra), in South America, XVII 38.
 Pacas, in zoology, XIV 189.
 PACCA (Bartolomeo), cardinal, XVII 38.
 Paccard (Dr), his ascent of Mont Blanc II 627.
 PACCHIAROTTO (Jacopo), painter, XVII 38.
 PACE, Roman measure, XVII 38.
 PACHECO (Francisco), painter, XVII 38—teacher and father-in-law of Velasquez, XXI 533.
 PACHETTE, in British India, XVII 39.
 PACHOMIUS, XVII 39; XV 407.
 Pachycornus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 335; XVII 126.
 Pachydermata, XIV 194, 196, 135, II 774; their bones, III 78 *et seq.*—organs of smell, 94—dentition, 32, 33, XVI 467 *et seq.*—muscles, III 81—only products of, XVI 493—of Africa, II 217—America, 713—distribution of, XVII 631.
 Pachygaster, genus of insects, IX 237.
 Pachygyra, fossil corals, XVII 97.
 Pachyptila, genus of birds, XVI 812.
 Pachypterus, genus of insects, IX 123.
 Pachyrisma, fossil mollusks, XVII 107.
 Pachysoma, genus of mammalia, XIV 148.
 PACIFIC OCEAN, XVII 39, 575, 576—temperature of, 577—equatorial currents of, 579—tides of, 581.
 Pacini (Philip), II 816, 817.
 Pacinian corpuscle, II 816.
 PACIOLI or PACIOLUS (Lucas), on algebra, XVII 40; II 434, X 504.
 Pack of fox-hounds, XII 39, 43—one first kept by Edward I, 34—expense of keeping, 38—number of, in United Kingdom, 39—pack of hammers, 42.
 Pack-horse, XI 656.
 Packet system of postage, XVIII 409—of United States, 427.
 PACTOLUS, river, XVII 40, XIV 807.
 Pacurianus, VII 317.
 PACUVIUS (Marcus), Roman dramatist, XVII 40.
 PADANG, in Sumatra, XVII 41—filigree work of, IX 578.
 PADDINGTON, XVII 41; XIII 664.
 Paddle-wheels, XX 636, 656—slip of, 657—compared with the screw, 661.
 Paddock, XI 670.
 PADERBORN, in Rhenish Prussia, XVII 41.
 PADIMAM, in Lancashire, XVII 41.
 PADILLA (Juan Lopez de), XVII 41.
 —(DONA MARIA PACHECO DE), XVII 41.
 PADRON, town in Spain, XVII 42.
 PADSTOW, town in Cornwall, XVII 42.
 PADUA, XVII 42—Academy of Sciences at, II 63—meteorological observations at, XIV 670—violin school of, XXI 29—university, 492.
 PADULA, town in Naples, XVII 43.
 PADUS, XVII 43. See Po.
 PÆAN, XVII 43.
 Pædopoda division of crustacea, VII 543.
 Pædoptera, genus of insects, IX 169.
 Pædorus, genus of insects, IX 103.
 PÆDO-BAPTISTS, XVII 43.
 Pæonians, XIII 763, 764.
 PÆSTUM, XVII 43, XV 782; XX 287—temples of, VI 68.
 PÆZ (Pedro), Spanish missionary, XVII 43.
 —(General), IV 818—890.
 PAGAN (Blaise-Francois Comte de), XVII 43—on fortification, IX 814.

PAG—PAL

- Paganalia, XVII 44.
 PAGANINI (Nicolo), violinist, XVII 43.
 PAGANISM, XVII 44, I 456 *et seq.*, X 11.
 357—mixed with Christianity by the church of Rome, III 811 n 2, 314—discouragement of, in the Roman empire, XIX 363, 364—its alleged tolerant spirit disputed, XX 380.
 Pagans, meaning of the word, I 456—character of their gods, 458—their use of images and pictures a cause of multiplying their gods, 465—their miracles, 466.
 Page, in chivalry, VI 612.
 —commander, his survey of the river Paraguay, XVII 603.
 —(David), XVII 121.
 —(Mr), his mode of getting in the piers of the new bridge at Westminster, XX 723—his method of protecting the surface of stone, 735.
 Pagellus, genus of fishes, XII 267—fossil, 343.
 PAGGI (G Battista), XVII 44.
 PAGNINUS (Sanctus), XVII 44.
 PAGO, island, XVII 44.
 PAGODA, XVII 44, III 459; XIII 15; XV 774.
 —coin, XVII 44, XV 422.
 Pagrus, genus of fishes, XII 287.
 Pagurus, genus of crustacea, VII 542.
 PAHANG, in the Malay peninsula, XVII 44.
 PAHLAVI, XII 747.
 PAHLUNPORE, in India, XVII 45.
 PAIMBURG, town in France, XVII 45.
 Pain, insensibility of insects to, III 177.
 PAINÉ (Thomas), XVII 45, X 71—his work entitled Common Sense, V 537—his Rights of Man, 543, XIII 786.
 PANGEON, blind mathematician, IV 778.
 PAINTON, town in Devon, XVII 45.
 PAINSWICK, town in Gloucestershire, XVII 45.
 Painter's work in building, V 757.
 —colic, XIV 434.
 Painters, in Denmark, XIX 696; Sweden, 702. See Painting.
 PAINTING, XVII 46—ancient, XI 345; III 707, 708—Chinese, VI 581—Dutch school of, III 710, XI 591—ancient Egyptian, VIII 442—in Hindustan, XI 477—academies of, at Paris, II 67, Rome, Turin, Milan, Florence, Modena, Madrid, and Stockholm, 68; Edinburgh, VIII 397, London, XIII 675—American custom of painting the skin, II 682—colours used in, VII 152—design in, 758—painting in enamel, VIII 664—encaustic painting, *ib.*—fresco, X 306—mosaic imitation of, XV 638—miniature, 248—painted glass, X 667—in Persia, XVII 429—painting on porcelain, XVIII 444—qualities common to painting and poetry, 92—house painting, V 767. See Fine Arts.
 Paintings, private collections of, in Britain, XVII 86—prices recently paid for, *ib.*—list of Sir J. Reynolds' historical, XIX 101, n.
 Pairing of animals, III 181, 182.
 Palsbergite, mineral, XV 82.
 PAISIELLO (Giovanni), XVII 87.
 PAISLEY, XVII 87—textile fancy goods first made at, VII 440—cotton, woollen, and silk manufacture, XIX 805.
 Paixhans (Col), his guns, XI 139.
 PAJOU (Augustin), French sculptor, XVII 90.
 PAK PATTAN, town in India, XVII 90.
 PAKS, town in Hungary, XVII 90.
 Palaces, in ancient Rome, III 470—modern Rome, XIX 369—in London, XIII 668, 669—palatial architecture of the Italians, III 451—in Petersburg, XVII 401—Vienna, XXI 583, 585.
 Paladium, XV 118.
 Paleaster, fossil star-fish, XVII 99.
 Palechinus, fossil echinoidæ, XVII 99.
 PALÆOGRAPHY, XVII 90; III 422.
 PALÆOLOGUS, name of Byzantine monarchs, XVII 90; VII 816, 818.
 Paleoniscus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 384; XVII 125.

PAL—PAL

PALAEONTOLOGY, of animals, XVII 91, 637, XV 128, 129, 194; XII 332—in South America, II. 670, XVII 609—Brazil, V 233—Siberia, XII 664—Isle of Man, XIV. 244—polar regions, XVIII 180—Russia, XIX 517—Scotland, 791, 798—crustacea, VII 540—foraminifera, XXI 1007, XVII 98—of plants, V 232; XVII 640.

Palaeophis, fossil serpents, XVII 153.

Palaeophrynos, fossil batrachia, XVII 152.

Palaeophytology, V. 232.

Palaeorhynchum, fossil fishes, XII 346.

Palaeornis, genus of birds, XVI 781.

Palaeosaurus, fossil reptiles, XVII 141.

Palaeospongia, fossil sponges, XVII 92.

Palaeotherium, XVII 163, XVI 125—teeth of, 465.

Palaeozoic epoch, in geology, XV. 195, 196, XVII 92, 587—rocks, in Germany, X. 554—fossils, XVII 96 *et seq*—rocks of Scotland, XIX. 790—Spain, XX. 484.

Palaeozoology, V 232.

Palaeophatus, XIX 627.

PALAEOSTRA, XVII 176, XI 163.

Palatyrus, city of, XXI 404.

PALAFON-Y-MELZI (Don José), Spanish patriot, XVII 176.

Palagonite, mineral, XV. 73.

PALAIS (Le), town in France, XVII 177.

PALAMAS (Gegonius), XVII 177.

Palamedea, genus of birds, XVI 806.

PALAMOW, in Bengal, XVII 177.

Palapteryx, fossil birds, XVII 155.

Palarus, genus of insects, IX 195.

Palate, bones of, III 23—muscles, 39—soft palate, 48.

PALATINATE, XVII 177, IV 518.

Palatine hill, XIX 356, 357.

PALAWAN, island, XVII 177.

PALAZZUOLO, town in Sicily, XVII 177.

Pale, in heraldry, XI 327.

Palae, in botany, V. 125, 215.

PALERBANG, in Sumatra, XVII 177, XX. 808, 806—an found near, 804.

PALENCIA, in Spain, XVII 178.

Palenque, ruins of, II 697, XIV 719, 721.

PALERMO, XVII 178; XX 243, 255—mortality in, XV. 625—commotions at, in 1848, XII 657—university of, XXI 492.

Paleryx, fossil serpent, XVII 153.

PALES, Roman divinity, XVII 179.

PALESTINE, XVII 180; XX. 301, 905—Saladin's conquests in, VIII 480—climate of, XX. 906, 907—inhabitants, 907—religious sects, *ib.*, *et seq.* Map of, XVII Pl. See Canaan, Crusades, &c.

PALESTRINA (G. Piccinigti da), musician, XVII 198.

—town in the Papal States, XVII. 199; XVIII. 448.

Palette water-wheel, XII 183.

PALBY (William), D.D., XVII 199—on Tucker's writings, I 114, *n.*—disputed the existence of a moral faculty, 225 and *n.*—followed the opinions of Bishop Law, 226, *n.*—his analysis of virtue, 301—on the nature of our pleasures, 303, 304—his Moral Philosophy, 307, 389; copyright of, VII 356—on the moral sense, I 314—one of the brightest ornaments of the English Church in the eighteenth century, 388—did not owe his system to Hume, *ib.*—fitter for business than philosophy, *ib.*—his genius and political bent, *ib.*—his style, *ib.*—his works, *ib.*—on virtue, 390; happiness, *ib.*—erroneous views on honour, *ib.*—occasionally a lax moralist, 391—his political and ecclesiastical views, 392—on instinct, 225—on divorce, VIII. 67—on the character of reformers, IX. 321, *n.* 3—his Natural Theology partly plagiarised, XVI 263—on the credibility of miracles, XV. 264—on rights, XIX. 172, 173—on the noxious nature of tithes, XXI. 64—on different kinds of occupation, 674.

Palyn on anatomy, II. 768.

Palgrave (Sir F.), on the Anglo-Saxon militia, XV. 6, 7—on Ingulfus' History of the Monastery of Crowland,

PAL—PAL

XII 381—on the rapes of Sussex, XX. 838.

Pall language, study of, XVII 530.

PALLANO, town in the Papal States, XVII 206.

Pallars of Greece, XI 14.

Palmiphyes, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 345.

PALIMPSEST, XVII 207; IV. 705—Cicero de Republica, VI. 721—Mair's discoveries in, XIV. 95, 96—discovery of parts of the Theodosian Code, VI. 744—Pansian, or Codex Ephraimi, XIX. 838.

PALINDROMUS, XVII 215.

Palingenesis of plants, III. 313.

PALINODE, XVII 216.

Palinuro, XX. 941.

PALINURUS, XVII 216—genus of fishes, XII. 297.

—vulgaris, VII 542.

Palsades, in fortification, IX. 798 *et seq.*

Palsot (Baron de Beauvois), his work on insects, IX. 11—on rattlesnakes, XIX. 69.

PALISSY (Bernard), XVII 216; XVIII 432—his ware, *ib.*

Palla, ancient robe, XVII 219.

PALLADIO (Andrea), XVII 216—his architectural publications and works, III. 451, 452—his designs of the orders of architecture, 478.

PALLADIUM, statue, XVII 217.

—a metal, XVII 217, 622, VI 499—specific gravity of, XII 58—native, XV. 113.

PALLADIUS, Greek medical writer, XVII 217.

—bishop, XVII 217—his mission to Ireland, XII. 465.

—(R. T. *Æmilianus*), XVII 217.

PALLAS, goddess, XVII 217. See Minerva.

—(Peter Simon), XVII 217—his works on insects, IX. 6—on ornithology, XVI 728—on the Deluge, VII 723—philology advanced by, XVII 528.

—planet, IV. 67—discovery of, 68, III 808.

Pallaviano (Cardinal), his History of the Council of Trent, I 437.

—(Ferrante), XVII 219.

—an irrigator of land, XII. 622.

PALLER, town in India, XVII 219.

Pallets of clocks, VII 7 *et seq.*

Palliser (Sir Hugh), IV. 419; V. 485—his dispute with Keppel, 486.

PALLIUM, robe, XVII 219, 220.

PALM, XVII 220—structure of the stem, V. 83—mode of growth, 84—region where palms predominate, 223—date, 213—fan, *ib.*—dwarf fan, 214—Ivory, *ib.*—sago, *ib.*—in Palestine, XVII 190—Palmyra palm, in Ceylon, VI 394—distribution of palms, XVII 626 *et seq.*; V. 228—sliced trunks of, 641—an emblem of victory, 220.

—oil, XVII 220; XVI. 494—tree yielding, II. 226—trade, in Guinea, XI. 89.

Palm-house at Kow, XIII. 75.

PALM-SUNDAY, XVII 220.

Palme, or Palm, order of plants, V. 213.

Palma Christi, VI. 328—new silkworm fed on, in Jamaica, XII. 681.

—(Giacopo), the Old, painter, XVII. 220.

—(Giacopo), the Young, painter, XVII. 220.

—island, VI 166; volcano in, XXI. 605.

—town in Majorca, XIV. 102.

—town of Naples, XVII 220.

—town in Spain, XVII 220.

—town of Sicily, XVII 220; XX. 245.

PALMAS (las), town in Grand Canary, XVII. 221; VI. 166.

—(Cape), Maryland colony on, XIII. 380.

Palmbad, Swedish author, XIX 700.

Palmer (F.), convicted of sedition, V. 550.

—(John), his mail-coach system of conveying letters, XVIII 407—increase of revenue from, 408.

—on liturgies, XIII. 516.

PAL—PAN

Palmer (Mr), engravings copied by, XXI 636.

—worm, as bait, III. 155.

Palmeiston (Lord), dismissal from the Foreign Office, V 672—his remonstrance against the extinction of Giacow, VII. 475—his negotiations with France on the Eastern question, X 215—his letter to Lord Normanby, 226—Sir Robert Peel's opposition to his foreign policy, XVII 365.

PALMI, town of Naples, XVII 221.

Palmieri (M.), on the electricity of clouds, VIII 582.

Palmipedes, order of birds, XVI 808.

PALMUS, a measure, XVII 221.

PALMYRA, XVII 221; VII 186; XX 904, 910—runs of, III 470—conquered by Amellian, XIX 349.

—genus of annelides, XI. 290.

—palm, in Ceylon, VI. 394.

Palmyrene, Syrian province, XX. 904.

PAIO, town of Naples, XVII 223.

Palolo, species of annelide, XI. 297.

PALOMAR (San Andres de), town in Spain, XVII 223.

PALOMINO DE CASTRO Y VELASCO (A. Antonio), XVII 223.

PALOS, town in Spain, XVII 224.

PALOTA, town in Hungary, XVII 224.

Palpatores, tribe of insects, IX. 112.

Palpicornes, family of insects, IX. 116.

Palpimanus, genus of arachnides, III. 383.

Palsy, in the domestic animals, XXI 675. See Paralysis.

PAU, town in Turkey, XVII 224.

PALUDAMENTUM, XVII 224.

Paludicellae, zoophytes, XXI 1001.

Paludina, genus of mollusks, V. 382—fossil, XVII 110.

Paludinae, family of mollusks, XV 382.

Pambour, genus of insects, IX. 96.

Pambour (M. de), on the theory of locomotives, I 886.

PAMTERS, town in France, XVII 224.

PAMIR, in Asia, XVII 224.

Pampa tribes, in ethnology, IX. 319.

PAMPAS of South America, XVII 221, 608, II. 668; III. 129—of La Plata, XVII 776.

—DEL SACRAMENTO, in Peru, XVII 224.

Pamphilla, silk first woven by, XX. 286.

PAMPILUS, XVII 224.

—painter, XVII. 224, 54.

—genus of insects, IX. 184.

Pamphlets, XVI 181.

Pamphractus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 339.

PAMPYRIA, XVII 224—coins of, XVI 377.

PAMPLONA, city in Spain, XVII 225; XV. 831, 832.

PAN, heathen god, XVII 225, I. 458—groto of, IV. 169.

—(Mallet du), XVI 197.

PANENUS, Greek painter, XVII 226, 53.

PANATUS, Stoic, XVII. 226.

PANAGIUS, genus of insects, IX. 94.

PANAMA, town in New Granada, XVII 226; X. 796, 797.

—taken by the bucaniers, V. 711—pearls from, XVII 367.

—ISTHMIUS OF, XVII 226—proposed canal across, II. 711.

PANAOA, island, XVII 226.

PANAI, island, XIII. 502.

PANATHINAEA, festival, XVII. 226.

PANAUON, XVII 227.

PANAY, island, XVII 227.

Panchax, genus of fishes, XII 253.

Panchapere, Indian tribe, IV. 625.

Pancoucke (M.), French journalist, XVI. 197.

PANCRA (St), parish of, XVII 227.

PANCRATIUM, athletic game, XVII 227.

PANCROAS, anatomy of the, III. 62.

Pancraestic juice, II. 782; VI. 523; XVII. 660.

PANCROVA, town in Austria, XVII 227.

Pandaneae, nat. order of plants, V. 214.

PANDORUS, XVII 227; VI. 746; XIII 28, 272—story of their discovery at Amalfi, II. 647; VI. 747—Cunningham's meditated edition of the, VII. 586.

PAN—PAP

Pandects, translations of Greek medical works, XIV. 456.

Pander (Dr C H.), on fossil fishes, XVII 115.

Pandion, genus of birds, XVI 742.

PANDORA, XVII 227.

—genus of mollusks, XV. 350—fossil, XVII 108.

PANEEPUT, in India, XVII 227.

PANEGYRIC, XVII. 227—panegyric periods, VIII 451—royal, 452.

Panconography, XVIII. 555.

PANEL, XVII 228—in architecture, III. 511—in joinery, V 751; XII. 810.

Pangasius, genus of fishes, XII 262.

Pangolin, in zoology, XVI 192, XVII. 638.

Pangonia, genus of insects, IX. 231.

Pannary, Indian town, XI. 493.

Panic. See Pan.

Panicle, in botany, V. 115.

Pannin, Sanscrit grammarian, XVII 519.

PANTONIA, festival, XVII 228.

PANIZZI (Mi), on the British Museum, XIII. 391, 393.

PANMELODICON, XVII 228.

Pannuliz, early printer, XVIII 532.

PANNINI (G. Paolo), painter, XVII 228.

Panniput, battle of, XI. 481.

PANNONIA, XVII 228.

Panopaea, genus of mollusks, V. 350—fossil, XVII 108.

PANORAMA, XVII 228.

PANORMUS, XVII. 229, 178.

Panorpa, genus of insects, IX. 178.

Panoplate, insects, IX 177.

Panny, V. 93.

PANTALONE, musical instrument, XVII. 229.

PANTULARIA, island, XVII. 229; XX. 246.

PANTHEISM, XVII 229; XXI 185—pantheistic hypothesis on the origin of evil, IX. 421—of Pythagoras, XVIII. 711—Spinoza, XX. 515.

PANTHON of Rome, XVII 228; XIX. 360 *et seq.*—its architecture, III. 469, 470.

—in Paris, XVII 228.

Panther, XIV 169.

PANTICAPURUM, XVII 228; XIII. 75.

PANTOGRAPH, XVII 228; VI. 119.

PANTOMIME, XVII. 228—use of, as the native language of the deaf and dumb, VII 677, 679—among the Romans, IV. 398.

PANUCO, town in Mexico, XVII 229.

Panurgus, genus of insects, IX. 199.

PANVINIO (Onufrio), antiquary, XVII 228.

Panzer (G. W. F.), his entomological works, IX. 10.

—(S. W.), on early printed books, IV. 709.

PAOLA, town of Naples, XVII 229.

PAOLI (Pasquale), XVII 229—Boswell's visit to, V. 63.

—(Clemens), XVII. 240.

PAOLO VERONESE, XVII 240; VI. 69; III. 710—character of his paintings, XVII. 71. See Cagliari.

PAOU, island, XVII 240.

—Egyptian bird, VIII. 455.

PAPA, town in Hungary, XVII 240.

PAPAL STATER, XVII 240—weights and measures, XXI. 812.

—schismatic churches, in Syria, XX. 909.

—orders of knighthood, XIII. 122.

Papaveraceae, nat. order of plants, V. 182.

Papaw tree, V. 193; XVII. 628.

Papayarea, nat. order of plants, V. 193.

PAPENBURG, in Hanover, XVII 245.

PAPER, XVII 246—of books, IV. 705—mode of whitening and cleaning, 771—ancient, VIII. 42—for drawing, 174—filtering, IX. 583—for writing on, with colourless ink, XII. 383—Japanese, 694—bleaching of rags for, IV. 770—kind used by the early Mentz printers, XVIII. 530; Scotland, XIX. 806—manufacture of, in England, VIII. 781, *n.* 1; France, X. 256; Holland, XI. 688; near Edinburgh, VIII. 409—first paper-mill in England, XIII. 110—for photographic

PAP—PAR

purposes, XVII. 552—leaves of the Talipot palm used for, XXI. 8—excise duties on, 59. See Papyrus.

PAPER-MONEY, XVII. 261. See Money.

PAPILLAGIONA, XVII. 261—coins of, XVI. 374.

PAPHOS, ancient cities, XVII. 261.

PAPIAS, ancient bishop, XVII. 261—on the Gospel of St. Matthew, XIV. 356.

PAPIER MACHÉ, XVII. 261—trade in, at Birmingham, IV. 732—japanning of, XII. 699.

Papilio, genus of insects, IX. 207.

Papilionaceous plants, V. 124, 190.

Papillæ, II. 816—of the tongue, in man, III. 49; in the lower animals, 100.

Papillon (John Michael), wood-engraver, XXI. 904.

Papillone, in heraldry, XI. 330.

Papin (Dr.), on transmission of force through air in pipes, XVIII. 61.

—(Denys), his digester, I. 770—his steam-engine, XX. 574, 577—his suggestion of steam navigation, 636.

Papineau, Canadian agitator, V. 665.

PAPINIUS (Æmilius), jurist, XVII. 262.

Papista. See Pope, Popery, Roman Catholics, Roman Catholic Church, Roman Catholicism.

Papous, II. 776.

Pappel, in Borneo, V. 47.

Pappenheim (General), XX. 849, 850, 851.

PAPPUS of Alexandria, XVII. 262, X. 502—his solution of the trisection of an arc, III. 145—on the works and character of Apollonius, 300—parts of Apollonius preserved by, VII. 250—MSS of his works, X. 502—on porisms, XVIII. 360.

Papremis, battle of, VIII. 466.

PAPUA, or New Guinea, XVII. 262; IV. 262, 263—Papous, or Papuans, II. 776—degraded state of the aborigines, I. 450.

PAPYRUS, XVII. 262; VIII. 431, 441; II. 216; XVI. 270—paper made from, XVII. 246—papyri found at Herculaneum, VII. 672; XI. 345; XV. 781—Gnostic papyrus of Leyden, XI. 377—Marmi on ancient papyrus, XIV. 305—palimpsests of, XVII. 207.

Par of exchange, IX. 431.

PARA, province, XVII. 266; V. 295.

—(Rio da), XVII. 603.

—southern arm of the Amazon, XVII. 266.

—town in Brazil, XVII. 265.

PARABLE, XVII. 266.

Parabola, VII. 252; X. 544, 552—mensuration of, XIV. 519—parabolic theory of gunnery, XI. 116—its use in masonry, XX. 728—how to describe a, ib.

Parabolic-trumpet, XXI. 361.

Paraboloid, X. 559—mensuration of, XIV. 520—paraboloidal mirrors, XII. 468, 469.

PARACELSUS (P. A. T.), XVII. 266; XIV. 460—character of, I. 18—his application of chemistry to pharmacy, 570—on demons, III. 309, n—his use of the magnet in curing disease, XX. 414.

Paracentists, in animals, XXI. 573.

Parachute, II. 179—theory of, 180.

Parades, in fencing, IX. 503.

Paradis (Mlle.), IV. 781—Mesmer's treatment of her case, XX. 417, XIV. 547.

PARADISE, XVII. 267; XXI. 194—Mohammedan, XV. 303. See Eden.

—birds of, XVI. 765; IV. 264; XVII. 633.

Paradisæa, genus of birds, XVI. 765.

PARADOX, XVII. 267.

Paradoxurus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 166.

PARAFFINE, XVII. 267, 359; VI. 506, 511; VII. 473, 506; X. 434.

Paragenesis of minerals, XV. 180, n.

Paragonite, mineral, XV. 78.

Paragrees, VIII. 588.

Paragua, island, XVII. 177.

PARAGUANA, in Venezuela, XVII. 267.

PARAGUAY, XVII. 267, II. 704—Indians of, 691—complexion of the natives, 694—means adopted by the Jesuits to im-

PAR—PAR

prove them, 691, 692—Jesuits in, XII. 755—tea, IV. 827, V. 199; XVII. 629. See Maté.

PARAGUAY RIVER, XVII. 269, 603, 782; II. 673.

Paragus, genus of insects, IX. 239.

PARAIBA, Paraíba, or Parnahyba do Norte, in Brazil, XVII. 269; XIX. 174—population, V. 295.

—river in Brazil, XVII. 269.

PARAHIBA-DO-SUL, Brazilian river, XVII. 269.

Paralepis, genus of fishes, XII. 248.

PARALLAX, XVII. 269; II. 36—explanation of, IV. 7, 8—solar, 20; I. 787—lunar, ib.; IV. 33, 130—of stars, I. 841, 864; IV. 81, 96—planets, 62—Mars, ib.—mode of computing, 115, 116, 117.

PARALLEL, XVII. 269—lines, X. 512, 532—how to draw them, 526—motion of steam-engine, XX. 591 et seq.

PARALLOLOGRAM, XVII. 267; X. 508, 513, 520—how to construct one, 526—to find the area of, XIV. 502.

—of forces, VIII. 333—some special uses of, 339.

PARALLELOPIPED, XVII. 269, X. 535—measurement of, XIV. 505—of forces, VIII. 339.

PARALLELS of Latitude, XVII. 269, X. 460—of altitude, XVII. 269—of declination, ib.; IV. 2.

PARALOGISM, XVII. 269.

PARALYSIS, XVII. 269, 700—in the insane, XIV. 534.

Paramacium, genus of animalcules, III. 201.

PARAMARIBO, XVII. 269, XI. 84.

PARAMATTA, town in New South Wales, XVII. 269.

Parameters, VII. 278—variation of, I. 810.

Paramos, or narrow plateaus in Venezuela, XXI. 535.

PARAMYTHIA, town in Turkey, XVII. 269.

Parana, city, XVII. 779.

—province, V. 295.

—river, XVII. 270, 267, 603, 782.

PARANAGUA, town in Brazil, XVII. 270.

Paranahyba, river, XVII. 603.

Parandra, genus of insects, IX. 144.

PARAPET, in architecture, XVII. 270, III. 482, 488, 511—in fortification, IX. 797 et seq.

PARAPHERNALLIA, XVII. 270.

PARAPHRASE, XVII. 270.

Paraphyses, in botany, V. 142.

Paraplegia, XVII. 700.

PARASANG, measure, XVII. 270; XVI. 276 and n.

PARASCENTIUM, XVII. 270, III. 511.

Parasita, order of insects, IX. 26, 261.

PARASITE, XVII. 270.

—mineral, XV. 100.

PARASITES, or Parasitic plants, XVII. 272, 697; V. 101, 221—parasitic growths, in pathology, XVII. 691, 697—parasitic animals, ib.; insects, IX. 182, 184, 220, 261.

Parasmilla, fossil corals, XVII. 97.

Parastis, in architecture, III. 511.

PARATI, town in Brazil, XVII. 272.

Paravey (De), his work on the silkworm, IX. 23.

PARCE, the Fates, XVII. 272.

PARCHIM, town in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, XVII. 272.

PARCLEMENT, XVII. 272.

Pardalotus, genus of birds, XVI. 748.

Pardessus (M.), on insurance, XII. 393.

Pardies (Ignatius Gaston), I. 667.

PARDON, XVII. 273—royal prerogative of, VIII. 738, 792.

PARDUBITZ, town in Bohemia, XVII. 273.

PARE (Ambroise), XVII. 273—on legal medicine, XIV. 422—his surgical skill and improvements, XX. 817.

PARDES-DE-NAYA, town in Spain, XVII. 273.

PAREJA (Juan de), painter, XVII. 273.

Parenchyma, V. 66, 87; II. 806.

Parenchymateux, entozoa, XXI. 982.

Parent (Mr.), on the strength of materials, XX. 757, 759.

PAR—PAR

PARENT and CHILD, XVII. 273—duties of, 274, 276, XV. 568—parental affection of brutes, V. 703.

PARENT—DUCHATELET (A. J. Baptiste), XVII. 276.

Paranthesis, XVIII. 685.

Paraxus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII. 117.

PARGA, town in Turkey, XVII. 276.

Pargaste, mineral, XV. 81.

PARHELIA, XVII. 277, XIV. 681; XVI. 688—colours of, VI. 645—of the planets, IV. 62.

PARIA, Gulf of, XVII. 277.

PARIAN CHRONICLE, XVII. 277; III. 720.

PARIAS, or Pariahs, Hindu race, XVII. 277, V. 269.

Parietal bones of man, III. 19—of the other mammalia, 77.

PARIA (Sieria), XVII. 277, XVI. 716.

Parimé (Cordillea of), II. 669, XVII. 594—geology of, II. 670.

Paring plough, II. 271—paring land, 288, 359.

PARINI (Giuseppe), Italian poet, XVII. 277.

PARIS, XVII. 277—Chirurgical Academy of, II. 62—Royal Academy of Sciences, 63—Academy of Painting and Sculpture, 67—academies of music, architecture, dancing, and medals, 68, 69, of polices, 71—abattoirs of, II—first ascent of a balloon at, 175—prevalence of the crime of poisoning in, from 1670 to 1680, III. 330—dome of the Halle du Bled, 414, XIX. 388—architecture of public buildings, III. 453—observatory of, 819—institution for the blind, IV. 778—entered by the allies in 1814, X. 168; and in 1815, 174—treaty of, 176, V. 614—catcombs, VI. 330—deaf and dumb asylum, VII. 686—dramatic criticism in, VIII. 156—Pont du Louvre, XII. 580, d'Austerlitz, ib., 581—fortifications of, X. 216, 217—disturbances at, in 1834, 210—patron saint of, 449—population, 277—construction of floors in, VII. 331, 332—libraries, XIII. 406, 408—variation of the needle, 53, 54; and its dip, 59—barometric pressure, XIV. 608—eocene rocks, XV. 212—births, deaths, &c., 618, 619—news-papers, XVII. 196 et seq.—statistics of the press of, 199, 200—Great Exhibition of 1855, IX. 454—Queen Victoria's visit to, X. 238—length of the pendulum at, XVII. 384—Aix de Caumont, and Arc d'Etoile, III. 418, 419—work-houses first established in, XVIII. 185—police of, 184 et seq.—early printing at, 533—non railway-roads at, XIX. 397, 398—magnetism in, XX. 418, 419—Magnetic Society of, 425—suicides in, 800—duties on fish sold in, XXI. 72—consumption of tea in, 91—university of, 444—measures, 805—weights, 806—Sorbonne, 447—Wellington's visits to, 827, 828.

—(Dr.), on the use of salt, XXI. 974.

—(JOHN AYTON), physician, XVII. 285.

—(MATTHEW), English chronicler, XVII. 285.

—(Plaster of). See Gypsum, and Plaster of Paris.

—Roman actor, VIII. 142.

—son of Priam, XVII. 285; XVIII. 100.

PARISH, XVII. 286—Scotch, XIX. 749—parish churches in Scotland, XVII. 493, 494—English parishes, VIII. 719; union of, for the administration of the poor-laws, XVIII. 312.

—(Sir Woodbine), on Buenos Ayres, V. 726—on the occurrence of meteoric iron, XVII. 620.

PARISH-CLERK, XVII. 286.

Parish-registers, XV. 600; XVIII. 839.

Park, XX. 210, n. See Parks.

—(Munoo), African traveller, XVII. 286, X. 477—his African discoveries, II. 210—literary aid of Bryan Edwards to, VIII. 414—extract from his travels on the standard of value, XV. 420, n—

PAR—PAR

his discovery of the course of the Niger, XVI. 265—on the fondness of the Africans for salt, XIX. 582.

PARKER (Matthew), archbishop of Canterbury, XVII. 287—his English Bible, IV. 703.

—(Peter), printer, XVIII. 538.

—(Richard), mutiny of, V. 560.

—(Sir Hyde), V. 494, 498—his expedition against Copenhagen, 579, XVI. 136.

—(W. K.), on the foraminifera, XVII. 91.

Parker's burning-lens, VI. 14, 15; XI. 275.

—cement, V. 742, XX. 714.

—economic lamp, XIII. 172.

Parkes (Mr.), on the increased temperature of the soil from draining, VIII. 131.

—on bleaching, IV. 757, 758.

PARKGATE, town in Cheshire, XVII. 288.

PARKHURST (John), lexicographer, XVII. 288.

—prison at, XVIII. 583.

PARKS, public, of London, XIII. 667—Stuttgart, XX. 701—Stockholm, 705.

PARLIAMENT, XVII. 288—English, VIII. 768 et seq.—bill in, IV. 723—Septennial Act, V. 455—attempt to repeal that act, 458—prosecution of printers in 1771 for publishing debates, 473—its right to advise the sovereign as to peace and war, 499—Pitt's plan for reform of, 607, 615—Hood's motion for reform, 536—societies of the "Friends of the People" for procuring reform, 542, 545—Mr. Grey's motions for reform, 542, 549—effect of the French Revolution in extending the desire for reform, 545—first meeting of the imperial parliament, 577—agitation for reform, 625, 656, 659—bills for reform, 630, 632, 635, 637, 657, 660—passing of the Reform Act, 663—advantages and disadvantages of parliamentary government, XVII. 735—members' privilege of franking letters, XVIII. 405, then abuse of, V. 463; abolished, XVIII. 411—Long, VII. 610—Mad, VIII. 679—Rump, XIII. 165; V. 411—admission of Jews into, XII. 783, V. 672—journals of, first commenced in 1607, 381—acts of, to regulate the United States, XXI. 435—Horae Tooke's exertions to procure the publication of debates, 308—origin of parliamentary reporting, XVI. 185.

—House, Edinburgh, VIII. 395—roof of, XIX. 393.

—new houses of. See Westminster (New Palace).

—Prussian, XVIII. 673—of the Two Sicilies, XX. 251.

Parliamentary papers and notices, transmission of, by post, XVIII. 417.

—reports, origin of, XVI. 185.

PARMA, city, XVII. 302—school of painting, 72—weights and measures of, XXI. 812—university of, 492.

—(Duchy of), XVII. 302.

—(Duke of), his operations in Holland, XI. 570.

PARNASSIA, genus of mollusks, XV. 374.

PARNAXIDES, Greek philosopher, XVII. 303.

PARMENTO, XVII. 303, XIII. 766.

Parmesan cheese, XIII. 550, 651.

PARMEGIANO, Italian painter, XVII. 303; VIII. 800—his style of painting, XVII. 72.

PARNAIBA, town in Brazil, XVII. 303, 705—river, ib.

PARNASSIUS, genus of insects, IX. 207.

PARNASSUS, mountain, XVII. 303; XI. 12—geology of, II—height of, XVII. 642.

PARNELL (Sir Henry), Lord Congleton, XVII. 304—on banking in Ireland, XV. 487.

—(THOMAS), D.D., poet, XVII. 304.

Parnell's locks, XIII. 538, 539.

Parnopes, genus of insects, IX. 193.

PARNUS, genus of insects, IX. 116.

PARNY (E. D. Desforges), Vicomte de, XVII. 304.

PAR—PAR

- Paro, river, IV. 822.
 Parochial libraries, XIII 407.
 Parodon, genus of fishes, XII. 246.
 PARODY, XVII 804.
 PAROL, XVII 305.
 PAROLIS, XVII 305.
 Paronychiaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 193.
 Paropamisans, in ethnology, IX. 846.
 Paropsis, genus of insects, IX. 149.
 — genus of fishes, XII 397.
 PAROS, island, XVII 305—Parian Chronicle, III 720—marble of, XI 14, XIX 843.
 Parotia, genus of birds, XVI 768.
 Parotid gland, III 49—disease of, in hoises, XXI 564.
 PARR (Catherine), queen of England, XVII 305; VIII 705.
 — (Dr), on rheumatism, XIX 142.
 — (SAMUEL), XVII 805—his charge of plagiarism against Dr Middleton, IV 637, n. 4—his edition of Bellenden, 636—his commendation of Malcolm Laing's History, XIII 158—his friendship with Roscoe, XIX 417.
 — young of the salmon, III 162, IX 591, XII 239—constitution of the male, IX 594—their identity with smolts, 591.
 Paria, genus of birds, XVI 806.
 Parakeets, birds, XVI 782.
 Parrot, river, XXI 410.
 Parthasiana, II. 738.
 PARRHASIUS, XVII 806, XXI 971—paintings of, XVII 54.
 Parrot, XVI 783, XVII 633—parrots in India, XI 456.
 Parry (Dr) on the pulse, IV. 501, 502—his experiments on wool, XXI 905.
 — (Prof), his filter, IX 581.
 — (Sir Wm Edward), XVII 806—his arctic voyages, X 473; XVIII 171 et seq—on winter in Greenland, XI 42—on amoia, IV 249—on the temperature of the arctic regions, VI 770—on Barlow's correcting plate, XIV 9.
 Parseelm, IX 420.
 Parsees, or Parsees, XI 92, 404—their language, XIII 208—mythology, VII 718.
 Parseval-Deschênes, French admiral, XIX 602.
 Parsimony, in what respects necessary, XVIII 234.
 Parsley, V. 195—culture of, XI 744—victors at the Isthmian games crowned with, XVI 366.
 Parsnip, V. 195; IX 760—culture of, II 321; XI 740.
 PARSON and VICAR, XVII 300—constitute a corporation sole, VII 413—English parsons, VIII 743. See Benefice.
 Parsons (Mt), his experiments on the fastening of ships, XX 188.
 — (Sir William), XII 480.
 PARSONSTOWN, town in King's County, XVII 309, XIII 93.
 Parthenogenesis, XVII 688.
 PARTHENON, XVII 309; III 461, 503, 514, 515; IV. 166, 167, n. 1—destruction of the, 178—sculptures of Phidias on, XIX 855.
 Parthenope, planet, IV. 91.
 PARTHA, XVII 310—monarchy of, XV. 414—coins, XVI 390—revolution in, XIX 847—its wars with the Romans, 325, 334, 344, 346.
 Particples, X. 772, 790—in Egyptian grammar, XII 428.
 PARTICK, village in Lanarkshire, XVII 813.
 Particles, in Egyptian grammar, XI 428.
 — of bodies, acted on by attractions and repulsions, XX 750—kept in their places by balance of forces, 1b—forces which connect them change by a change of distance, 752.
 Partition, in music, XIX 788; XV. 740, 741. See Score.
 Partitions of timber, V. 749.
 Partners, in ship-building, XX 190.
 PARTNERSHIP, LIMITED AND UNLIMITED LIABILITY, XVII 813. See Liability.

PAR—PAT

- Partridges, XV 791, IX 762—tunnel net for entrapping, XIX 92—partridge-shooting, XX 221.
 Parturition, XIV 426—time of, in different animals, III 182. See Gestation, Midwifery.
 Parns, genus of birds, XVI 759.
 Parys, copper-mine of, II 146.
 PAS-DE-CALAIS, XVII 331.
 PASCAL (Blaise), XVII 323—his Provincial Letters, I 81, 82—his Thoughts on Religion, 82—on pneumatics, IV 450, 451, XVIII 26, 27—on hydrodynamics, XII 70—his theorem, X. 550—on the power of truth, XIII 368—on probability, XVIII 588.
 — I, pope, XVII 381.
 — II, pope, XVII 381.
 Pasco, table land of, XVII 470.
 — town in Peru, XVII 331, 474. See Cerro di Pasco.
 PASCUARO, town in Mexico, XVII 331.
 PASSEWALK, town in Prussia, XVII 332.
 Pashá, or Pachá, IV. 484; XXI 380—Turkish pashas in Egypt, VIII 487.
 Pasht, Egyptian deity, VIII 437—the hieroglyphic name of Bubastis, V. 707.
 PASIPHRY, XVII 332.
 PASIRHAN, XVII 332, XV 251.
 Passis, or Passies, Indian tribe, XVII 18.
 Pasties, genus of insects, IX 200.
 PASKIEWITZ (I. Fredorovitch), field-marshal, XVII 332; XIX 496 et seq—his invasion of Hungary, IV 308, XII 25.
 Pasley (Sir Charles), on fortification, IX 819.
 Pasquier (Baron), X 175, 177 et seq—on the want of instruction in the principles of government, VII 603, n—police of Paris under, XVIII 188.
 PASQUIN, XVII 332.
 PASS, or Passade, in fencing, XVII 332.
 PASSAGE, town in Cork, XVII 332.
 Passaic river, falls of, XVI 175, XVII 339.
 Passalus, genus of insects, IX 128.
 PASSAMAQUODDY BAY, XVII 332.
 Passandra, genus of insects, IX 43.
 PASSANT, in heraldry, XVII 332, XI 331, 332.
 Passaro (Cape), in Sicily, XX 244.
 PASSAU, in Bavaria, XVII 332—treaty of, X. 579.
 Passometer on marine barometers, IV. 468.
 PASSERIN (G. Battista), XVII 333.
 Passerini (Carlo), his work on insects, IX 23.
 PASSERONI (Gian Carlo), poet, XVII 333.
 Passes across the Alps, II 625.
 Passifloraceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 193.
 PASSIGNANO, painter, XVII 333.
 Passion, distinguished from conscience, I. 426—figurative language appropriate to give expression to, VII 220—natural expression of, XIII 185—distinction between passion and emotion, XIV 579—the passions, 578—classification of, 1b—in poetry, XVIII 95.
 Passion-flower order of plants, V. 193.
 PASSION-WEEK, XVII 338.
 Passive obedience, V. 718, 719—passive strength, VI 249.
 PASSOVER, XVII 333, VI 669, I. 469, 470, 482.
 PASSPORT, XVII 334.
 Pastern, XI. 689 et seq—sprain in, XXI 500.
 Pastes used as bait in angling, III 156, n.
 Pasteur (M), on optics, XVI 550, 682.
 PASTO, town in New Granada, XVII 334.
 PASTORAL, kind of poetry, XVII. 334; XVIII 103, 111—thecology, 1b—letters, 1b—Pope's, 328.
 — tribes of Asia, III 742—manners of, 750.
 Pastures, II. 323—old pastures of England, 324—for dairy cows, VII 622—in France, X. 248. See Meadows.
 Patæcus, genus of fishes, XII 308.
 PATAGONIA, XVII 334—climate of, II. 673—statue of theriatives, 691—Patagonian branch of the American aborigines, 677—mountains of, XVII 592, 645—pampas of, 603.

PAT—PAU

- PATAK, Saros, town in Hungary, XVII 336.
 PATANI, in the Malay Peninsula, XVII 336.
 PATAVINITY, XVII 336.
 PATAVIUM, XVII 336, 42.
 Patella, or knee-pan, III 35—sprain of, in cattle, VIII 560.
 — genus of mollusks, XV. 379.
 Patelidæ, family of mollusks, XV. 379—fossil, XVII 111.
 Patelimani, insects, IX 94.
 Patelini (Luigi), his work on insects, IX. 23.
 Patent fuels for steam-boilers, XX 653.
 PATENTS. Letters-patent, for inventions, XVII 336.
 — in the United States, XXI 426.
 PATERA, XVII 339.
 PATERCULUS (C. Velleius), historian, XVII 339, XIX 243, 244—Buman's edition of, V. 787.
 Paternity, XIV. 426. See Parent and Child.
 PATERNO, town in Sicily, XVII 339.
 Paterson (Lieut), on the Tetraodon electricus, VIII 577.
 — (WILLIAM), XVII. 340—projector of the Bank of England, XV. 155, and of the Scottish colony of Darien, VII 656—work by, XIII 292.
 — town in the United States, XVII. 339.
 PATRIOLOGY, XVII 340, 648, XIV 463—of the insane, 535—pathological cells, XVII. 650—pathological physiology, 689—of the nervous system, 698, 700. See Physiology, Disease.
 PATRULUM, XVII 340; X. 352.
 PATROS, island, XVII 340.
 PATNA, town and district in India, XVII 341, IV 651—table-cloths made at, VII 430.
 Patos (Lagoa dos), in Brazil, XIX 176.
 PATRAS, town in Greece, XVII 341.
 Patra, lake, X. 239.
 PATRIARCH, XVII 342—of Constantinople, XI 33, 36—antediluvian patriarchs, III. 207.
 PATRICIANS, Roman, XVII 342; I. 320, XVIII. 9; XIX. 296.
 Patricius (Franciscus), works of, I. 25.
 PATRICK (St), XVII 342—his mission to Ireland, XII 465.
 — (Simon), bishop, XVII. 312.
 — Cathedral of, Dublin, VIII 221.
 — (St), Order of, XVII 342; XI 340, XIII 119.
 Patriotic fund, XIX 606.
 Patrobus, genus of insects, IX. 94.
 PATROCULUS, Grecian chief, XVII 343.
 PATROL, in war, XVII 343.
 PATRON, Roman, XVII 343—in the Church of Rome, 1b—in the English Church, II 158.
 Patronage, II. 158—law of, in Scotland, V. 669; XVIII 492, 493. See Veto Act.
 PATRONYMIC, XVII 343.
 PATTA, or Pata, African town, XVII 343.
 PATTI, town in Sicily, XVII 343.
 Pattinson (Mr), his method of separating silver from lead, XIII. 299, XV 231.
 PATZCUARO, town in Mexico, XVII 331.
 PAU, town in France, XVII 344; XVIII 701.
 PAUL (St), XVII 344; III 305—the Clermont MS. of his Epistles, VI 765—Lord Lyttleton on his conversion, XIII 754—his claim to the authorship of the Epistle to the Hebrews, XI. 277—scene of his shipwreck, XIV. 114—his Epistle to Titus, XXI. 291.
 PAUL I, II, III, IV., V., popes, XVII. 351.
 — I, Czar of Russia, XVII 351; V. 582; XIX. 493—his challenge to the sovereigns of Europe, 493—his assassination, 490.
 — (FATHER), XVII 351—Amelot's French translation of his History of the Council of Trent, II. 666.
 — of SAMOATA, XVII 350.
 — THE DEACON, XVII 351.

PAU—PAX

- Paul of Egina. See Ægineta (Paulus).
 — (Lewis), his spinning-machine, XX. 509.
 — DE LOANDA, XVII. 352, XIII. 531.
 — (St), town in the island of Bourbon, XVII 351.
 — (St), island in the Indian Ocean, XVII 352; IV 268.
 Paul's (St), Cathedral in London, XIII 670, XXI 935, 936—its architecture, III 455—dome, 410, 411—dome-vaulting, 413, 414—bell of, IV 629—whispering gallery, VIII 373—library of, XIII 394—roof of, VI 260, XIX 373—protection from lightning, VI 202—stone employed in building, XX 712—Thornhill's paintings in the dome of, XXI 237.
 — (St), Church, Covent Garden, 100f of, XIX 386.
 Paula, town of Naples, XVII 239.
 Pauli (Simon), II 761.
 Paulinists, sectaries, XVII 351.
 PAULICIANS, III, XVII 352.
 Paulin (Mt), on the conversion of smolts into guile, IX. 596, n. 3—on the salmon fishing of the Tweed, 606, n. 1, 2.
 PAULINUS (M. P. Auselius), bishop of Nola, XVII 352.
 — (Suetonius), V. 378.
 Paulite, mineral, XV 82.
 Paulo (San), in Brazil, V. 281, 283, 295.
 PAULUS ÆGINETA, XVII. 352; II. 161; XIV. 455—on surgery, XI. 814.
 — ÆMILIUS, XVII. 352; II. 162; VI. 295.
 — (H. E. GOTTLOF), German divine, XVII 352—on the death of Christ, XI. 763, n. 1—on miracles, XV. 263, n. 1.
 — (JULIUS), Roman jurist, XVII 352.
 — (Catenus), V. 380.
 Paulotu Islands, XVII. 282.
 Paunch of ruminants, III 108.
 Paunching, disease in cattle, XXI 566.
 Pauperism, in Glasgow, X. 654; Dr Chalmers' experiments on, VI. 401—New York, XVI. 221—compared with mendicancy, XVII. 298—progress of, 306—in Suffolk, 791; United States, XXI 425. See Mendicancy, Poor-Laws.
 Paupers, in England and Wales, VIII. 748; XVIII. 315—proportion of, in workhouses, 749—in Ireland, XII 629, 630—London, XIII. 665—settlement law for, XVIII. 239—Charles II, act of settlement for, 302—out-door relief to, 305—indoor relief, 302. See Poor Laws.
 PAUSANIAS, Greek general, XVII 353; XX. 500.
 — ancient Greek antiquary, XVII. 353—his description of Athens, IV. 169, n.; 161—his notices of ancient sculpture, X. 813 et seq.
 — Spartan king, IV. 209.
 — king of Macedonia, XIII 762.
 — assassin of Philip of Macedonia, XIII. 765.
 PAUSANIAS, Greek painter, XVII 353, 62, 57.
 PAUSILIPPO (Trota di), XI. 70.
 PAUSIS, genus of insects, IX. 142.
 PAUW (Cornelius de), XVII. 353—on the Chinese, VI. 558, 563, 562.
 PAVIA, in Italy, XVII. 354—university of, XXI. 492—battle of, X. 885.
 Pavias, trees, XVII. 702.
 PAVINON, XVII. 355—at Brighton, V. 367.
 Paving, XIV. 444—with bricks and tiles, V. 735—with stone, 739—of roads, X. 224; streets, 227—with wooden blocks, 1b.
 PAVLOGRAD, Russian town, XVII 355.
 Pavo, genus of birds, XVI 786.
 — constellation, IV. 80.
 PAVONIA, genus of insects, IX. 208.
 Pawn offices, in Ireland, XII 528.
 PAVNBROKER, XVII 355; V. 674—origin of the sign of the three balls, III 324.
 PAWUCKT, town in United States, XVII. 355.
 — river, XIX. 146.
 Paxilloma, genus of insects, IX. 184.
 Paxillus, genus of insects, IX. 128.

PAX—PEC

- Paxo, one of the Ionian islands, XVII 355; XIV 452
- Paxton (Sir Joseph), his Great Exhibition building, III 491, IX 454—introduced a new material into construction, III 491—on botanical structures, XI 754—crystal palace at Sydenham heated by his system, XX 892; water-works at, constructed by, ib.
- Pay, of officers in the army, VII 202; half-pay, 208—medical, 202, 203—of the royal navy, XVI 109, 110, 111, half-pay, 113
- Payas, XI 613
- Payen on brewing, V 325, 329—his method of grinding and sifting white lead, XIII 302—on the manufacture of sugar, XX 798, of beet-root sugar, 797
- Paykul (Gustavus), his works on insects, IX 12
- Paymaster-general of the British army, III 664—paymaster in the navy, XVI 105
- Payne (Thomas), his iron bridges, XII 578
- (Mr.), his pedometer, XVII 360
- on the rectitude of God, XXI 192
- on original sin, 205.
- Paz (La), department of Bolivia, XVII 355; IV 821 *et seq.* 82
- Paz DE AYACUCHO (La), town in Bolivia, XVII 355—climate, IV 826—population, 827.
- Pazo on the mines of Potosi, IV 825
- Pea, XVII 355, V 76, 124, 130, 139—as food, IX 760—culture of, II 812; XI 738—sweet pea, V 127.
- PEACE RIVER, XVII 355.
- (William), his machine for excavating coal, VII 121
- Peach, V 191—culture and varieties of, XI 708, 709—peach-house, 728
- Peacock, XVI 786; IX 762, XVII 638—of Japan, XII 690, Java, 704
- (Dr), his Reports on Mathematics, I 804, n. 1—his Life of Dr Thomas Young, 818, 890, 893, n. 3
- (Mr), his filter, IX 581
- Peak (High), Derbyshire, VII 753, 754.
- Peake (Mi), his life-boat, XIII 446—his work on ship-building, XX 162
- Pear, V 191—culture and varieties of, XI 713—composition of, IX 759—specific gravity of the wood of the pear-tree, XII 89.
- prickly, V 194.
- PEARCE (Zachary), D.D., bishop, XVII 356.
- PEARL, XVII 356—of Britain, VII 69—Japan, XII 689—Scotland, XIX 796—Sindh, XII 304—mollusks producing, XV 343, 348—value of, 348—specific gravity of, XII 88—mother-of-pearl, XVII 356
- PEARL ISLANDS, XVII 357.
- Pearl-divers, VIII 56
- PEARL-FISHERIES, XVII 357, 444; XV 348—of Bahrain, IV 367—Ceylon, VI 895; VIII 60—Margarita, XIV 300.
- Pearl-shell, XV 79.
- Pearl-sinter, XV 69.
- Pearl-spar, XV 92.
- Pearl-stone, XV 72, 132.
- Pearl-type, XXI 401, 402, 403.
- Pearshall (Mr), on the phosphorescent effects of electricity, VIII 598, 599.
- Pearson (Dr), on the micrometer, XIV 744, 745 *et seq.*—on cow-pox, XXI 500.
- (Edward), D.D., XVII 357.
- (John), D.D., bishop, XVII 358—on the Messias, XXI 208
- Peasants, war of the, XIII 731—in Sweden, XX 865—revolt of, in Switzerland, ib.
- Pease Burn and Bridge, IV 681.
- PEAT, XVII 358; XV 128; X 318—charred, as a manure, II 304—ashes, as a manure, 414—its use in smelting iron, XII 542—in Ireland, 507—France, X 251—Perthshire, XVII 458.
- Pebble, specific gravity of, XII 88.
- Peccan-nut, XVI 895
- Peccary, quadruped, XIV 198.

PEC—PEG

- Pechlin, case of recovery from drowning related by, VIII 181.
- Pechurane, mineral, XV 111.
- PECK (Francis), XVII 359.
- PECKHAM, XVII 360.
- Pecksa, town in Hungary, XVII 503.
- Pecora, order of mammalia, XIV 202, 135.
- Pecquet, physiological discoveries of, II 761, XIV 460.
- Pecten, genus of mollusks, XV 348, 347—fossil, XVII 105, 106.
- Pectic acid, II 381.
- Pectine, II 381.
- Pectinibranchiata, mollusks, XV 381.
- Pectinidae, fossil mollusks, XVII 105.
- Pectolite, mineral, XV 76
- Pectunculus, genus of mollusks, XV 347, 349.
- PEDAL, musical term, XVII 360, XV 736.
- Pedunculæ, nat. order of plants, V 200
- PEDESTAL, in architecture, XVII 360; III 511—in Italian architecture, 478.
- Pedestrian feats, XI 170.
- Pedetes, genus of mammalia, XIV 185.
- Pedicular, in botany, V 113.
- Pedunculina, XV 321.
- Pedunculina, zoophytes, XXI 1001.
- Pedunculæ, genus of insects, IX 262
- PEDIMENT, in architecture, XVII 360; III 487, 511—Doric, 464—Ionic, 466—Roman Corinthian, 475—mouldings for, XII 808.
- Pedipes, genus of mollusks, XV 375.
- PEDEMETER, XVII 360; VII 35
- Pedraza (General), XIV 712
- Pedro (Dom), emperor of Brazil, XVIII 389, 390; V 288.
- II, V 290
- V, king of Portugal, XVIII 392.
- the Cruel, XX 464.
- Pedium, genus of mollusks, XV 348.
- Peduncle of flowers, V 113.
- PEEBLES, Scottish town, XVII 361—railway, XVIII 797
- PEEBLESIRE, XVII 360—mountains of, XIX 790—agricultural statistics, 796, 797, 798—population, 799.
- PEEL (Sir Robert), XVII 361; V 648 *et seq.*—on the Catholic question, 631, 632—his motion for financial reform, 651—on the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, 652—his measure for Catholic emancipation, 655—home secretary, 634—his premiership, 644, 609—proposal for removing the ladies of the bed-chamber, 666—his corn-law measure in 1842, VII 363—his repeal of the corn-laws, V 670; VII 364—his modification of the tariff, ib—his Bank Act of 1844, XV 482, 463—his Police Act of 1829, XVIII 198—on the Irish police force, 206—his schools at Tamworth, XXI 17—income-tax proposed by, 53; returns under, ib—customs-duties abolished by, 61—his political connection with the Duke of Wellington, 830.
- (Sir Robert, senior), XIV 251, 259
- town in the Isle of Man, XVII 366; XIV 246
- PEELE (George), dramatist, XVII 366—his letter respecting Allyn and Shakespeare, II 592
- Peerage, VIII 787—rights of, XVI 261—ceremony of the admission of a baron into, IV 469—Baron Wensleydale's elevation to, XI 336, n—abolition of hereditary, in France, X 206—opposition to Lord George Germaine's elevation to, V 498.
- PEERS, XVII 367—creation of, XVI 281—privileges, ib, 282—coronets worn by, XI 336—French Chamber of Peers, X 277.
- House of See Lords, House of.
- Pegantite, mineral, XV 74
- Pegazus, family of fishes, XII 315.
- PEGASUS, XVII 367; IV 637.
- constellation, IV 80.
- genus of fishes, XII 815.
- PEGAU, town in Saxony, XVII 367
- Pegmatite, mineral, XV 137—its use in

PEG—PEL

- the manufacture of porcelain, XVIII 439.
- PEGO, town in Spain, XVII 367.
- PEGU, in Eastern India, XVII 367—subdued by the Burmans, V 782—annexed to the British possessions, in 1853, 785, XI 509—two temples near Syran in, VII 715—timber of, XXI 276, 277
- Pehlvi language, XIII 208
- Peignot (G.), on bibliography, IV 707—on prohibited books, 712—his classification of books, 715—his bibliographical works, 716
- PEILAU, town in Prussian Silesia, XVII 367
- PEINE FORTE ET DURE, XVII 367
- PEINT, XVII 367
- PEIPUS, XVII 367, XIII 527
- Peiræus. See Piræus.
- Peirce (Prof.), on the orbits of Uranus and Neptune, I 832
- PEIRSCO (Nicolas-Claude-Fabre), XVII 367; II 761.
- Peisistatius. See Pisistatius.
- PEKALONGAN, in Java, XVII 367
- Pekan, in zoology, XIV 157.
- PEKING, or Pekin, XVII 368—the Pekin Gazette, VI 561—meteorological observations at, XII 687
- Pekoe, tea, XXI 85
- Pe-la, white wax, IX 173.
- Pelagians, XVII 369; XVIII 477—their views on original sin, XXI 203
- PELAGUS, XVII 369—his opinions on baptism, IV 428—on the depravity of human nature, XVIII 477—on the effects of Adam's sin, XXI 204
- genus of mammalia, XIV 172.
- I, II, Popes, XVII 370
- Pelagosaurus, fossil reptiles, XVII 152.
- Pelamys, genus of fishes, XII 296.
- Pelargonium, genus of plants, XI 757.
- PELASGI, XVII 370, XIX 295—their architecture, III 439—alphabet, II 164.
- Pelates, genus of fishes, XII 277—fossil, 343
- Pelayo, his wars with the Moors in Spain, XX 460.
- Pelecanus, genus of birds, XVI 813.
- Pelecanus, genus of insects, IX 184
- Pelococera, genus of insects, IX 240.
- Peleg, VIII 44
- PELESTRINA, town in Italy, XVII 371.
- PELEUS, XVII 371
- PELEW ISLANDS, XVII 371; XVIII 269
- Pelham (Lord), on the peace of Amiens, V 586
- Pelican, XVI 813, XVII 634
- Pelchum, genus of insects, IX 94
- PELLIGNI, TEE, XVII 371.
- Pelilot (M.), his analysis of tea, XXI 82.
- PELLION, mountain, XVII 372, 4.
- Pellissier (General), XIX 508.
- Pellitarius, French mathematician, discoveries of, I 558.
- PELLI (John), mathematician, XVII 372.
- PELLIA, in Macedonia, XVII 372, XIII 760, 764.
- Pellat (Apsley), on the calorific value of coal and coke, XX 632
- PELLERIN (Joseph), numismatist, XVII 372.
- PELLICO (Silvio), XVII 372; XII 455, XVIII 112
- PELLISSON-FONTANIER (Paul), French writer, XVII 373.
- Pellitory of Spain, plant, V 197.
- Pellona, genus of fishes, XII 237.
- Pelocophorus, genus of insects, IX 111.
- Pelocotoma, genus of insects, IX 134.
- Pelopæus, genus of insects, IX 185.
- PELOPIDAS, XVII 373; XXI 177, 178.
- Peloponnesian war, IV 203; XXI 240.
- PELOPONNESUS, XVII 373; XI 10, 19—Epaminondas' invasion of, XXI 177, 178.
- PELORS, XVII 373.
- Pelor, genus of fishes, XII 280, 283.
- Pelord, genus of fishes, XII 304.
- Pelouze, on a substance like gun-cotton, XI 94.
- PELZA, XVII 373.

PEL—PEN

- Peltastes, genus of insects, IX 188
- Peltet (M.), Sir J. Mackintosh's defence of, XIII 786
- (M), on electricity, VIII 535—experiments in thermo-electricity, XXI 653, 627—his thermo-electric pincers, 654—hydrometer, ib.
- PELUSIUM, Egyptian city, XVII 373; VIII 498—proposed canal between it and Suez, XX 789.
- Pelvis, regions of, III 1—bones of, 12—dimensions, &c of, 13, 68—of mammalia, 80—of birds, 85—of reptiles, 88 of fishes, 90—pelvic viscera of the domestic animals, XXI 570
- PELWORM, island, XVII 373
- PENMA, island, XVII 373.
- PENBROKE, XVII 373—dockyard at, VIII 84
- college, Oxford, XXI 459.
- Pembroke, Welsh breed of cattle, II 342.
- PENBROKESHIRE, XVII 374.
- Pemban, IX 767, XIV 206
- Pemphedron, genus of insects, IX 196.
- Pempheris, genus of fishes, XII 302
- Pen. See Pens
- Penæaceæ, nat. order of plants, V 205.
- Penal Code, XVII 380—Bentham on, I 383 See Punishment
- servitude, XVIII 580, 581.
- settlement in Tasmania, XXI 29
- Penalties for offences against Post-office Acts, XVIII 418
- Penance, XVII 389—among the Hindus, XI 469—Popish doctrine of, XVIII 386—a doctrine of Mohammedanism, XV 303.
- PENANG, XVII 375—or Pulo Penang, XVII 516
- PENARANDA-DE-BRACEMONTE, in Spain, XVII 375
- PENAS DE SAN PEDRO, in Spain, XVII 375.
- PENATES, XVII 375; I 514.
- PENCILS, XVII 375—pencil of light, XIII 450—pencil blue, VIII 319
- PENDANT, XVII 376—pendants in heraldry, ib—of a ship, ib
- Pendent, in architecture, III 511.
- PENDLETON, suburb of Manchester, XVII 376.
- PENDULUM, XVII 376—Galileo's discoveries regarding, I 592, X 374—earth's figure, as determined by, I 850, 854; IX 573—early observations, I 851—unvariable pendulum, ib—Kater's convertible, 852—Baily's pendulum observations, ib—Foucault's experiment, 854—its slower vibration at the equator, and explanation by Newton and Huygens, 619—ballistic, IV 398; XI 111—Condaminé on the length of, at St Domingo, VII 280—revolving, 4, XIV 410—for determining the velocity of water, XII 142—Dubuat on the motions of, I 853, 887—influence of the air on, XVIII 48—centre of oscillation, XIX 436.
- of clocks, VII 3; XVII 384—revolving, VII 4—suspension of, 5—regulation of, 6—compensation pendulums, 7, XVII 387—for the great Westminster clock, 6—metronome pendulums, 886.
- PENEDO, in Brazil, XVII 389.
- Penellina, entozoa, XXI 982.
- PENLOPE, XVII 389
- genus of birds, XVI 785.
- Penetration of shot, XI 143
- Peneus, river, XI 11; XXI 147.
- Penguins, XVI 810; XVII 684—the solitary penguin, XVIII 181.
- PENIG, town in Saxony, XVII 389.
- PENINSULA, XVII 389; X 468—name of Spain and Portugal, XX 484.
- Peninsular war, V 603 *et seq.*; X 148 *et seq.*; XXI 891 *et seq.*—Wellington's tactics, 706 *et seq.*
- Penis, anatomy of, III 69—erectile tissue, 799, 800.
- PENITENCE, XVII 389—order of penitence of St Magdalen, ib—enjoined by Mohammedans, XV 308.

PEN—PEN

- Penitentiaries, act for establishing, XVIII 589—Millbank, 570—Richmond Penitentiary, VII 221—in New York, XVI 230—Toqueville's inquiry into the American system, XXI 298.
- Penitents, among the Brahmins, V. 269
- PENKIDGEE, town in Staffordshire, XVII 389
- Penn (Granville), on the *Iliad*, X. 608, n 2
- (WILLIAM), XVII 389, 398—on the character of George Fox, XVIII 715—on Quakerism, VII 4 *et seq*
- Pennant (Col), slate quarries of, VI 54 See Penrhyn.
- (THOMAS), XVII 394, XIV 127—his History of the English Chase, VI 429—on the coronach of Ireland, VII 412—on the migrations of the herring, XII 235—on ornithology, XVI 729—on the hunter, XI 645
- Pennatulidae, zoophytes, XXI 1004
- Pennenden Heath, meeting at, V. 653, XX. 100
- Penney (General), XVI 305
- Pennycuk on the execution of the Earl of Morton, XI 88
- Pennine Alps, II 623, XVII 596
- PENNISTON, town in Yorkshire, XVII 394
- PENNSYLVANIA, XVII 394, XXI 419—an asylum for persecuted Quakers, XVIII 719—anthracite in, VII 127—newspaper press of, XVI 184—proportion of suicides in, XX 800—debt of, XXI 428 colonisation, 433—wines of, 888.
- PENNY, XVII 399; VII 70
- (Captain), his northern explorations, XVIII 173
- Royal, XI 745—oil of, XVI 496
- postage introduced, XVIII 411, XXI 67—loss of revenue thereby occasioned, 68.
- PENNYWISGHT, XVII 399; VII 70
- PENOBSCOT, river, XVII 399, XIV 98
- PENON DE VELEZ, town in Morocco, XVII 399
- Penrhyn slate quarries, XVII 620—number of people supported by, VI 54
- Penrhyns, coral islands, XVIII 279.
- PENRYTH, XVII 399.
- PENRYN, XVII 399.
- PENS, Pens, or Pencz (Gregor), painter, XVII 399
- XVII 399—Bramah's patent for cutting and holding, V 274—steel-pens made at Birmingham, IV. 732; ink for, XII 383.
- PENSACOLA, in Florida, XVII 400.
- BAY, XVII 400; IX. 667.
- PENSHURST, village in Kent, XVII 400.
- PENSIONARY, XVII 400—Grand, *ib*
- Pensions, to widows of officers in the army, VII 203—to widows of officers in the navy, XVI 117—good service pensions, *ib*—to mothers and sisters of officers killed in action, 118—charged on post-office revenue, XVIII 407.
- Pentaceros, genus of fishes, XII 276.
- PENTACHORD, musical scale, XVII 400.
- Pentacrinite, XXI 994, 995.
- Pentacrinus, XVII 98; XXI 995
- Pentactidae, echinoderms, XXI 986.
- PENTAGON, XVII 400.
- Pentamera, genus of insects, IX. 77.
- Pentamerus, genus of extinct mollusks, XV. 388; XVII 103, 104.
- PENTAMETER verse, XVII 400.
- Pentastoma, genus of entozoa, XXI 980.
- Pentapolis, VII 610.
- Pentaptrion, genus of fishes, XII 288.
- Pentapus, genus of fishes, XII 287.
- PENTATEUCH, XVII 400; XIX 829 *et seq*; XV. 669—Samaritan, IV. 696; XII 692; XIX. 839—Pseudo-Jonathan on, XXI. 23—Jerusalem Targum on, *ib*. See the Books of which it is composed.
- PENTATILION, XVII 403
- Pentatoma, genus of insects, IX. 161.
- Pentecost, XVII 403; VI. 669.
- Pentellus, marble quarries of, III. 443; XI. 14; XIX 848.
- Penthetria, genus of insects, IX. 229.
- Penthimia, genus of insects, IX. 170.

PEN—PER

- Pentingorian table, X. 463.
- PENTLAND FIRTH, XVII 403; VI 62
- HILLS, XVII 403, VIII 408, XIX. 791—battle of, V. 428
- (Mr), his account of the Andes, II 669; IV. 822, 824
- Pentonville prison, XVIII 570, 580, 581
- Pentremites, fossil echinoderms, XVII. 98, 99.
- Penula (Centenus), VI. 298.
- PENUMBRA, XVII 403; IV 45.
- PENZA, in Russia, XVII 403; XIX 521.
- PENZANCE, in Cornwall, XVII 403.
- PENZING, in Austria, XVII 404
- Peperino, XV. 133—as a building-stone, XX. 711
- PEPIN D'HERISTAL, XVII 404.
- king of France, XVII 404; X. 7, XII 642.
- PEPLUM, or Peplus, XVII 404.
- Pepo, in botany, V. 138
- PEPPER, XVII 404—betel pepper, IV 685
- of Cochun China, VII 48—Sumatra, XX 804—Jamaica pepper, V. 192; XVII 710—Cayenne, VI 367—long-pepper, V. 207—black and white, *ib*—adulterations of, IX. 770—imports of, VIII 735
- order of plants, V. 207
- Peppermint, XI 745—oil of, XVI 496
- Pepperwort, order of plants, V. 216, 144
- Peprilus, genus of fishes, XII 298
- Pepsine, XVII 659.
- Pepsis, genus of insects, IX. 195.
- PEPYS (Samuel), XVII 405, XVI 91—his management of the navy, 93; VIII 85—library bequeathed to Magdalen College by, XIII 398—use of tea noticed by, XXI 69.
- (Mr), his spiral electric battery, XXI 617.
- (Hasseldine), on vegetable respiration, V. 105
- PERA, suburb of Constantinople, XVII 405; VII. 301
- steam-vessel, XX 163, 165—description of, 666
- PERAK, in the Malay Peninsula, XVII 405.
- PERAMPULATOR, XVII. 406.
- Perameles, genus of mammalia, XIV 175
- Peranezzi, engravings of, VIII 808.
- PERCA, genus of fishes, XII. 275—fossil, 343—scale of, XVII 127.
- PERCEPTION, in mental philosophy, XVII. 406; XIV. 563—acquired perceptions, 572—difference between it and emotion, I. 945—Aristotle on, III. 549.
- PERCEVAL (Spencer), XVII. 406; V. 601, 606—his treatment of the sinking fund, X. 330
- Perch, fish, XII 274; IX. 764—skeleton of, XII 208, 210—hyoid bone and gills of, 214—angling for, III. 162—sea-perch, XII 274.
- measure, XVII 406.
- Percheon (A. R.), his works on insects, IX. 18.
- Perching, mechanism of, III. 92.
- birds, XVI 747.
- Perchloric acid, VI. 468.
- Perchloride of phosphorus, VI 481.
- of tin, as a mordant, VIII. 316.
- Percidæ, family of fishes, XII 273, 275.
- Percis, genus of fishes, XII 273.
- PERCIVAL (Thomas), physician, XVII 406
- on the population of Manchester, XV. 603.
- (Mr), on the influence of the station in propagation, XI. 636—on the diseases of the horse, 665, 666, 668
- Percoidei, family of fossil fishes, XII 343.
- Percoptis, genus of fishes, XII 273.
- PERCUSSION, heat from, XII 275—centre of, XIV. 413; XIX 484.
- locks, XI. 98—caps, 158, n.
- Percy, Earl of Northumberland, his rebellion in Queen Elizabeth's reign, VIII. 712.
- (Henry), Hotspur, VIII. 685, 686.
- (THOMAS), bishop, XVII 406—on romance, XIX. 254—on the minstrels, 287.

PER—PER

- PERDICCAS, kings of Macedonia, XVII 406, XIII 760, 761.
- general, XVII 406, XIII. 773
- et seq*
- Perdix, genus of birds, XVI 791
- Peregrine falcon, XI 248; XVI 745.
- PERENA (Gomez), on brutes, V. 700.
- (JONATHAN), XVII. 406—on hemp, XI. 312—on milk, XV. 11
- PERERE (M.), on credit moblier, XV. 289
- PEREKASLAV, in Russia, XVII 407
- PEREKOP, in Russia, XVII 407, VII 503
- isthmus of, 506
- Perellian silk, XXI 783.
- PERENNIALS, V. 77.
- PEREZ (Antonio), XVII 407.
- (Genes), de la Hita, XIX. 286
- Perezus on the nature and law of contracts, XV. 567.
- PERFUMERY, XVII 408—of Paris, X. 256
- perfumes of Arabia, III 342, 361
- PERGAMUS, in Asia Minor, XVII 409—monarchy of, XV 414—coins, XVI 375—library, XIII 383—medical school, XIV. 452
- PERGOLESI (G. Battista), musician, XVII 411
- Pergusa, lake, XX 243.
- PERIASTER, XVII 411; VII. 368
- Perianth, in botany, V. 117.
- Peribolus, in architecture, III 611.
- Pericardium, III. 63
- PERICARP, XVII 411; V. 135.
- Pericase, mineral, XV 87.
- PERICLES, XVII 411; IV. 202 *et seq*—state of Athens in the age of, 160—his encouragement of the theatre, VIII 136
- his intellectual tastes, XX. 386.
- Peridine, mineral, XV. 71.
- Peridium, in botany, V. 147.
- Peridot, mineral, XV. 89. See Chrysolite and Olivine
- PERIER (Casimir), X. 198—ministry of, 204—foreign policy, 205—death, 206
- PERIGEE, in astronomy, XVII. 413; IV. 36, 37, 38, 131.
- Perigone, in botany, V. 117, 145.
- PERIGUEUX, town in France, XVII 413.
- Perigynium, in botany, V. 125
- Perigynous stamens, V. 127, 179—exogynous, 179.
- PERIHELION, XVII 413; IV. 62—of comets, 75, 76, 77; VII. 170, 180, 181.
- PERIM, island, XVII. 413; XVIII. 818.
- PERIMETER, XVII 413.
- Perinaum, muscles of the, III. 39
- PERIOD, in astronomy, XVII. 413—in numbers, 414—in chronology, VI. 665—in geology, XV. 195 *et seq*—in grammar, XVIII. 685—periods of advance in modern science, I. 799.
- Periodical publications in London, XIII. 673—transmission of periodicals by post, XVIII 417.
- Periodicity, in meteorology, XIV. 663.
- Periodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 338.
- PERIOECI, XVII 414; X. 485.
- Periophthalmus, genus of fishes, XII 306.
- Periostium, II. 823—internal, 828—the main agent in ossification, 829
- PERIPATETICS, XVII. 414; III. 635—their denial that air has weight, XVIII 24.
- PERIPHERY, XVII 414.
- PERIPHRASIS, XVII. 414.
- Periplus of Hanno, II. 209; X. 461; XI. 210—of the Erythraean Sea, II. 209; XXI. 88.
- PERIPNEUMONIX, XVII. 414.
- Peripteros, in architecture, III. 511.
- Perischodorus, fossil echinoides, XVII 99.
- Periscel, X. 485.
- Periscope microscope, XIV. 772.
- Periscus, VI. 43.
- Perisperm, in botany, V. 140.
- PERISTALTIC motion, XVII. 414.
- Peristedium, genus of fishes, XII 282.
- Peristome, in botany, V. 146.
- PERISTYLE, XVII. 414; III. 611.
- PERTONEXUS, XVII. 414; II. 838.
- Peritonitis, XVII 414; in cattle, XXI. 567.
- Periwinkle, plant, V. 199—mollusk, XV. 382.

PER—PER

- PERIZONIUS (Jacob), XVII 414—Durman's attack on, V. 786
- PERJURY, XVII 414
- Perkins, his apparatus for heating by water, XI 721, XIX 615—on the compressibility of water, XII. 78—Perkins' metallic tractors, XX. 415—Perkins' and Heath's steel engravings, VII 809.
- Perla, genus of insects, IX. 180
- PERLEBERG, town in Prussia, XVII 414
- Perlicus, drososcope of, VII 766.
- Perilides, insects, IX. 180
- PERM, town and government in Russia, XVII 414, XIX. 521—Sir R. L. Murchison on the rocks of, X. 295
- Permian period, in geology, XV. 205—mollusca of, 403—ichthyodolurites, XVII 117—fossil fishes of, 125, 640—locks in Russia, XIX 517—Scotland, 790
- Pern (M. de Saint), his organo-lyicon, XVI 713
- Perna, genus of mollusks, XV. 318—fossil, XVII. 106
- PERNAGO, town in Brazil, XVII 415.
- PERNAMBUCO, XII 415—settlement of, V. 280—population, 295—vegetable products, 294
- PERNAU, town in Russia, XVII 416
- Perms, genus of birds, XVI 744
- PEROCHAU (B.), on baptising the children of heathens, XV. 276.
- PERON (M.), his account of D'Entrecasteaux's Channel, IV. 261—on the mollusca, XV. 327—on sea-serpents, XIX. 66.
- Peronia, genus of mollusks, XV. 374.
- PERONNE, in France, XVII 416; XX. 472.
- Perophora, genus of mollusks, XV. 332
- PERORATION, XVII. 416.
- PEROTTI (Nicolas), XVII 522.
- PÉROUSE (J. F. Gaspard de la), XVII. 416, IV. 420; XVIII 277, 277
- Perowskie, mineral, XV. 101.
- PERPENDICULAR, XVII. 416; X. 507, 511, 532
- Perpetual motion, VI. 131.
- PERPIGNAN, town in France, XVII 416; XVIII. 702.
- PERRAULT (Charles), XVII. 417.
- (CLAUDE), architect, XVII. 417—his design for the Louvre, III. 463—definition of "order of architecture," 463—on the sound of bells, IV. 628.
- (D'Arnauld), XVII. 417—his Fairy Tales, XIX. 287.
- Perrier (Mr), his experiments on the pressure of the air, XVIII. 27.
- PERIS (Edmond), his work on insects, IX. 23.
- PERON (Anquetin du), III. 258; XIII. 4; XVII. 529—on the cosmogony of the Parsees, VII. 718.
- (Jacques Davy du), his table-talk, II. 738.
- PERRONET (M.), centres constructed by, VI. 376, 377 *et seq*—on the construction of roofs, XIX. 385.
- PERRON D'AMBLANCOURT (Nicolas), XVII. 417.
- Perrotine machine for calico-printing, VIII. 315.
- Perrott (Sir John), his government of Ireland, XII. 478
- Perrowskite, mineral, XV. 111.
- PERRY (James), editor, XVII. 417.
- (M. C.), commodore, his expedition to Japan, XII. 158.
- liquor, XVII 418; IX. 769.
- PERSIUS, philosopher, XVII. 418.
- Persecution, religious principle of, I. 532—acted on by the early reformers, 533—in Scotland, XIX. 773—Kirkcudbright, XIII. 101—in Madagascari, 795—of quakers, XVIII. 718, 719—of the French Protestants, VIII. 125—in ancient Greece, XX. 381.
- PERSIUS. See PARSEES.
- PERSIUS, XVII 418—ruins of, III. 438, 514—taken by Alexander, XIII. 768—cuneiform inscriptions at, XVII. 684.
- Peswin, Turkish town, XVIII 587.

PER—PER

- Persens, constellation, IV 79.
 — king of Macedonia, XVII 418; XIII 775, XIX 814
 — son of Jupiter and Danaë, XVII 418.
 Perseverance of saints, XXI 219
 PERSHORE, town in Worcester, XVII 418
 PERSIA, XVII 419; III 733, 746—conquered by the Arabs, 363—ancient architecture, 438—climate, 736—horses, 740—notice of its history, 742—manufactures and commerce, 756—calendar, VI 78, 674—war with the Romans, VII 307—invaded by Julian, 308—Justin and Justinian's wars with, 312—geometers of, X 503—conquered by Alexander, XIII 767 *et seq*; his proceedings in, 771—Persian monarchy, XV 412, 414—empire, III 742, XI 542—mysticism, XV 756—mythology, 763—coins, XVI 390, 392—zend, or old Persian language, XVII 529—deserts of, 614—heights of mountains in, 643—Russian war with, XIX 496—sculptured remains of, 847—revolt of the Zidomians against, XX 269—production of silk, 277—early use of tea in, XXI 88—weights and measures, 812—tobacco, 204—wines, 886—map of Persia, XVII Plate.
 — steam-ship, XX 665—comparative size of, 641
 Persian berries, a dyestuff, VIII 318
 — GULF, XVII 443
 Persians, in ethnology, IX 346—their manner of adoration, II 150—belief in angels, III 141—Anquetil du Peron's collection of their sacred writings, 259—Antioch destroyed by, 274—ancient armies, 623—character, 749—then cultivation of astronomy, 795—baths, IV 506—Bibles, 700—castes, VI 815—carpets, 269, 270—stoves, 556—invasion of Greece by, IV 198 *et seq*—invasion and conquest of Egypt, VII 465, 474—Jerusalem taken by, XII 734—wars with the Romans, XVII 195; XIX 347, 348, 349—libraries, XIII 382—language, 208—education, XV 807—then invasion of Greece, XX 500.
 Persian version of the Scriptures, XIX 839.
 PERSIUS FLACCUS (Aulus), XVII 444—Sir William Drummond's translation of, VIII 194; Gifford's, X 622—poetry of, XVIII 105
 PERSON, XVII 444—injuries against the, XIV 428—safety of, a basis of law, XIII 256—in grammar, X 767, 789.
 Personal Identity, XIV 425, 618.
 PERSONALITY, XVII 444; XIV 617—the consciousness of, 584—divine personality of the Holy Spirit, XXI 217.
 Personate corolla, in botany, V 124
 PERSONIFICATION, XVII 444; V 759.
 Persoz on brewing, V 325, 329.
 PERSPECTIVE, XVII 445—history of, XIII 449.
 Perspicuity of style, Aristotle on, III 558—rules for the attainment of, XIX 141.
 Perspiration—effects of electricity on, VIII 602—obstructed by damp clothes, IX 414.
 Persuasion, XIX 118—process of, 127—relations between it and poetry, 137.
 PERTH, Scotch town, XVII 450.
 PERTHES (G. Friedrich), bookseller, XVII 459.
 PERTHSHIRE, XVII 454—agricultural statistics, XIX 796, 797, 798—population, 799—ordinance survey of, XXI 834.
 PERTINAX (Helvius), Roman emperor, XVII 460—his reign, XIX 345.
 PERTUIS, town in France, XVII 460.
 Perturbations, planetary, I 811; III 809; IV 61.
 Petty (Max), his works on insects, IX 17.
 Pertz (Dr), annals of G. G. Lincianus published by, XVII 215—his mode of restoring the characters in palimpsests, *ib*.
 PÉRU, XVII 460; II 685, 704—climate, 672, 673—ancient civilization, 687—revolution, 701—ancient agriculture in, 261

PER—PET

- suspension bridges, 686; III 181—expeditions of the bucaners against, V 712—castes, VI 816—invasion of Chile, 552—French trade with, X 260—mythology, XV 767—mines, 237—metallic produce, 248—use of coca in, VII 46—west coast rainless, XVII 615—abundance of silver in, 622—height of mountains, 644, 645—produce of precious metals, XVIII 461, 462—Prescott's History of the Conquest of, 504, 506—ancient roads in, XIX 228—postal system, XVIII 424—weights and measures, XXI 812—map of, VII Plate See Almagro, Pizarro, Bolivar, Columbia, Peruvians.
 PERUGIA, in Italy, XVII 474, 243—university of, XXI 492
 — (Lake of), XVII 474, 242; XII 638
 PERUGINO (Pietro), painter, XVII 475; XIX 861
 Perusia, war of, XIX 329.
 Perussi on perspective, XIII 449.
 PERUVIAN BARK, XVII 475; IV 444. See Cinchona.
 Peruvians, skulls of, II 677—compared with the Chinese, 687—language of, 689—appearance and character of, *ib*—Indians of Bolivia, IV 828, 830—their tradition of the deluge, VII 719. See Peru.
 PERUVIELZ, town in Belgium, XVII 475.
 PERUZZI (Baldassarre), architect, XVII 475, III 452.
 Perwitzky, fur-skinned animal, X 348.
 PESARO, town in Italy, XVII 476—manufacture of pottery at, XVIII 432
 PESARO-E-URBINO, province in Italy, XVII 476
 Pescara, river, XX 238.
 PESCE (Nicola or Cola), Sicilian diver, XVII 476, VIII 66
 PESCHIERA, town in Italy, XVII 476.
 Peschito version of the Scriptures, XIX 839—in British Museum, XIII 393.
 PESCIA, town in Tuscany, XVII 476
 PESCO-PAGANO, town of Naples, XVII 476.
 PESHAWAR, in India, XVII 476; XVIII 687, 690, 691.
 Pest. See Peth.
 — or pestilence. See Plague.
 PESTALOZZI (J. Heinrich), XVII 477; XV 809
 PESTU, XVII 479—population, XII 11—trade of, 17—fairs, *ib*—university, 18; XXI 492—museum, *ib*—libraries, XIII 423.
 Pet and Jackman's exploratory voyage, XVIII 165.
 Petagna (Vincent), his work on insects, IX 7.
 PETALISM, XVII 480, 10
 Petalite, mineral, XV 72.
 Petaloidæ, sub-class of plants, V 180, 210.
 Petalochirus, genus of insects, IX 163.
 Petals of plants, V 117, 123
 Petasus, ancient hat, XVII 709.
 PETAU (Denis), XVII 480.
 Petaurus, genus of mammalia, XIV 176.
 PETECORA, river, XVII 480, 647; XIX 515
 PETER, apostle, XVII 480; III 375.
 — I, Czar of Russia, XVII 489—his tax on beads, IV 528—reign of, XIX 477—his constitution for the church in Russia, XI 36—St Petersburg founded by, XVII 486—statue of, 491; XIX 486
 — II, XVII 489—reign of, XIX 481
 — III, XVII 489; VI 335—reign of, XIX 482—funeral, 489.
 — of Blois, XVII 483
 — (St), and St Paul, harbour of, in Kamtschatka, XVII 501
 — the Hermit, XVII 483; III 635; VII 524.
 Peter's (St), church, at Rome, III 452; V 274; VI 376; XIV 788; XIX 368—mosaics of, XV 653—stone employed in building, XX 712.

PET—PET

- PETER'S PENCE, XVII 484
 PETER-LE-PORT, in Guernsey, XVII 485.
 PETERBOROUGH, XVII 484
 — (EARL OF), XVII 484—his Spanish expedition, V 449. See Mordaunt, Charles.
 Peterbote, mountain in the Mauritius, XIV 362—affords evidence of the absence of earthquakes, XVII 617.
 PETERHEAD, XVII 484—effects of the tides at, XI 218
 Peterloo, affair of, XIV 251, XVII 362.
 Peters (Col.), on horsemanship, XI 674.
 — (BOVAVENTURA), Dutch artist, XVII 485
 — (Mn), his microscopic writing, XIV 802
 — (M.), on the parallax of stars, I 865; IV 96.
 PETERSBURG (St), XVII 486—Imperial Academy of Sciences at, II 65—Academy of Arts, 67, of Languages, 71—architecture of public buildings, III 454—port of, IV 404—Bible Society, 704—sea-walls, VIII 645—foundation of, XIX 478—schools and other establishments at, 485, 531—climate, 519—Gazette, 546—libraries, XIII 424—meteorological observations at, XIV 686. See Russia
 — problem, XVIII 601.
 — a government in Russia, XVII 492
 — town in Virginia, XVII 493.
 Petersen on language, XIII 198
 PETERSFIELD, town in Hants, XVII 493
 PETERSWALDAU, town in Prussia, XVII 493.
 Peterwaraden, battle of, IX 370
 PETERWARDEN, Austrian town, XVII 493
 Petehin (M.), case of mesmeric phenomena related by, XX 424—his work on animal electricity, *ib*.
 PETHEROX, North and South, XVII 493
 PETHORA GURU, in India, XVII 493.
 Petic, Mexican town, XIV 727.
 Petiole, V 87, 92.
 PETION DE VILLENEUVE (Jerome), XVII 493; X 67, 68, 83.
 — governor of Hayti, VIII 257, XI 257.
 PETIS DE LA CROIX (François), XVII 494
 PETIT (Jean-Louis), surgeon, XVII 494—his surgical improvements, XX 818.
 — (PIERRE), mathematician, XVII 494—on the law of cooling, I 952—on the pyrometer, XVIII 703.
 — case of, X 231.
 PETIT-CANAL, town in Guadeloupe, XVII 494.
 PETITIO PRINCIPII, XVII 494, IX 477.
 Petitions, transmission of by post, XVIII 417.
 PETITOT (Jean), XVII 494.
 PETIVER (James), botanist, XVII 494
 Petiveriaceæ, nat. order of plants, V 204.
 Peto (Sir S. M.), his improvements at Lowestoft, XIII 704.
 PETRA, XVII 495, III 361; VI 350, XI 70
 PETRARCA (Francesco), XVII 496, 552—on the blunders of transcribers, IV 706—his kind offices to Boccaccio, 801—his house and tomb at Arqua, III 674—his poetry, XVIII 95, 109—his imitators, 110
 Petrels, birds, XVI 811.
 Petri (Olaus), XVIII 827; XIX 697
 Petricola, genus of mollusks, XV 350—fossil, XVII 108.
 PETRIFICATION, XVII 501. See Palaeontology.
 PETRINA, town in Austria, XVII 501.
 PETROLEUM, XVII 501, 422, 602; IV 786; XV 124—in Burmah, V 779—Cuba, VII 505—Derbyshire, 755—New York, XVI 215.
 Petrology, XV 156.
 Petromyzon, genus of fishes, XII 220, 224, 228.
 Petromyzontidæ, family of fishes, XII 228.
 PETRONIUS (Arbiter), XVII 501—Burman's edition of, V 786.

PET—PHA

- PETROPAULOVSKI, town in Russia, XVII 501; XII 41—attacked by the allies in 1854, XIX 507.
 — town in Siberia, XVII 501
 Petrosirtes, genus of fishes, XII 222, 308, 309
 PETROVSK, town in Russia, XVII 501
 PETROZAVODSK, town in Russia, XVII 501
 PETSK, town in Turkey, XVII 501.
 Pett (Phineas), XVI 92; XX 128.
 — (Peter), XVI 92, 93, XX 128—Sovereign of the Seas, man-of-war, built by, *ib*; VIII 210
 PETTY (Sir William), XVII 501—on the population of Ireland, XII 507—on political economy, XVIII 217, 251, *n*
 — (Lord Henry), on the sinking fund, V 600; X 330, 335.
 Pettychaps, bird, XVI 756
 Pettycur, XIII 93
 Petunculus, genus of fossil mollusks, XVII 106
 Petunze, crystallisation of, VII 559.
 PETWORTH, in Sussex, XVII 503
 PETZKA, town in Hungary, XVII 503
 Petzval (M.), his photographic lens, XVII 554
 Pfeutingerian Table, XIII 418, and *n* 3, X 463
 PEWTER, XVII 503—specific gravity of, XII 88.
 Peyer (Conrad), anatomist, II 768.
 Peyerian glands, III 61.
 Peyerard's burning mirrors, VI 8, 9
 Peyron (Prof.), his discovery of part of the Theodosian code, VI 744, XVII 214—his mode of restoring palimpsests, 215
 — Egyptian papyri published by, 265.
 Peyronnet (M. de), X 192 *et seq*, 213
 Peyton (Mr), sportsman, XII 41.
 PÉZENAS, town in France, XVII 503.
 Pezold (Dr), on animal magnetism, XX 443
 Pezoporus, genus of birds, XVI 783
 PFEFFEL (G. Conrad), poet, XVII 504
 PFEFFERS, in Switzerland, XVII 504—mineral waters of, XV 37
 Pfister (Albert), early printer, XVIII 532
 PFORZHEIM, town in Baden, XVII 501
 PFULLINGEN, town in Wurtemberg, XVII 504
 Phacocoherus, genus of mammalia, XIV 197—teeth of, XVI 414, 468.
 Phacolia, mineral, XV 76.
 PHÆDO of Ellis, XVII 504.
 Phædon, genus of insects, IX 150.
 PHÆDRUS, XVII 504—his fables, IX 462—Cunningham and Clerk's editions, VII 587—Burman's edition, V 786—Bentley's edition, IV 659
 — dialects of, VII 774.
 Phænogamous plants, V 76
 PHÆTHON, XVII 504.
 Phæton, genus of birds, XVI 815.
 Phalacrocorax, genus of birds, XVI 813.
 Phalacrus, genus of insects, IX 151.
 Phalena, genus of insects, IX 216—P. paphia, XX 288—P. Cynthia, *ib*
 Phalénites, section of moths, IX 216.
 Phalangers, mammalia, XIV 175, IV 260.
 Phalanges of the fingers, III 34—of the toes, 36, 37—in the mammalia, 82—in reptiles, 88—birds, 86.
 Phalangista, genus of mammalia, XIV 175—dentition of, XVI 448.
 Phalangium, genus of arachnids, III 387.
 PHALANX, XVII 504—Spartan, III 625—Athenian, *ib*—Macedonian, 626, 627; XIII 765.
 PHALARIS, XVII 505—controversy about the Epistles of, IV 188, 658.
 Phalaropes, birds, XVI 804.
 Phalerus (Demetrius), IV 699.
 Phaleris, genus of birds, XVI 810.
 Phalaropus, genus of birds, XVI 804.
 Phalerum, IV 172.
 PHALGU, river, XVII 505
 Phansus, genus of insects, IX 120. *
 Phanerogamous plants, V 78—arrangement of, 180.
 Phaneromycteres, section of fishes, XII 231.

PHA—PHI

Phania, genus of insects, IX. 248.
Phantasm, Aristotle's notion of, III. 549.
PHANTASAGORIA, XVII. 505.
Phantasmagoric apparatus, XVI. 697.
Pharamond, X. 2.
Pharaoh, Egyptian kings, VIII. 457 *et seq.*
—Egyptian agriculture under, 427.
Pharaoh-Hophra, VIII. 464.
Pharaoh-Necho, VIII. 464.
PHARISEES, XVII. 505. See Sadducees.
Pharmaceutical Society, XIV. 465.
Pharmacolite, XV. 96.
PHARMACOPŒIA, XVII. 508.
PHARMACT, XVII. 508—characters of abbreviations in, VI. 419.
Pharmakodidote, XV. 102.
PHARNABAZUS, XVII. 506—his invasion of Egypt, VIII. 466.
Pharnaces, kings of Pontus, XVIII. 292.
Pharoteryx, genus of fishes, XII. 810.
PHAROS, XVII. 506, II. 469, 472, VIII. 496; XIII. 463.
Pharpar, river, II. 9, XX. 904.
PHARSALUS, in Thessaly, XVII. 506—battle of Pharsalia, XII. 326.
Pharyngeal teeth of fishes, XII. 227.
Pharyngobranchii, sub-order of fishes, XII. 227.
Pharyngognathii, order of fishes, XII. 264.
Pharynx, muscles of the, III. 89—atomy of the, 59—in insects, IX. 61.
Phasaelis, XII. 770.
Phascogale, genus of mammalia, XIV. 175—dental system of, XVI. 447.
Phascolarctos, dentition of, XVI. 448.
Phascolomys, XVII. 175—dentition, XVI. 449.
Phascolosoma, zoophytes, XXI. 987.
Phascolotherium, fossil mammal, XVII. 158—jaw and teeth of, XVI. 448.
Phasma, genus of fishes, IX. 247.
Phasianus, genus of birds, XVI. 788.
Phasingars, XI. 466.
Phasma, genus of insects, IX. 157.
Pheasant, XVI. 790, IX. 762; XVII. 633—shooting of, XX. 222—of Nepal, XVI. 143—Sumatra, XX. 804.
Pheasanta, Isle of, XI. 90.
Phetel (M.), blind poet, IV. 780.
Phenakistoscope, XVI. 697.
Phenakite, XV. 88.
PHENEUS, in Arcadia, XVII. 506.
Phengite, mineral, XV. 77.
Phendian, VIII. 801.
PHEROCRATES, XVII. 507.
PHEROCYBES, historian, XVII. 507.
—philosopher, XVII. 507.
Pheron, XI. 388.
Phiala, in Arcadia, XVII. 508.
Phibalura, genus of birds, XVI. 761.
PHIDIAS, XVII. 507, 54, 81; XIX. 855.
Phido of Argos, sculptor, XIX. 852.
PHIGALIA, in Arcadia, XVII. 508.
Phigalian Marbles, XIX. 856.
Phigalophaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 192.
PHILADELPHIA, city in United States, XVII. 508—climate of, 396—commerce, 397—university at, 398—Bible Society, IV. 704—meteorological observations at, XIV. 688—mortality in, XV. 609—newspapers of, XVI. 194—solitary system of prison discipline at, XVIII. 571—bridge over the Schuylkill at, I. 876—Washington's retreat to, XXI. 751—military operations at, in 1777, 752.
—in Asia Minor, XVII. 511.
Philadelphus, king of Egypt, XI. 391.
PHILE, island in the Nile, XVII. 511—antiquities at, VIII. 514.
PHILEAS, XVII. 511, VI. 281.
Philanthropen, VII. 319.
Philanthus, genus of insects, IX. 196.
Philodotus, genus of birds, XVI. 753.
PHILOXEN, Greek dramatist, XVII. 511; XIV. 495.
—and Baucis, IV. 512.
—Epistle to, XVII. 511.
Phileremus, genus of insects, IX. 200.
Philesiaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 210.
Philetus of Cos, a dwarf, VIII. 270.
Phileurus, genus of insects, IX. 192.
PHILIP, kings of Macedonia, XVII. 511.

PHI—PHI

Philp, father of Alexander the Great, XIII. 762—his military talents and army, III. 626—orations of Demosthenes against, VII. 728—his death and character, XIII. 765—his war with the Romans, XIX. 312.
—kings of Spain, XVII. 511.
—II of Spain, XVII. 511—his policy towards the Netherlands, XI. 562—his marriage with Queen Mary, VIII. 708—Portugal conquered by, XVIII. 384—Prescott's History of, 504, 505—reign of, XX. 469—character, 470.
—III, reign of, XX. 470.
—IV, reign of, XX. 470.
—V., reign of, XX. 471.
—kings of France, X. 12 *et seq.*
—II of France, his expedition to the Holy Land, VII. 625.
—the Arabian, Roman emperor, XIX. 348.
—the Tetrarch, XII. 772.
—the Fair, his prosecution of the Templars, XXI. 148.
Philiphaugh, battle of, V. 407, XX. 40.
PHILIPPE, kings of France, XVII. 511.
See Philip.
—(Louis), king of the French, X. 202—his reign, ib.—visit to England, in 1845, 222—abdication, 236—death and character, 238—conduct at Jemmapes, 72, n—public works in Paris executed by, XVII. 280—police and press under, XVIII. 188, 189—and Talleyrand, XXI. 14.
PHILIPPEVILLE, town in Algeria, XVII. 511.
PHILIPPI, in Macedonia, XVII. 511—battle of, XIX. 329.
—(R. A.), his work on insects, IX. 17.
PHILIPPINES, Epistle to the, XVII. 512.
PHILIPPOS, XVII. 512; VII. 728—of Cicero, XIX. 328.
PHILIPPINES, The, islands, XVII. 512—British expedition against, in 1762, V. 466—language of, XIII. 218—serpents, XIX. 53, 54—weights and measures, XXI. 813.
—New, VI. 248. See Caroline Islands.
PHILIPPOPOLES, town in Turkey, XVII. 513.
PHILIPS (Ambrose), poet, XVII. 513—his quarrel with Pope, XVIII. 329.
—(JOHN), poet, XVII. 514.
—(Mr), of Ely, on the culture of the oster, IV. 488.
—(Robert), on road-making, XIX. 225.
Philippstown, XII. 92.
Philistia, XVII. 181, 514.
PHILISTINES, XVII. 514, 181.
PHILISTUS, historian, XVII. 515; VIII. 34.
Phillip (Captain Aithun), governor of New South Wales, IV. 271; XX. 893.
—(Poet). See Victoria.
Phillips (Sir T.), his library, XIII. 399.
Phillips (Captain), his improvements on capstans, VI. 224.
—(Edward), on Milton, XV. 31.
—(John), of York, description of his electrophorus, VIII. 607.
—(Prof), on boulders, VII. 723—on amber, II. 655—on joints in rocks, XV. 104—on the Yorkshire oolites, 207—his thermometer, XXI. 224.
—(RICHARD), chemist, XVII. 515.
—(SAMUEL), XVII. 515.
—(THOMAS), portrait-painter, XVII. 515.
—(WILLIAM), mineralogist, XVII. 516.
Phillipite, mineral, XV. 77.
PHILO JUDÆUS, XVII. 516; XIX. 828, 829.
—of Byzantium, XVII. 516.
Philodotus, genus of insects, IX. 128.
Philodromus, genus of arachnides, III. 382.
PHILOLAUS, XVII. 516; X. 498—astronomy of, III. 788.
PHILOLOGY, XVII. 517—contributions to, by missionaries, XV. 275—cultivated in Denmark, XIX. 686—philological ethnology, IX. 343—Rask's services to, XVIII. 808. See Language, Grammar.
PHILOMELA, XVII. 542.

PHI—PHO

Philometor, Egyptian king, XI. 391.
Philopator, Egyptian king, XI. 391.
PHILOPOTEMEN, Greek general, XVII. 542; II. 82; III. 629.
Philoprogenitiveness, XVII. 562.
PHILOSOPHER'S STONE, XVII. 542, VI. 437.
PHILOSOPHY, XVII. 542, XIV. 552—Aristotle's, III. 536—Kant's, XIII. 46—Oken on, XVI. 500—of history, XI. 544—Plato's, XVII. 792—requisites of a good history of, V. 692—benefits conferred on, by palæontology, XVII. 91—as distinguished from philology, 517—the scholastic, 521—applications of philology to, 565—positive philosophy, XVIII. 401—philosophical speculations a source of corruption to Christianity, I. 506, 507, 516; reasons why they are all equally wrong, 517—utility of a life devoted to, XX. 387. See Cartesian, Experimental, Mental, Moral, Natural, Newtonian Philosophy.
PHILOSTRATUS, XVII. 543—his Life of Apollonius of Tyana, III. 301.
Phloxenian version of the Scriptures, XIX. 839.
PHLOXENUS, Greek poet, XVII. 543.
PHLOZER, XVII. 543.
Phlyctaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 213.
Phlyppus, genus of fishes, XII. 307.
Phlops, Egyptian king, VIII. 155.
Phipps (Captain J. C.), his Arctic voyage, XVI. 132; XVIII. 170.
—(William), diving feats of, VIII. 60.
Phlebenterism, XV. 356, 357.
Phlebotitis, XVII. 691.
Phlebotomy. See Blood-letting.
PHLEGOON, Greek historian, XVII. 543.
PHLIUS, in the Peloponnesus, XVII. 543.
Phlogopite, mineral, XV. 78.
Phlox, order of plants, V. 200.
Phoboter, genus of fishes, XII. 282.
Phoca, genus of mammalia, XIV. 171.
PHOCÆA, Ionian city, XVII. 543.
Phocæna, genus of mammalia, XIV. 225.
Phocas, Greek general, XIX. 469.
Phocia, planet, IV. 91.
Phocian war, XIII. 764; XXI. 179.
PHOCION, Athenian general, XVII. 543, VII. 726, XIII. 765.
PHOCIS, in Greece, XVII. 513; XI. 12, 18.
PHOCIS, XVII. 543. See Apollo.
PHOENICIA, XVII. 543, 182; XX. 905—architecture of, III. 438—astronomy, 783—commerce, VII. 184; in the Black Sea, IV. 745; with Britain, V. 376—Ctesionatho's History of, VII. 580—dyeing, VII. 272—alphabet, II. 612—language, XIII. 200—mythology, XV. 705—coins, XVI. 559, 579—art, XVII. 48—sculpture, XIX. 847.
Phoenicians, history of, XX. 905—in Cornwall, VII. 407, in Ellis, VIII. 634; Palestine, XVII. 192; Mauritania, XIV. 360—their knowledge of geography, X. 460—sacrifice of human victims, XIV. 361—voyages, XVIII. 161 and n. 2; X. 460; XVI. 1; XXI. 26—shipping, XX. 117—towns and antiquities, 269; in Spain, 457—colonies planted by, 906—their religion, ib.—literature and art, ib.
Phoenicophagus, genus of birds, XVI. 778.
Phoenicopterus, genus of birds, XVI. 808.
Phoenicocroite, XV. 105.
Phoenix cycle, VIII. 451.
—Islands, XVIII. 278.
—Park, Dublin, VIII. 219.
Pholadidæ, family of mollusks, XV. 352—fossil, XVII. 108.
Pholadomya, genus of mollusks, XV. 350—fossil, XVII. 108.
Pholas, genus of mollusks, XV. 352, 347—P. dactylus, 352—its luminous properties, XIII. 457—in Malta, XIV. 115.
Pholeus, genus of arachnides, III. 380.
Pholite, mineral, XV. 79.
Pholidophorus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 285.
Pholierus, genus of insects, IX. 121.
Pholis, genus of fishes, XII. 309.
Phonetic characters, XI. 370; II. 607; XX. 678.

PHO—PHR

Phonetic signs, XI. 418.
Phonogram, XX. 676.
Phonography, XX. 676.
Phonolite, XV. 132.
Phonotypy, XX. 676.
PHOORCHUR, in India, XVII. 543.
Phora, genus of insects, IX. 258.
Phorinus tenax. See New Zealand Flax.
Phorus, genus of mollusks, XV. 382.
Phosgenite, mineral, XV. 105.
Phosphate of lime, VI. 478—as manure, II. 415—phosphates indispensable to the growth of plants, VI. 523.
Phosphorescence, of minerals, XV. 59—of the sea, XVII. 574; XXI. 998—Becquerel's explanation of the phenomena of, 632.
Phosphorescent bodies, XIII. 456, 458; X. 409—spider's eyes, III. 378, n—Canton's phosphorus, VI. 202—certain crustacea, VII. 539—annelides, XI. 293—glowworm, IX. 107—flies, 106, 168—medusæ, XXI. 998—is the moon phosphorescent? IV. 41—effects of electricity on, VIII. 618.
Phosphoric acid, VI. 479; XV. 64—in plants, II. 388.
Phosphorists of Sweden, XIX. 700.
Phosphorite, XV. 91; XIII. 157.
Phosphorochalcite, XV. 103.
Phosphorous acid, VI. 479.
PHOSPHORUS, XVII. 513; VI. 478—terchloride of, 480—perchloride of, 481—how to inflame it by electricity, VIII. 690—specific gravity of, XII. 89—its use in making matches, 352—red, or amorphous, ib.—phosphorus electrometer, VIII. 622.
Phosphurets. See Chemistry.
Phosphuretted hydrogen, VI. 480—sometimes found in the atmosphere, II. 376.
PHOTIUS, XVII. 543, XI. 31—Lexicon of, XVII. 367, 369.
PHOTO-GALVANOGRAPHY, XVII. 514.
Photo-lithography, XIII. 514.
Photo-metallography, XVII. 514.
Photo-zincography, XXI. 367.
PHOTOGRAPHIC ENGRAVING, XVII. 544.
PHOTOGRAPHY, XVII. 544—history of, I. 922—importance of, 924—use of gun-cotton in, XI. 95—employed for registering observations, XIV. 666—employed in micrometers, 745, 716, 759, 761—its application to the microscope, 801—employed in detecting criminals, XVII. 190—its use in taking stereoscopic pictures, XX. 690—its use in the trigonometrical survey, XXI. 396.
PHOTOMETER, XVII. 555; VI. 781; X. 429; XIII. 451, 455.
Photometry, XVI. 555—first notions of, I. 759—advanced by Bouguer, ib.—Lambert's treatise on, 754.
Phoxichilus, genus of arachnides, III. 386.
Phraates, XVII. 310.
Phractoccephalus, genus of fishes, XII. 261.
Phragmoceras, fossil mollusks, XVII. 112.
Phraortes, XIV. 421; XVII. 434.
PHRASE, in music, XVII. 556; XV. 719.
Phrascogram, XX. 676.
Phrascography, XX. 679.
PHRASING, in music, XVII. 556.
Phre, Egyptian deity, XI. 382.
Phrenic nerve, III. 58.
Phrenitis, in animals, XXI. 575.
Phreno-mesmerism, XX. 440.
PHRENOLOGY, XVII. 556—origin of, X. 382—division of the mental faculties, XVII. 673; objections to, ib. See Gall, Spurzheim.
PHRIXUS, XVII. 558; XI. 290.
Phryganea, genus of insects, IX. 180—their use in angling, III. 149.
PHRYGIA, in Asia Minor, XVII. 568—coins of, XVI. 378.
Phrygian language, XIII. 200, 210.
—mode, in music, XV. 707.
Phryne, courtizan, XVIII. 451.
PHRYNIONUS, tragic poet, XVII. 568.
—comic poet, XVII. 568.
—ABRABASUS, grammarian, XVII. 568.

PHR-PHY

- Phrynichus, Athenian, IV 207.
 Phrynus, genus of arachnides, III. 384
 Phthah, Egyptian deity, XI 381—temple of, XIV 493
 Phthiria, genus of insects, IX 233
 Phthisis, or pulmonary consumption, case of its cure by riding, XI 673—effect of the climate of Egypt on, VIII 423—unknown in very elevated regions, XVII 611—Dr Rush on, XIX 466—in the domestic animals, XXI 573
 Phucocetes, genus of fishes, XII 310.
 PHUCOK, island, XVII 503
 PHULOWDER, town in India, XVII 568.
 Phut, VIII 46
 Physics, genus of fishes, XII 270 —genus of insects, IX 218
 PHYLAETRE, XVII 568
 Phylactolemata, zoophytes, XXI. 1001
 Phyle, castle near Athens, IV 209
 Phylidia, genus of mollusks, XV 371.
 Phylidium, genus of insects, IX 157
 Phyllobius, genus of insects, IX 139.
 Phyllochans, genus of insects, IX 149
 Phylodoea, genus of annelids, XI 303
 Phyllodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 388, XVII. 123.
 Phyllolepis, genus of fossil fishes, XII 337, XVII. 123
 Phyllopa, genus of crustacea, VII 543
 Phyllopertha, genus of insects, IX 120.
 Phyllophaga, section of insects, IX 123.
 Phyllopteryx, genus of fishes, XII 315
 Phyllostoma, genus of mammalia, XIV 148
 Phyllotaxis, in botany, V 85
 Phyllurus, genus of reptiles, XIX 37.
 Physa, genus of mollusks, XV 374—fossil, XVII 111.
 Physaloptera, zoophytes, XXI 981.
 Physcon, king of Egypt, XVII 469—his cruelties at Alexandria, II 470
 Physeter, genus of mammalia, dentition of, XVI 444.
 PHYSIARMONICA, XVII 563.
 Physic, inclusive of Surgery, XIV 448—theory and practice of, *ib* See Medicine
 Physical argument for the existence of God, XXI 186.
 —Education, XV 310.
 —Science See Physics.
 —GEOGRAPHY, XVII 569; X. 459 —the Alps, II. 623—snow-line, 625 See Snow-line. Andes, III. 127—glaciers, II. 625; X. 633—climate of America, II. 673 *et seq*—Arabia, III 341—Asia, 736—Africa, II. 215—distribution of American forests, 672—distribution of plants, V. 219 *et seq*—of animals, III 174—the crustacea, VII. 540—of insects, IX 63—of fishes, XII. 329—of reptiles, XIX. 15, 30, *n* 4, 50—of the Arctic Polar Basin, XVIII 175—greater warmth of the northern than of the southern ocean, II 673—modifying influence of climate, &c., on animals, III 173, 174—influence of the ocean on climate, 737. See Climate, Cloud, Cold, Complexion, Evaporation, Heat, River, and the geographical and natural history articles generally
 Physicians, XIV. 448—Chinese, VI 585—naval, XVI 114—Edinburgh College of, VII 114; VIII 400—London College of, VII 118; XIII 672; its foundation by Lincæus, XIV 459, 460; decay of its influence, 468—Dublin College of, VIII. 223—diseases of, XIV. 442—qualifications of, for the treatment of mental disease, 538—should be acquainted with surgery, XX 809—are not unproductive labourers, XVIII. 253
 PHYSCIO, XVII 647; XIV. 448—dissertations on physical science, I. 549, 799 —experimental, 800—different meanings of the word, 9, 10—should be confined to the phenomena of matter, 10—ancient physics, 585—modern, 569 —Aristotle on, III. 541—among the Druids, VIII. 185—connection with mathematics, I. 805, 506—relation of, to engineering, 865—knowledge of,

PHY-PIC

- desirable for the study of theology, XXI 182 See Astronomy, Mechanics, Optics, Dynamics, Hydrostatics, Hydrodynamics, Acoustics, Magnetism, Electricity, Heat, &c
 PHYSCIOLOGY, XVII 647—of vegetation, in different quarters of the globe, V 223 —phenological, XVII 561 —10-garded by the Athenians as an index of character, XX 373
 PHYSIOLOGY, XVII 648; XIV 462, 463—sense in which Dr Campbell employs the word, I 9—province of, II 748—breeding of horses and cattle, 338, 341—Balthus's works on, IV 481—vital, natural, and animal functions, II 119 —John and William Hunter's contributions to, XII 27; XIV 462—benefits it derives from paleontology, XVII 91 —of plants, V 65 *et seq*—Haller's contributions to, XIV 462—aid afforded to natural history by, III 173—of the crustacea, VII 537 See Animal Kingdom, Anatomy, Dietetics, Blood, Digestion, &c
 Physodon, sub-genus of fishes, XII 323
 Phyllogada, zoophytes, XXI 1001
 Phylsonemus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII 117
 Physophoridae, zoophytes, XXI 1006
 Phytolaccaceæ, nat. ord. of plants, V. 204
 Phytomyza, genus of insects, IX. 257.
 Phytion, in botany, V 141.
 Phytosoa, V 143
 Piabuca, genus of fishes, XII 246.
 Piabucina, genus of fishes, XII 246
 PIACENZA, town in Italy, XVII. 703—university of, XXI. 492.
 Piaggi (Antonio), XI. 345
 Piahua, birds, XVI. 750
 Pia mater, cerebral membrane, III 56, 105.
 PIANO-FORTE, XVII. 703, XI 231; XV. 740—ivory keys of, XII 664.
 PIANOSA, island, XVII 705
 Piastre, XV 445
 PIACHI, or Pianhy, in Brazil, XVII 705; V. 293.
 Piauzite, mineral, XV 124
 PIAZZA, town in Sicily, XVII 705.
 PIAZZETTA (G. Batista), painter, XVII. 705
 PIAZZI (Giuseppe), XVII 705; III 807—astronomical labours of, 808—his discovery of Ceres, I 335; IV. 67, III. 808—his catalogue of stars, I 336; IV. 80
 PICA, XVII 705. See Miranda
 —type, IV. 707; XXI 401, 408—double, XVIII 536—casting up of a sheet of, 541
 —genus of birds, XVI 704
 PICARD (Jean), XVII 705—measurement of an arc of meridian by, I 618; IX. 548—on the earth's annual motion, II 36—his astronomical labours, III 802—editor of the *Connaissance des Temps*, 814.
 —(Louis-Benoît), dramatist, XVII 705
 PICARDS, religious sect, XVII. 706; II 123
 PICARDY, in France, XVII 706; X. 276—horses of, XI 661
 PICCINI (Niccolò), XVII 706—on harmony, XV 730—on modulation, 738
 PICCOLOMINI (Alessandro), XVII 706.
 —(Francesco), XVII 706.
 PICHENNO, in Italy, XVII 706
 PIGNORNO, town of Naples, XVII 707.
 PIGNORRI (Charles), General, XVII 707; V. 554, X. 82, 87 *et seq*, 129—death of, 131—his invasion of Holland, XI 579.
 Picher-Grandchamp on Mesmerism, XX 419.
 Pichihucu, Chilian fish, VI 550.
 PICKERING, town in Yorkshire, XVII 707.
 Picking, process in woollen manufacture, XXI 923
 Pickles, making of, IX. 767—adulterations of, 770.
 Pickling lumber, XX. 167.

PIC-PIK

- Pico, island, XVII 707, IV 336
 Picoides, genus of birds, XVI 777
 Picopharmacolite, XV 96.
 Picophyll, mineral, XV 80.
 Picosmine, mineral, XV 80.
 Pictet (Marc-Auguste), I 943—his Essay on fire, *ib*—on the radiation of heat, XI 262—his experiments on the reflection of cold, VII 100
 —(F J), his works on insects, IX 17
 PICTOR (Fabius), XVII 707; IX 460
 PICTOU, in Nova Scotia, XVII 707, XVI 343
 PICTS, XVII 707, VI 74; VIII 794; XIX 743—their wars with the Romans, V. 380—Picts' houses, III 421—their dominion in Scotland, XIX 742—conversion of the northern, 744—their disappearance as a people, *ib*
 PICTURE, XVII. 707—mosaic pictures, XV 658 See Painting,
 PICTURESQUE, XVII 707, IV 553
 Pictue-writing, Mexican, II 684, 695
 Pictumnus, genus of birds, XVI 777.
 Picus, genus of birds, XVI 774
 Piddington (M.), on cyclones, XIV. 649
 Piddocks, shell-fish, XV 353
 Piece work, hiring by, XXI 673
 PIEDMONT, town of Naples, XVII 707
 PIEDMONT, principality of, XVII 707—coins of, XV. 442, 444—climate of, XII 638, XIX 639—military construction in, 635—military character of the Piedmontese, III 655—savings-banks, XIX 674—silk produced in, XX 278
 PIERIDES, XVII 708.
 Pierron (Alexis), on Homer, XI 602
 PIERIS, genus of insects, IX 207
 Pier's Floia Coruensis, XII 451, *n* 6
 PIERRE (J H Bernardin de St), XVII 708—his tales, XIX 289
 —D'OLIRON, town in France, XVII 708.
 —(St), island, XVII 708
 —(St, le Sieu de), on the longitude, XIII 686.
 —(St), town in Martinique, XVII 708; XIV 322.
 PIERRE-LES-CALAIS, town in France, XVII 708.
 Piers, in architecture, III 511—suspension, II 223—tamber, 224—in embankments, VIII 646—for entrances to rivers, XVI 83
 Piers Plowman's Visions, XIII 184.
 Piesse (M.), on perfumery, XVII 409
 PIERSTAMITZBURG, in Natal, XV 305
 PIETISTS, German sect, XVII 708—originated with Spener, XX. 505
 PIETRA DE FUSI, town of Naples, XVII 708
 PIETRAPERZIA, town in Sicily, XVII 708
 Pietro of Cortona, painter, XVII 73
 PIGALLE (Jean Baptiste), sculptor, XVII. 708
 Pigeaire (Mlle), mesmeric somnambulist, XX 430.
 PIGNON, XVII. 708, 633; XVI 798, 704—its flesh, IX. 762—carunculated, XI 794—great crowned, *ib*—hacked, *ib*—Nicobar, *ib*—parabolic, *ib*—passenger, *ib*—rock, 793—wood, *ib*—carrier, VI 276—dung of, as manure, II 411—wood-pigeon shooting, XX. 216.
 PIGNUS (Albert); XVII 708
 —(STEPHANUS VINAND), antiquary, XVII 709
 Pig-iron, XII 533 *et seq*. See Smelting.
 Pigment cells, XVII 650
 Pigments. See Colours—Pigmentary principles, in physiology, XVII 655—pigmentary degeneration, 690, 696.
 Pigmentum nigrum of the eye, III. 43.
 PIGNOROL, XVII. 712
 PIGNORI (Lorenzo), XVII 709.
 Pigot (Lord), XI. 492; V. 777
 Pigs, II 355—breeds and management of, *ib*—of Hampshire, XI 204. See Hog.
 Pig-tail tobacco, XXI. 296.
 Pika, in zoology, XIV. 188.
 PIKE, fish, XVII 709; XII 253—its flesh, IX 764—chemical composition of the

PIK-PIN

- teeth of, XVI 418—angling for, III 158—sea-pike, IX. 764—saury-pike, XII 264
 Pike, Roman weapon, III 633
 Pila, Russian town, XIX 728
 PILAO-ARCAO, town in Brazil, XVII 709
 Pilasters, in architecture, III 478, 487, 511—in joinery, V 752
 PILATE (Pontius), XVII 709; XII 779—his alleged letter to Tiberius, XII 761.
 PILATRE DE ROZIER (J François), XVII. 709; II 175, 177—death of, 170
 PILCHARD, XVII 709, XII 236, IX 763—used as manure, VII 407.
 Pilchard-fishery, IX. 643—in Cornwall, VII 408—England, VIII 727
 PILCOMAYO, river, XVII 709, 647, IV. 823.
 Pile of Volta, I 964—his description of it, *ib*—history of, 966—theory of, 978—its fitness for telegraphs, XXI 99—its properties and effects, 609 *et seq*—in heraldry, XI 330—funeral-pile, X 344
 Pileolus, fossil mollusks, XVII 109, 111.
 Pileoma, genus of fishes, XII 277.
 PILES (Rogee de), XVII 709—his account of a blind portrait-painter, IX 731.
 —stakes for foundations, XX 722—of iron, 723—screw, *ib*—pile-engine, 722
 PILEUS or Pileum, XVII 709
 —in muslins, V 146, 147
 Pile-worms, XV 333. See Tereido
 Pilgrimage to Mecca, XIV. 379—to the tomb of the prophet Hud, III 358—to Jerusalem, XII. 734—pilgrimages of the Hindus, XI. 469
 Pilkington on Carlo Dolci, VIII 92
 PILLAR, XVII 709, III 511. See Column, Towers (Round).
 —Saints, XX. 785.
 PILLAU, town in Prussia, XVII 709.
 PILLEBERT, town in India, XVII 709
 Pillersdorf (Baron), on the state of Austria, IV. 306
 Pilscher (Mr) his microscopes, XIV. 780
 PILLOW, XVII 710, XVIII 575.
 Pillow-lace, XIII 142
 Pillowed, in architecture, III 512.
 Pilnitz, treaty of, V 340, X 61.
 Pilon, in zoology, XIV 181.
 PILOT, XVII 710
 Pilot-fish, XII 294
 Pilpay, Hindu author, IV. 719—his Indian fables, XIII 78.
 PILSEN, town in Bohemia, XVII 710.
 PILUM, XVII 710; III. 638.
 Pimelepterus, genus of fishes, XII 802.
 Pimeha, genus of insects, IX 129
 Pimehama, tribe of insects, IX. 129.
 Pimehte, mineral, XV 84.
 Pimelodus, genus of fishes, XII 262.
 PIMENTO, XVII 710, V 192; XII 679, 681—oil of, XVI 496—imports of, VIII. 735.
 PIMLICO, suburb of London, XVII 710
 Pimple, genus of insects, IX 189.
 Pin (M.), his hydraulic experiments, XII. 113.
 Pin, in lace making, XIII. 142.
 Pin-wheels, XIV. 396
 Pinaceæ, nat. ord. of plants, V 209.
 Pinaster, XVII 757.
 PINCHBECK, XVII 710; V. 276; XVIII. 516
 Pinchchucka, remarkable halo observed on, VII 411.
 Pinchin, Algerine admiral, II. 570.
 Pincian Hill, XIX. 356
 Pinçon (Vincent Yanez), Brazil discovered by, V. 279—entered the Rio de la Plata in 1508, II. 699.
 PIND-DADUN-KHAN, town in India, XVII. 710.
 PINDAR, XVII 710—his poems, XVIII. 102.
 Pindaree war, XI. 508; XIV. 120.
 PINDEMONTE (Ippolito), poet, XVII 712.
 PINDUS, mountain, XVII 712; XI 10,

PIN—PIP

- 13—mountain chain of, XVII 596; XXI. 876—height of, XVII 642
Pine, order of plants, V 209
Pineal gland, III 54
Pine-apple, order of plants, V. 212—culture of the pine-apple, XI 780—fibre of, XXI 782
Pineau (Severn), on legal medicine, XIV. 492
Pine-barrens, XVII 627
Pine-trees, XVII 754 *et seq*—pustillate flower of, V 184—propagation of by seeds, XVII 767—Norfolk-Island pine, III 396, V 209, XVI 291—araucarian, VI 549—Kaueic on Cowdrie, V 209—Norwegian, XVI 823—Californian, XVII 626—Himalayan, XI 444—pine timber, XXI 274, 275—seasoning of, XX. 168, 170—strength, 171 See Fir, Timber
Pinel (M.), on the connection of insanity with liability to see apparitions, III 320—his manner of treating insanity, XIV 528—on cietims, VII 406
PINEROLO, XVII 712
Pine's edition of Horace, IV 707
PINORE (Alexandre-Gui), astronomer, XVII 712
Pinguipes, genus of fishes, XII 278.
Pinguite, mineral, XV 90
PINTOX, in mechanics, XVII 718
Pinto, mineral, XV 89
Pink, dyeing of, VIII 317
—, plant, V 184—culture of, XI 754—sea-pink, V. 203. XI. 748
PINKAFELD, town in Hungary, XVII 712
PINTKROTH (John), XVII 712—on Baitour's Bruce, IV 436—on Dunbar's poetry, VIII 247, 250—on the Scottish language, 798, n 3—on the feudal system, IX 520—on the Sesterzars, XV 439, n 10
Pinkey, battle of, XIX 778.
Pin money, XVII 713
Pinna, genus of mollusks, XV 348—fossil, XVII 106
PINNACLE, XVII 713; IV 800.
PINNAULE, XVII 713; III. 512, 480 *et seq*.
Pinnata, family of mollusks, XV 400.
Pinnigrada, erubnodermis, XXI. 984
Pinning, in carpentry, V. 747
Pinnipedia, tribe of mammalia, XIV. 153.
Pinnotheres, genus of crustacea, VII. 541.
Pinochilus, genus of insects, IX. 103.
PINS, XVII 713—manufacture of, at Birmingham, IV 732
PINSK, town in Russia, XVII 714.
Pin-tails, birds, XVI 818
PINTELLI (Baccio), architect, XVII. 714.
Pinto (General), VI 553.
—(Afondos), his *Perigrinagam*, XVIII. 899
PINTURICCHIO (Bernardino), XVII 714.
PINUS, XVII 714. See Pine Trees
Pinzon (Martin Alonso), II 699.
Piobert on combustion, XI 114
PIOMBINO, in Tuscany, XVII. 714
Piombo (Fra Sebastiano del), XVII. 714. See Sebastiano
Piophila, genus of insects, IX 253.
PIOVE-DI-SACCO, town in Italy, XVII. 714.
Piozzi (Hesther Lynch), XVII 714—Dr Johnson's intimacy with, XII 800.
Pipa, genus of reptiles, XIX. 81.
Pipe, musical instrument, XVII. 714—pipes of an organ, XVI 710.
Pipe-offert, XVII. 714.
Pipes, transmission of sound through, II. 99—boring of stone and wooden, V. 44, 45—motion of water in, XII. 111, 131, 133, 186—pressure upon, by the water flowing through them, 186—Bramah's patent for water-pipes, V 274—for house drains, 785; VIII 128—for draining, 184—conduit pipes, in gas making, X. 414—gas-pipes, 420—cast-iron pipes for conveying water, III. 837—motion of air in, I. 728; XVIII. 61—stronger than solid rods containing the same quantity of matter, XX. 766. See Aqueduct.
Pipe-clay, XV. 88, 142; XVIII. 498.

PIP—PIT

- Pipe-fishes, XII 314
Piperaceae, nat. ord. of plants, V. 207—region of, 228; XVII 628.
Pipers, XVII 714
Pipestone, XV 84
Pipit, bird, XVI 737
Pipiza, genus of insects, IX 289.
Pipia, genus of birds, XVI 757
Pippul, tree, IX 537—woishipped by the Buddhists, X 723
Pipunculus, genus of insects, IX 242
Piracy, XIII 283, 288—Algerine, II 568 *et seq*, IV 431—Berbers addicted to, XV 595—efforts of the Haueseatic League to extirpate, XI. 214. See Corsair, Private.
PIRÆUS, port of ancient Athens, XVII 715, IV 171, 174—improved by Theomistoles, 200
—, seaport of modern Athens, XVII 715.
Piran Round, primitive theatre of, XXI 164
PIRANESI (G. Battista), engraver, XVII 715
PIRANO, Austrian town, XVII 715
PIRATE, XVII 715; V. 709; VII 416 See Piracy
Pirene, spring, VII 367
PIRMASENS, town in Bavaria, XVII 715
PIRMA, in Saxony, XVII 715.
Pirogue, canoe, IV 800
Piron (Alexis), poet, XVII 715
PIR-PANJAL, mountain range, XVII 715
PIRA, XVII 716—cathedral of, III 447, 517—commerce of, VII 186—a rival of Genoa, X 453—school of painting, XVII 60, 61—university of, XXI 492
—(LEONARDO), XVII 717; II 463.
Pisander, IV 207.
PISANO (Andrea), sculptor, XVII 717; XIX 860.
—(Nicoletta), sculptor, XVII 717, 716, XIX 860.
—(N and G.), painters, XVII 61
Pisauum, ancient town See Pesaro
Pisces, constellation, IV. 80
PISCINA, XVII 717
Pisek, town in Bohemia, XVII 717
PISIRIA, in Asia Minor, XVII 717—coins of, XVI 377.
Pisidium, genus of mollusks, XV. 570
PISTRATIS, XVII 717—State of Athens under, IV. 100—his government and character, 196, 197—first collected the poems of Homer, XI 598.
Pisodius, genus of fossil fishes, XII 338; XVII. 123.
Pisulite, mineral, XV. 92, 147.
Pisulitic chalk, XV 211.
Pison, genus of insects, IX 106.
Pisodonophus, genus of fishes, XII. 223.
Pisoplanne, mineral, XV. 101
Pistachio nut, V 190; XVI 305—its oil, XIII 169.
Pistazite, mineral, XV. 85.
Pistaceae, nat. ord. of plants, V 214.
PISTRICCO, town in Naples, XVII. 718.
Pistil, in botany, V. 117, 129—transformations of, 133
Pistoia, town in Tuscany, XVII. 718.
Pistole, XV 441, 442.
Pistolograph, XX. 691.
Pistols, manufacture of, XI. 100—electrical, VII. 628
Pistomastite, mineral, XV. 92.
Piston, in pump-work, XVII 718—comparative motion of two pistons, XIV. 386—of steam-engine, XII 580 *et seq*—velocity of, 645—in merchant steamers, and Government screw-steamers, 616—high speed now used, 655.
Pistosaurus, fossil reptiles, XVII 144
Pitard, French surgeon, XX. 816.
PITCAIRN ISLAND, XVII. 718; XVIII. 282—Inhabitants of, settled in Norfolk island, XVI 291.
PITCAIRN (Archibald), physician, XVII. 719; XIV. 460.
Pitcaithly, in Perthshire, XVII. 467.
PITROX, XVII. 719; XVI. 100; XXI. 21—specific gravity of, XII 88—mineral, IV. 786—as a polisher of specula, XXI.

PIT—PIU

- 136—pitch-lake in Trinidad, XVI. 100, XVII 602, XXI 332
Pitch, of a roof, XIX 873.
Pitch-blende, XV 111
Pitcher-plant, V 93, 205—analysis of the water in the pitcher, 104—in Ceylon, VI 804—of Java, XII 704
—, order of plants, V 205
Pitches, in mining, XV 224
Pitching of a ship, XX 153, and n 1—pitching and securing, 161
Pitch-oil, X 433
Pitch-pine, specific gravity of the wood, XII 89
Pitchstone, XV 73, 124
PITRA, in Sweden, XVII 719
Pith of plants, V 81; XXI 267
Pithecia, genus of mammalia, XIV 144
Pithecius, genus of mammalia, XIV 188
PITHUIERS, town in France, XVII 719
PITHOU (Pierre), XVII 719
PITRSCUS (Samuel), philologist, XVII 720
—, mathematician, X 503—on the arithmetic of sums, II 547.
Pitkin on the imports of the United States, IX 426
PITON (Henri), XVII 720—his theory of centres, VI 373—his tube, XII 142—on hydrarches, 143, XIX 189—on the strength of materials, XX 757, 759.
PITTS (John), biographer, XVII 720
PITT (Christopher), poet, XVII 720
—(WILLIAM), Earl of Chatham, XVII. 721—his administration, V. 463 *et seq*—resignation, 463—created Earl of Chatham, 1b—his reappearance in Parliament, 478—his plan for terminating the American war, 1b
—(WILLIAM), son of the preceding, XVII 727—his plan of parliamentary reform, V 507, 515—his administration, 511—India Bills, 1b, 513, XI. 497—refusal to resign, V 511—plan of a commercial union between Great Britain and Ireland, 516—sinking fund, 518, X. 329, 339—commercial treaty with France, V 523; VII. 195—on the regency question, V 531, 532—his administration in reference to Ireland, 533—on the slave trade, 1b; XX 322—on increasing the army, V 535—his policy in reference to the French revolution, 536—on the corporation and test acts, 1b—his bill for regulating the government of Canada, 537—on Mr Grey's motion for parliamentary reform, 542, 543, 544—his support of the war with France, 548, 552, 556—bill to increase the navy, 563—duel with Mr Thorney, 563—income-tax, 566—proposal of union between Britain and Ireland, 569, 572—on the expediency of continuing the war with Bonaparte, 571—end of his administration, 575—his character as a statesman, 576—on Catholic emancipation, 578, 624—on the peace of Amiens, 586—his return to power in 1803, 597—his death, 599—payment of his debts, 1b—financial measures, VII. 190—blind-leading policy in 1803, X 137—his proposed tax on coal, XII. 573—duty on tea reduced by, XXI 71.
Pitt-Diamond, VIII. 3, 4; XVII. 721.
Pitta, genus of birds, XVI. 733.
PITTRACUS, Greek sage, XVII. 744.
PITREWEEM, XVII. 744.
Pittletide, mineral, XV. 101.
Pittinerz, mineral, XV. 111.
PITTOPOREAE, nat. ord. of plants, V. 188.
PITTS (William), XVII. 745.
PITTSBURGH, in Pennsylvania, XVII. 745—climate of, 396—glass manufacture, 1b—commerce, 397.
Pity, I. 888.
Pitylus, genus of birds, XVI. 761.
PITUA, town in Peru, XVII. 746, 474.
PIUS I., Pope, XVII. 746.
—II., XVII. 746.
—III., XVII. 746.
—IV., XVII. 747.
—V., XVII. 747.
—VI., XVII. 747.

PIU—PLA

- PIUS VII., XVII 747—Jesuitism restored by, XII 736
—VIII., XVII 747; XII. 658.
—IX., XII 656—his retirement to Gaeta, 658—and return, 659.
Pivots, friction of, XIV 406—Coulomb on the friction of, VII. 464—Scholies' pivot, XIV. 406
PIXU (Hippolyte), on magneto-electricity, VIII 582—his magneto-electric machine, XXI 646.
PIZAIO (Francis), II. 596—his conquest of Peru, XVII 463—Lima founded by, XII. 486.
Pizzo (II), Italian city, XVII 747
Placens (Vincent), on anonymous books, IV 711
Placenta, III 72; XVII 688.
—, in botany, V 130
PLACENTIA, XVII. 747 See Placenza.
—, in Spain, XVII 748.
Placodus, fossil reptiles, XVII 145
—, genus of fossil fishes, XII 337; XVII 125
Placognathoid, fossil fishes, XVII 120.
Placoid, order of fishes, XII. 217—fossil, 333, 339
Placuna, genus of mollusks, XV 348
Placunopsis, fossil mollusks, XVII 105
Pladla, island, VI 28.
PLAGIARY, XVII. 748.
PLAGIARIUM, XVII. 748—charges of, against Middleton, IV. 637; Colebridge, VII 111; Paley, XVII. 204, n; XVI 263; Sterne, XXI 608
Plagiolax, fossil mammals, XVII. 161.
Plagionite, mineral, XV 119.
Plagiostoma, fossil mollusks, XVII. 106.
Plagiostomi, family of fishes, XII 323—fossil, 340; XVII. 116.
PLAGUS, XVII 748—at Aleppo, II. 463—at Athens, IV. 204—in Egypt, II. 23; VII. 422—England, IX. 320—London, V. 423; XIII 659; effect of, on the religious feelings of the people, I. 461—at Birmingham in 1665, IV. 729—Edinburgh, VIII 301—Glasgow, X. 646—Marseille, XIV. 316—Milan, XV. 2—Perth, XVII. 452—Rome, XIX 344—Black Death in 14th century, XXI. 944 and n. 2.
Plagues of Egypt, design of, I. 467—the plague of blood supposed to have been produced by infusoria, III 210
Plagusia, genus of fishes, XII 272.
Plave, fish, IX 761.
Plading, XIX. 805.
Plaine, a district in Vendée in France, XXI. 564.
PLAINS—maritime plain of Syria, XX. 902—of Bagota, IV. 808—of northern and eastern Europe, XVIII. 602; XVII. 609—among the Himalayas, XI. 441—in China, XVII. 610—India, 1b.—Java, XII. 703.
Plakodine, mineral, XV. 116.
PLAN, XVII 752—in architecture, III. 512.
Plana (M.), on electricity, VIII. 633—his lunar theory, I. 825—his skill as a calculator, 826.
Planaria, zoophytes, XXI. 976.
Planecer, in architecture, III 512.
PLANE, in geometry, XVII. 752; X. 592—properties of, 556—in joinery, XII. 807—charts, VI. 426.
—, order of plants, V. 208.
Plane-trees, XVII. 765—wood of, XXI. 278.
PLANET, XVII. 758, IV. 3, 51, 89—Herschel's observations on, I. 840—aberration of the planets, II. 38—optic equations, 50—acceleration, 74—perturbations, I. 811; III. 809; IV. 61—invariability of mean distances, III. 811—motions, IV. 4, 51—inferior and superior, 52—stations and retrogradations, 1b—effect of the earth's motion on their appearances, 54—their orbits, 57, 62—transits over the sun's disk, 62—constitution, magnitude, and rotation, 66—relation of the numbers which express their distances from the sun,

PLA—PLA

73—forces which retain them in their orbits, 97—small planets between Mars and Jupiter, 91—forces which disturb their elliptic motion, 102—Euler on the inequalities of their motions, IX. 373—disturbance produced by their mutual action, IV. 106—their disturbing effect on the orbits of comets, 107—stability of the planetary system, 107, 109—Druidical knowledge of the planets, XVIII. 186—Eudoxus' views of, III. 739
Planetary theory, I. 811—discovery of new planets, or asteroids, 859; of secondary planets, 860—their satellites See Satellites

—MACHINES, XVII. 753.
Planiceps, genus of insects, IX. 195.
Planimeter, XIV. 415.
Planning machine, Bramah's, V. 273—use of the planning machine, I. 879.
Planipennis, family of insects, IX. 177.
PLANISPHERE, XVII. 753; III. 791.
Plank, in journey, V. 750—planks of a ship, XX. 187, 188.
Plano-convex and plano-concave lenses, XVI. 574.
Planorbis, genus of mollusks, XV. 374—fossil, XVII. 111.
PLANT, XVII. 753—what constitutes a plant, 91—distinctions from animals, III. 168; II. 748—organic constituents of, 374; V. 94; inorganic, II. 374, 384, V. 96—changes in the food of, during their growth, II. 382—elementary tissues, V. 65—integrumentary system, 74—nutritive organs, 75—reproductive organs, 112—inflorescence, 1b—sexuality, 152—propagation, 167, XI. 693, 694, 702—temperature, V. 109—luminosity, 169, XIII. 458—electricity of, V. 170; VIII. 570—effects of electricity upon, 608, XXI. 635—classification of, V. 174, 176—arrangement and characters of the natural orders, 180—geographical distribution of, 219, 222; XVII. 624; in Britain, V. 726—specific centres from which plants have been spread, XVII. 625—total number known, 1b—families characteristic of different zones, 626—regions of, V. 227, XVII. 627—substances poisonous to, V. 175—natural and artificial classification of, both indicated by Cæsalpinus, VI. 56—colours of, VII. 152, 153—green colours of, XVI. 699—their defence against excessive cold, XI. 262—species yielding narcotic and poisons, XIV. 459—effects of light on, XIII. 459—their tendency to increase in a geometrical progression, XVIII. 338—nature-printing of, 555—number found in Scotland, XIX. 796 See Botany and the Geographical articles generally.
Plantade on the barometer, IV. 455.
PLANTAGINACEÆ, XVII. 753.
Plantaginaceæ, nat. ord. of plants, V. 203.
Plantain tree, V. 211—fibre of, XXI. 783.
Plantain-eaters, birds, XVI. 764.
Plantations See Forests, Woods, Planting, Timber.
Plantigrada, XIV. 153; XVII. 681—their mode of walking, III. 88.
PLANTING, XVII. 754—of fruit trees, XI. 695, 704—of timber trees, XXI. 263.
PLAUDUS (Maximus), Greek monk, XVII. 776, III. 580.
Plasma, mineral, XV. 69; II. 232; VI. 67.
PLASSEY, in India, XVII. 776—battle of, XI. 484.
PLASTER, in pharmacy, XVII. 776—surgical, XX. 823.
—OF PARIS, XVII. 776—modelling with, XV. 298, 294; XIX. 868—casting with, IV. 823—its composition, XI. 173—paper adulterated with, XVII. 280—its use in stereotyping, XVIII. 550. See Gypsum.
Plasterer's work, V. 741—measurement of, 745.
Plastic clay, XV. 212; XVIII. 439.
Plat (Sir Hugh), on manures, II. 256—his method of making coal balls, X. 818 and n. 2.

PLA—PLA

PLATA (La), XVII. 776; II. 675, 705—climate of, 673—revolution in, 701—map of, VI. Plate
—(Rio de La), XVII. 782, 603; V. 736—navigation of, II. 675.
PLATEA, or Plateæ, XVII. 782—battle of, IV. 200; XX. 501—festival in honour of Jupiter celebrated at, VIII. 681.
Platea, genus of birds, XVI. 800.
Platanaceæ, nat. ord. of plants, V. 203.
Platanus, genus of fishes, XII. 302—fossil, 344.
Plate, stamp on, XIV. 290.
Plateau (M.), on vision, XVI. 550.
—, Eastern, in Syria, XX. 903.
Plate-glass, X. 665.
Platensis, fossil Chelonian, XVII. 153.
Platen-see, IV. 393.
Plates, in heraldry, XI. 325.
Platessa, genus of fishes, XII. 272.
PLATHEUM, XVII. 783—of railway stations, XVIII. 766, 777 et seq.
PLATINA, or Platinum, XVII. 783; XV. 66, 113, VI. 499—oxides of, 1b—mines of, XV. 236—its use with the blow-pipe, IV. 791—specific gravity of, XII. 88—distribution of, XVII. 622—its fitness for a pyrometer, XVIII. 705—its use in colouring porcelain, 444—art of rendering malleable discovered by Wollaston, I. 972; XXI. 900—produce of, in Russia, XIX. 542, 543—its conducting power for electricity, XXI. 621—its effect on the electric current, 623—Children and Groves' experiments on wire of, 626, 627—decomposing power of spongy, 630.
Platinoids, family of metals, XVII. 622.
PLATING, XVII. 783—of copper, VII. 351—voltaic, XXI. 637.
Platinus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 347.
PLATO, XVII. 788—speculations concerning the Trinity, I. 516, n. 2—his system of optimism, 126, 127—philosophy of, 316, 317; III. 588, 547, 555, 670—taught the possibility of antipodes, 277—on the soul and its transmutations, 309; XIV. 628—his style, III. 571—his astronomy, 789—on beauty, IV. 537—his account of the island Atlantis, 177—on the dances of the ancients, VII. 645—his school of geometry, X. 498—his esoteric and exoteric doctrines, IX. 332—on optics, XVI. 521—his supposed opinions on *universals*, 284—his ethical works, XV. 539—philology advanced by, XVII. 518—his admiration of Socrates, XX. 379—does not give an exact portrait of him, 385, 402—his account of the last days of Socrates, 393—Dionysius of Syracuse committed to his care, 399.
PLATONETER, XVIII. 1; XIV. 415.
PLATON, archbishop of Moscow, XVIII. 1.
Platonists, comic sections apparently discovered by, VII. 249—their opinion of brutes, V. 700—on vision, XIII. 449—speculations regarding the doctrine of the Trinity, XXI. 195.
—(New), II. 723.
Platte, river, XV. 281.
Platten-see, lake, XII. 10.
Plattès (Gabriel), II. 257.
Platting, distinguished from weaving, XXI. 780.
Platneste, mineral, XV. 111.
Platt's combing machine, XXI. 924.
PLATTSBURG, in New York, XVIII. 1.
Platyacanthus, fossil fishes, XVII. 117.
Platycephalus, genus of insects, IX. 255.
Platycephalus, genus of fishes, XII. 281, 282.
Platyercus, genus of birds, XVI. 781.
Platygnathus, fossil echinoderms, XVII. 98.
Platidactyl, reptiles, XIX. 85.
Platynathus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 337.
Platyptera, genus of insects, IX. 242.
Platypinna, family of insects, IX. 242.
Platypterus, genus of insects, IX. 214.
Platypterus, Egyptian deity, XI. 388.
—, genus of fishes, XII. 807.
Platyptus, Duck-billed, XIV. 198. See Ornithorynchus.

PLA—PLE

Platypus, genus of insects, IX. 142.
Platyrrhina, genus of fishes, XII. 327.
Platyrhynchus, mammals, dentition of, XVI. 455.
Platyrhynchus, genus of birds, XVI. 749.
Platysoma, family of insects, IX. 143, 253.
Platysomus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 334; XVII. 125.
Platystoma, genus of fishes, XII. 261.
Platypura, genus of insects, IX. 223.
PLAUBEN, in Saxony, XVIII. 1.
PLAUTUS, XVIII. 1, XVII. 211—comedies of, VIII. 141, 142—sun-dials in his time, VII. 775—poetry of, XVIII. 104.
Player See Actor.
PLAYFAIR (John), XVIII. 3—his dissertation on the progress of mathematical and physical science, I. 547—character and subjects of that dissertation, 802—remarks on his assertion that Galileo was the first who maintained the law of continuity, 253—his remarks on the characters of Hutton and Black, 928—on the mathematical and astronomical knowledge of the Hindus, II. 488; III. 786—on physical astronomy, IV. 96—on barometrical measurements, 465—on the point where a river ends and a fifth begins, IX. 600—on the origin of Porisms, X. 505—on magnetic curves, XIV. 46—his illustrations of Hutton's theories, XII. 61—his character and merits, I. 802, n. —on Sir H. Davy's safety lamp, 971—on Prof. Robison's lectures, XIX. 238.
—(Dr Lyon), his report on coal for the steam navy, X. 319—on atomic volumes, VI. 449—instances of ignorance of minerals related by, XXI. 821.
PLAYHOUSE, XVIII. 8. See Theatre.
Playte, kind of ship, XX. 123.
Plea, genus of insects, IX. 163.
Pleading, English, VIII. 789.
Pleasure, Aristotle on, III. 561—relative value of different kinds of, VIII. 25—Epicurean notions of, IX. 273—how far the pursuit of, consistent with morality, XV. 573. See Happiness.
PLEBEIAN, VIII. 8—Roman plebeians, XIX. 296.
Plecoglossus, genus of fishes, XII. 246.
Plectognath, or Plectognathus, order of fishes, XII. 312, 313.
Plectropterus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 334; XVII. 125.
Plectrophanes, genus of birds, XVI. 700.
Plectropoma, genus of fishes, XII. 223, 276.
PLECTRO, XVIII. 9.
PLEGME, XVIII. 9.
PLEIADES, in mythology, XVIII. 9.
—, constellation, XVIII. 9, I. 842, n.
Pleione, genus of annelids, IX. 287.
Pleiocone, in geology, XVII. 637. See Pliocene.
Pleionemus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 345.
Pleistocene period in geology, XV. 215; XVII. 637—British rocks of the, XV. 215; foreign, 217—geographical distribution of the mammals of, XVII. 173.
Plenitude of stars, I. 844.
Pleochroism, in minerals, XV. 58.
PLEONASM, in rhetoric, XVIII. 9.
Pleonaste, mineral, XV. 87.
PLESCHEN, town in Prussia, XVIII. 9.
Plesiops, genus of fishes, XII. 288.
Plesiosaurus, XVII. 146, 147—bones of, III. 89.
Pletho (Georgius). See Geminus.
PLETHORA, XVIII. 9—in the domestic animals, XXI. 574.
Pleura, II. 388.
Pleuracanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 840; XVII. 117.
Pleuronchyma, V. 69.
Pleuris, in animals, XXI. 573.
Pleuronectes, genus of fishes, XII. 225—fossil, XVII. 845.
Pleuronectidae, family of fishes, XII. 271, 272—fossil, XVII. 123.
Pleurorhynchus, fossil mollusks, XVII. 105, 107.

PLE—PLU

Pleurorhynchus, genus of mollusks, XV. 371.
Pleurorhynchus, fossil tortoises, XVII. 153.
Pleurorhynchus, disease, XVII. 700.
Pleurorhynchus, fossil mollusks, XVII. 111.
Plexus, in anatomy, II. 813.
Pliability, combination of strength with, in beams, XX. 767.
PLICA POLONICA, XVIII. 9.
Plicatula, genus of mollusks, XV. 348—fossil, XVII. 106.
Plicipennis, family of insects, IX. 180.
Plinian, mineral, XV. 115.
PLINUS SECUNDUS (Cælius), or Pliny the Elder, XVIII. 9—on agriculture, II. 250—on alumen, 638—on sal ammoniac, 720—on ants, III. 261—on dew, VII. 765—on bees, IV. 587—on the Druids, VIII. 138 et seq.—on calico-printing, 314—on the preservation of timber, 212—on geography, X. 468—on the remora, XII. 270—on irrigation, 632—his natural history, III. 549, n. 11, XIV. 123; XVII. 214—Hardouin's edition of it, XI. 226; H. Barbarus's emendations of, XVII. 622—on ornithology, XVI. 725—on painting, XVII. 51 et seq.—on the papyrus, 247—on the pearl, 356—his account of a meteorite, XIV. 639—on ancient sculpture, XIX. 843 et seq.—on the silk-worm, XX. 286—on soap, 305—on the boundaries of Syria, 901—on the tides, XII. 250—on ancient vines, 832.
PLINUS CAECILIUS SECUNDUS (C.), or Pliny the Younger, XVIII. 12—his letter to Trajan about the Christians, VI. 640; I. 493, n. —on hunting, XII. 32—Melmoth's translation of his letters, XIV. 485—his letter to Quintilian, XVIII. 737—his notices of Suetonius, XX. 787, 788—on Tacitus, XXI. 2, 3.
PLINTH, XVIII. 13; III. 512.
Plinthite, mineral, XV. 83.
Pliocene period in geology, XV. 214—flora of, V. 237—insects of, XVII. 108—fossils, 637.
Philoporus, fossil mammals, XVII. 162, 163.
Phopithecus, fossil apes, XVII. 167.
Phosaurus, fossil reptiles, XVII. 148.
Plios, genus of insects, IX. 234.
Pliops, genus of birds, XVI. 700.
Plioc, in Poland, XVIII. 13.
Pliocæ, in France, XVIII. 13.
Pliocæna, genus of insects, IX. 163.
Pliocæna, genus of insects, IX. 142.
Pliobaggonia, mineral, XV. 106.
Pliot, town in Denmark, XVIII. 13.
Pliot (Dr Robert), XVIII. 13.
Pliotinus, philosopher, XVIII. 14, 366; XII. 194; XVII. 232.
Pliotus, genus of fishes, XII. 220, 260, 263.
Plotus, genus of birds, XVI. 814.
Pliouch, XVIII. 15; II. 270, 271—substitution of grubbers for, 290—subsoil-plough, 271.
Ploughing, II. 286.
Plovers, birds, XVI. 797—shooting of, XX. 216.
Plowden (Edmund), XVIII. 15.
Plowman (Piers), vision of, XVII. 792.
PLUCHÉ (N. Antoine), French writer, XVIII. 15.
Plucker (Prof.), on the influence of electromagnetism on the axis of crystals, I. 981; XVI. 675.
Plum, V. 191—culture and varieties of, XI. 711, 712.
Plumbagaceæ, nat. ord. of plants, V. 203.
Plumbago, XV. 123—pencils of, XVII. 375—in Ceylon, VI. 893—Cumberland, VII. 677; XV. 243, n. See Graphite.
Plumbers' work, in building, V. 756—their extortionate charges, 756. See Lead.
Plumbic acid, VI. 497.
PLUMB-LINE, or Plummet, XVIII. 15; XXI. 347.
Plumbocalcite, mineral, XV. 92.
Plumbostib, mineral, XV. 119.
Plume-nutmeg, order of plants, V. 204.

PLU—POD

- Plummer (Mr), his flax-machines, XIII. 494, 495
 Plumose, mineral, XV. 119
 Plumule, in botany, V. 141
 Plunger pole pump, XII. 176
 PLUNKET (Wm. Conyngham), Lord Chancellor of Ireland, XVIII. 15—his bills for Catholic emancipation, V. 681—his advocacy of the Catholic claims, 688, 689
 PLURAL, in grammar, XVIII. 16; X. 747
 Plusquam-perfect tense, X. 766, 767
 PLUTARCH, XVIII. 16—the notion of centrifugal force implied in a statement of his, I. 568—on the Amazons, II. 651—his character of the Athenians, IV. 211—on cold, VII. 99—on virtue, XV. 558—his notices of ancient sculpture, XIX. 855 *et seq.*—on the alleged poverty of Socrates, XX. 876, n. 3—Langhorne's translations of his *Lives*, XIII. 183, 184
 PLUTO, XVIII. 17, XI. 179
 PLUTUS, god of riches, XVIII. 17.
 PLYCTOLOPHUS, genus of birds, XVI. 783
 PLYMOUTH, XV. 518
 PLYMOUTH, XVIII. 17—breakwater at, V. 306—fortification of, 516, 517—diving-bell used at, VIII. 66—dockyard of, 54—victual establishments, *ib.*—hospital, *ib.*—harbour, 721—harbour of refuge at, XI. 228—tide at, XXI. 249
 —a town in Massachusetts, XVIII. 21; XIV. 341, XX. 432
 —group of rocks, XV. 199.
 PLYMPTON, two towns in Devon, XVIII. 21
 PLYNTERIA, XVIII. 21
 Pneumatic process, in sugar making, XX. 785
 PNEUMATICS, XVIII. 22—invention of the air-pump, I. 596, X. 79—experiments on the passage of air through pipes, I. 726—method of determining the relative density of any gas, 727—on the escape of air and vapour through an aperture, *ib.*—experiments on the density of the air at different heights, 729—explanation of Bouguer's rule relative to the barometrical measurement of mountains, 730—experiments of De Luc, 730—vacuefying apparatus in the feet of certain animals, III. 101; IX. 223—Dr Beddoe's Pneumatic Institution, IV. 566—Pneumatic Power Transmitter, XIV. 386—Hero of Alexandria's work on, XX. 573 See Air-pump, Atmosphere, Barometer, Hydrostatics
 Pneumodermon, genus of mollusks, XV. 362
 Pneumogastric nerve, III. 57
 Pneumonia, in the domestic animals, XXI. 573—in Saxony, XVIII. 666.
 Pneumora, genus of insects, IX. 153.
 Pnyx, in ancient Athens, IV. 169
 Po, river, XVIII. 88; XII. 697; XIII. 644; XVII. 242, 247; XIX. 693—its inundations, XII. 70—mouths, XVII. 241—tributaries, 242—deposition at the mouths of, XIX. 207—velocity of, 199—bed, 206
 Pocharas, birds, XVI. 817.
 POCHETTI, XVIII. 81. See Barbatelli
 POCKLINGTON, town in Yorkshire, XVIII. 88
 POCOON (Edward), English divine, XVIII. 88
 POCOON (Richard), bishop, XVIII. 89—his description of an aqueduct at Jerusalem, III. 338
 Podabrus, genus of fishes, XII. 282.
 Podactinaria, zoophytes, XXI. 1005.
 Podalrus, XX. 809.
 Podargus, genus of birds, XVI. 759.
 PODGORITZA, in Turkey, XVIII. 89.
 Podiceps, genus of birds, XVI. 809.
 Podisma, genus of insects, IX. 160.
 Podium, genus of insects, IX. 196.
 —in architecture, III. 512.
 Podley, fish, XII. 269.
 Podoa, genus of birds, XVI. 809.
 Podocys, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 848.

POD—POI

- Pododus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 835; XVII. 125
 PODOLIA, or Podolsk, in Russia, XVIII. 89
 Podontia, genus of insects, IX. 149
 Podophthalma, crustacea, VII. 538, 540
 Podostemonaceæ, nat. ord. of plants, V. 207
 Podura, genus of insects, IX. 261
 Podurellæ, family of insects, IX. 261.
 Poecilia, genus of fishes, XII. 252
 Poecilophus, genus of fishes, XII. 232.
 Poecilepneuron, fossil reptiles, XVII. 152
 POE (Edgar Allan), poet, XVIII. 89
 POELEMBURG (Cornelius), painter, XVIII. 90
 Poepping (Dr) on Peru, XVII. 470, 472
 Poemei's processes for dyeing scarlet, VIII. 239
 Poestum See Pæstum.
 Poetics, Aristotle's, III. 559.
 POETRY, XVIII. 91, XV. 23, 31—Chinese, VI. 578—Persian, XVII. 429—Sir Walter Scott's, XIX. 823—had the Egyptians poetry? XI. 428—character in, VI. 420—definition of, by D'Alembert, I. 4—by Bacon, 33—language of, IV. 548—comparisons in, VII. 218—no French language of, VIII. 155—suggests musical ideas, XV. 738—relations between it and persuasive eloquence, XIX. 137.
 Poey (M.), his work on the lepidoptera of Cuba, IX. 18
 Pogora, XVIII. 127 See Bracciolini
 Pogonias, genus of birds, XVI. 779.
 —genus of fishes, XII. 284, 285
 Pogonocherus, genus of insects, IX. 146.
 Poitiers. See Poitiers
 Poignard on magic squares, XIII. 810
 POILLY (François), engraver, XVIII. 127.
 Poinset (M.) on rotation, I. 825—his theory of statcal couples, *ib.*—on the precession of the equinoxes, XVIII. 459.
 Point, XVIII. 137—motion of, in mechanics, XIV. 384—motion of two points, 387—dry point, in engraving, VIII. 799, 803—action of points in electricity, 553 See Punctuation, Astronomy, Geometry.
 Point-blank, in gunnery, XI. 104
 POINT-A-PITRE, XVIII. 127; XI. 72
 POINT-DE-GALLE, in Ceylon, XVIII. 127; VI. 890, 898; XXI. 27.
 Pointed architecture, III. 445, 449, 456, 470, 489, 516, 517—first period of, 480—second period, 481—third period, 482—origin of, XX. 710.
 Pointer-dogs, XX. 218.
 Pontas, a bucanier, V. 713
 PORRINO, Italian town, XVIII. 127.
 POISON, XVIII. 127—metallic poisons, XIV. 432—vegetable, 436—animal, 439—earthy and alkaline, 434—acid, 435—gaseous, *ib.*—simple substances with poisonous qualities, *ib.*—in reference to medical jurisprudence, 439—distinguished from aliments and medicines, III. 179—the same kinds do not act alike on different animals, *ib.*—extensive poisonings with aqua tofana, 329, 330—of spiders, 373—of the bee, IV. 578—of serpents, XI. 456; XIX. 44, 45, 46, 48—poisonous animals, XIV. 430—fishes, *ib.*; XII. 236, 812, 331 n.—imaginary poisonings, XIV. 440—substances poisonous to plants, V. 173—ordal by poison, XVI. 701—Nicanor's poems on poisons and their antidotes, 242—poisoning of rats, XXI. 548.
 Poison-gland of serpents, III. 113; XIX. 44—poison-fangs of, XVI. 431, 432; XIX. 44.
 POISSON (Simon Denis), XVIII. 136—on the stability of the planetary system, I. 818, 824—on rotation, 824—invariability of the mean solar ray, *ib.*—on the conduction of heat, 951—his writings, 825—on the propagation of sound, II. 104—on electricity, VIII. 581; I. 969—his theory of capillary attraction, XII. 100, 101; and of waves, 74—on gunnery, XI. 129—on magnetism, XIV.

POI—POL

- 91, 92—on optics, XVI. 546—on the possibility of a projectile from the moon reaching the earth, XIV. 685—on probability, XVIII. 590, 591
 Poitevin (M.), his photo-lithographic process, XVII. 554
 POITERS, in France, XVIII. 136—battle of, VI. 614; VIII. 688; X. 18—population, 277
 POITOU, in France, XVIII. 136; X. 277
 Poke-weed, order of plants, V. 136
 POKHURN, town in India, XVIII. 136
 POKUR, in India, XVIII. 136
 POL DE LEON (St), in France, XVIII. 136
 Pola, amphitheatre at, II. 731
 POLAND, XVIII. 137—partition of, IV. 391, XIX. 458—Polish bibles, IV. 702—corn trade of, VII. 402, with England, VIII. 732—Napoleon's conduct towards, X. 144, 148, 155—debate on in the French chambers, 205—language of, IX. 392; XIII. 214—Jews in, XII. 782, 783—libraries in, XIII. 425—coins of, XV. 442, 444, XVI. 389—monarchy of, XV. 414—Prussia's share in the partition of, XVIII. 655—wars with Russia, XIX. 475 *et seq.*; insurrection of 1830, 498—natives of in Russia, 603—effect of the Revolution of 1830 in Paris on, XVIII. 156—Campbell the poet's interest in, VI. 127—silk produced in, XX. 278—wars with Sweden, 848, 851—deposition of Augustus and elevation of Stanislas to the throne, 853—reinstatement of Augustus, 854—weights and measures, XXI. 813.
 —kingdom of European Russia, XVIII. 160.
 Polar Bear, XIV. 153, 154.
 —Circles, X. 481
 —Lights See Aurora Borealis
 —Regions, Arctic, XVIII. 161—recent voyages to, X. 473, 474—furred animals of, 845—insects of, IX. 70—abundance of birds in, XVII. 633—rarity of thunder storms in, 615—plants of, V. 226—Parry's voyages to, XVII. 306 *et seq.*; Franklin's, X. 206; Ross's, XIX. 424; Lyon's, XIII. 750.
 —ANTARCTIC, XVIII. 181
 —Seas, phenomena of, XVII. 583—surface water sometimes nearly fresh, 574—Russian islands in, XIX. 552.
 Polarism, I. 909.
 Polarity of magnets, XIV. 90.
 POLARIZATION OF LIGHT, XVIII. 182; XIII. 453; XV. 57; XVI. 532, 537 *et seq.*—discovery of by Malus, I. 754, 901, 902—history of the discovery, *ib.*—Huygen's discovery of polarization by calc spar, 902—by reflection, *ib.*—by common refraction, *ib.*—Sir D Brewster's researches on, 912—law of, by reflection, *ib.*—imperfect polarization, *ib.*—polarizing structure in heated glass, *ib.*—phenomena as shewn by uniaxial crystals, 913—metallic polarization, 914—Dr Faraday's experiment, 951—rotation of plane of polarization of a ray of light, *ib.*—circular polarization, 905—colours of crystallized bodies in polarized light, 908—laws of, VI. 652, 659—idea of may be traced to Newton's Optics, I. 754, and n.—of sky light, XIV. 682—polarization of heat, I. 956; XI. 287—circular, XVI. 683; I. 956—polarizing microscopes, XIV. 788.
 Polcura, or alum-earth, II. 638.
 Polders, in Belgium, IV. 611; in Holland, XI. 582.
 POLK (Reginald), archbishop of Canterbury, XVIII. 182; VIII. 705, 700.
 —(Wellslcy), V. 624—mint remodelled by, VII. 80.
 —XVIII. 182—poles of the earth, I. V. 1; X. 480—Daines Barrington on the possibility of reaching the North Pole, IV. 472—terrestrial magnetic poles, I. 990, 991; XIV. 50, 3, 11, 20; XVII. 617—poles of maximum cold, XIV. 11—poles of the ecliptic, IV. 12. See Polar Regions.

POL—POL

- Pole, positive and negative, in voltaic electricity, XXI. 629
 —or Perch, XVIII. 182, XVII. 406.
 Pole-cat, XIV. 157—its fur, X. 348
 POLEMACORUS, XVIII. 182, III. 517.
 Polematas, VII. 655
 Polemonaceæ, nat. ord. of plants, V. 200
 Polemon, kings of Pontus, XVIII. 292
 Polen (Marquis), on hydrodynamics, XII. 71, 117
 Polenta, XII. 662.
 Pole-star, VII. 787.
 POLETZ, XVIII. 183.
 POLEYOV (N. Alexievich), Russian author, XVIII. 182
 Polihl on the Divine attributes, XXI. 192.
 POLI (G. Xavero), XVIII. 183.
 Polianite, mineral, XV. 111
 POLICASTRO, town of Naples, XVIII. 183; XX. 241.
 POLICE, XVIII. 183—medical, XIV. 440; of apothecaries' shops, 441—of London, XIII. 678—Dublin, VIII. 220—Edinburgh, 404—Glasgow, X. 653—Petersburgh, XVII. 489—of Ireland, XII. 502, 524—Indian, XI. 521—Belgian, IV. 614—Police Gazette, X. 444.
 POLICY OF INSURANCE, XVIII. 209—stamps on, XII. 409—its limits as to residence, 410—interest of one person effecting a policy on the life of another, *ib.*—surrender of a policy, *ib.* See Insurance.
 POLIDORO, painter, XVIII. 209; XVII. 60 See Caravaggio (Polidoro da).
 Polignac, X. 192 *et seq.*—his ministry, 100—trial and banishment of, 203
 POLIGNANO, town of Naples, XVIII. 209.
 POLIGNY, town of France, XVIII. 209.
 POLILLO, island, XVIII. 209.
 Polishing of specula for telescopes, XXI. 135
 Polistes, genus of insects, IX. 107
 POLISTINA, town of Naples, XVIII. 209.
 POLITIANO (Angelo), Italian author, XVIII. 209.
 POLITICAL ARITHMETIC, XVIII. 209
 —ECONOMY, XVIII. 210, X. 545
 —Inadequacy of the term to express the nature of the science, I. 310—Aristotle on, III. 669—Becerra on, IV. 568—Dr Chalmers' work on, VI. 405—Ricardo on, XIX. 154—value of statistics to, XX. 549. See Credit, Colonies, Commerce, Corn-Laws, Cottage-system, Currency, Economists, Emigration, Money, Poor-Laws, Population, Taxation, &c.
 —education, XV. 811.
 —ethology, XIII. 264.
 —Geography, X. 450.
 —liberty, XIII. 260.
 —medicine, XIV. 463.
 —Science, little advance made in, prior to the 17th century, I. 20.
 Politics, Aristotle on, III. 506—wherein different from political economy, XVIII. 223—Academies of, II. 71.
 Poliziano (Angelo), VI. 746; XVII. 622.
 POLZ, XVIII. 261—for member of Parliament, XVII. 206
 POLLA, La, town of Naples, XVIII. 261.
 POLLASUOLO (Antonio), XVII. 261.
 Pollan, fish, XII. 243; XVI. 123.
 Polled-cattle, *ib.* 341.
 POLLEN, XVIII. 261; V. 118, 126, 128, 154, 155—active molecules in, III. 203—function of, XVII. 688—collected by bees, IV. 572.
 POLLENZA, in Majorca, XVIII. 261.
 Poll-evil, XXI. 668.
 Pollicipes, fossil barnacles, XVII. 101.
 POLLIO (Calus Asinius), XVIII. 261—Virgil's *Elogium* begun at the suggestion of, XXI. 504.
 —(Vedius), his treatment of his slaves, XX. 319.
 Pollock, fish, XII. 243, 269.
 —(General), on an electrical phenomenon in India, VIII. 583.
 —(Robert), poet, XVIII. 261.

POL—POL

POLLOCKSAWS, XVIII 261—Monteith's weaving factory at, VII 450—printing of calicoes first introduced at, X 648
 POLLUX, XVIII 262; XIX 36
 — (JULIUS), ancient Greek writer, XVIII 262
 — mineral, XV 73
 POLNA, town in Bohemia, XVIII 262
 POLO (Marco), XVIII 262—on China, VI 561, 583, 595—his travels in Asia, III 733; X 469, 470, XVIII 163—first made Java and Japan known to Europeans, XII 697, 708—Marsden's translation of his travels, XIV 315
 Polochrum, genus of insects, IX 195
 POLOTZK, Russian town, XVIII 263
 POLTAVA, in European Russia, XVIII 263, XIX 521
 POLTEN (St), in Lower Austria, XVIII 263
 Polyacanthus, genus of fishes, XII 290.
 POLYANTUS, XVIII 263
 Polyangulal kaleidoscope, XIII 39
 Polyanthus, culture of, XI 733
 — narcissus, V 112; X 752
 Polyargite, mineral, XV 79.
 Polybasite, mineral, XV 121
 POLYBUS, Greek historian, XVIII 264—on government, VIII 760, 765—on the balance of power, IV 339, n.—on Hannibal's passage of the Alps, VI 293, n.—Folard's Commentaries on, IX 749—on geography, X 467—Gronovius' edition of, XI 67—recovery of portions of his History, XVII 213—discrepancies between him and Livy, XIII 526
 Polybus, Greek anatomist, II 749.
 POLYCARP, XVIII 264; IX 491
 Polycentral kaleidoscope, XIII 39
 Polycera, genus of mollusks, XV 371.
 Polychroite, VIII 207.
 Polychroum, artificial, in optics, XVI 667
 Polychromy, XIX 863.
 Polychrus, genus of serpents, XIX 34
 POLYCLERUS, Greek statuary and architect, XVIII 265; XIX 854.
 Polychnum, genus of mollusks, XV 331, 332
 POLYCRATES, Greek tyrant, XVIII 266
 Polycystinea, XVII 94.
 Polydesmus, genus of myriapods, XV 748
 Polydonta, genus of mollusks, XV 375.
 Polydore, Virgil, XVIII 266.
 Polyergus, genus of insects, IX 194.
 Polyglacear, nat. ord. of plants, V 183.
 Polygamia, in botany, V 177.
 Polygamous birds, III 181.
 POLYGAMY, XVIII 266—in Arabia, III 354—Arracan, 675—prevalent in Asia, 750—in Ashantee, 727—Beloochistan, IV 642—China, VI 595—Polynesia, XVIII 271—Siam, XX 283—among the ancient Germans, X 573—among the Mormons, XV 591—sanctioned by the Mohammedan religion, 304—a violation of the primary law of marriage, 503—becoming rare among the Turks, XXI 373.
 Polyglottic process, in photography, XVI 545.
 POLYGLOT, or POLYGLOTT, XVIII 266; IV 697.
 POLYGNOTUS, ancient Greek painter, XVIII 266; XVII 53, 56
 Polygon, XVIII 267, X 507, 508, 513, 524, 528—to find its area, XIV 504, 505
 polygons of loads, 381—of resistances, 1b—flexible, XX 542.
 Polygonaceae, nat. ord. of plants, V 204.
 Polyhalite, mineral, XV 93.
 POLYHEDRON, XVIII 267—mensuration of, XIV 503
 POLYHISTOR, XVIII 267
 POLYHYMNIA, one of the muses, XVIII 267, XV 699
 Polykrase, mineral, XV 110.
 Polykite, mineral, XV 81
 Polymensm, VI 450, 503.
 Polymignite, mineral, XV 110.
 Polymemidae, or Polymemids, family of fishes, XII 278.

POL—POM

Polynemus, genus of fishes, XII 273
 POLYNESIA, XVIII 267, IV 251—diving in, VIII 57—height of mountains, XVII 645—volcanoes, 589—botanical region of, V 228, XVII 628—epitiles, XIX 31, 85—absence of serpents from, 50—missions in, XV 271, 273—insincerity of many of the Christian converts, 274 See Tahiti, &c
 Polynesians, in ethnology, IX 347
 Polymia, open sea in the Polar Regions, XVIII 176
 Polynce, genus of annelides, XI 300
 Polyodon, genus of fishes, XII 317
 Polymmatas, genus of insects, IX 208
 Polypary, XVII 95.
 Polypes, zoophytes, XXI 974, 1001—radiated, 1002—molluscan, 1001.
 POLYPTERUS, a Cyclops, XVIII 233
 Polyphractus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 339
 Polypidom, XXI 1001.
 POLYPTERON, musical instrument, XVII 283.
 — genus of birds, XVI 736
 Polypoda, echanoderms, XXI 986.
 Polypodiaceae, sub-order of ferns, V 216
 Polypody, tribe of ferns, V 216
 Polypion, genus of fishes, XII 276
 Polyptrichids, genus of fishes, XII 305.
 Polyptridae, family of fishes, XII 317
 Polyptrus, genus of fishes, XII 316, 317
 Polyptrychodon, fossil reptiles, XVII 152
 Polypus, III 175, 176—fossil polyp, XVII 95
 — a disease of cattle, XXI 571.
 Polysphemia, mineral, XV 106
 Polystoma, genus of entozoa, XXI 980
 Polytechnic school, in France, X 272, 177.
 — Institution, falling off the staircase in, XX 733
 POLYTRIAS, XVIII 263—origin of, IV 216. See Mythology, Pagans.
 Polytrochyl, III 512.
 Polytrope, XVIII 552.
 Polytrodon, genus of fishes, XII 281
 Polyxenus, genus of myriapods, XV 748
 Polyzoa, zoophytes, XXI 1003
 Pomacanthus, genus of fishes, XII 302—fossil, 344
 Pomacentrus, genus of fishes, XII 265.
 Pomanatus, genus of fishes, XII 277
 Pomare, kings of Tahiti, XVIII 281.
 — queen of Tahiti, XVIII 281—proceedings of the French regarding, X 217.
 Pomatomus, genus of fishes, XII 275.
 POMBA (Villa da), town in Brazil, XVIII 283
 POMBAI (Dom S José de Carvalho, marquise de), XVIII 283, 387—his policy in reference to Brazil, V 284
 — Portuguese town, XVIII 283.
 Pome, in botany, V 138
 Pomea, sub-order of plants, V 191.
 Pomegranate, V 192
 POMERANIA, in Prussia, XVIII 284—farming in, 666—reduced by Gustavus Adolphus, XX 849.
 POMEROY, town in Ohio, XVIII 284.
 POMFRET (John), poet, XVIII 285.
 — town in Yorkshire, XVIII 291.
 Pommade, XVII 409
 Pommel, in tanning, XIII 309
 POMMERUM, XVIII 285.
 POMONA, one of the Orkney Islands, XVIII 285; XVI 718
 Pomothus, genus of fishes, XII 277.
 Pompador (Madame de), X 37
 POMPEII, XVIII 285; III 445, 457; XI 344—streets and houses in, III 471, 472—domestic utensils found in, 473—architectural remains of, 516—theatre of, 470—pictures found in, XVII 81—frescoes and bronzes, XV 781, 782.
 Pompeium, in ancient Athens, IV 161
 POMPEIUS (Troglus), XVIII 289; XXI 854.
 POMPHY (Cneius), XVIII 283; VIII 471; XIX 322 et seq.—Jerusalem taken by.

POM—POO

XII 733, 770—his expedition against Mithradates, XV 285, XVIII 292
 POMPEY (SEXTUS), XVIII 289, XIX 329
 Pompey's Pillar, II 472; VIII 497—affords evidence of the absence of earthquakes in Egypt in modern times, XVII 617
 Pompius, genus of insects, IX 195
 Pomponatus on the power of the will in curing diseases, XX 416
 POMPONIUS (Mela), XVIII 289; XIV 474.
 POMPTINE or PONTINE MARSHES, XVIII 289; VI 123; XII 636, XVIII 242.
 PONTANY, Indian seaport, XVIII 290
 PONCE (Pedro), XVIII 290, VII 638.
 Poncelet (M.), on hydrodynamics, XII 75, I 889, 890—his experiments in hydraulics, XII 149—his wheel, 75, 166
 POND (John), astronomer, XVIII 290—his improvements in practical astronomy, I 849—on the parallax of the fixed stars, IV 81—his controversy with Dr Brinkley on that subject, I 864—peculiarity in his sense of hearing, XV 708—on the pendulum, XIII 800.
 Pond-mails, XV 274
 PONDICHERRY, XVIII 290; XI 482, 485
 Pondweed order of plants, V 214
 Ponera, genus of insects, IX 194
 Poniowski (Count), VI 384, 386, XVIII 145.
 — or Poniatowski (FRANCE JOSEPH), XVIII 290, 150, 161; X 159 et seq., 165, XIII 855.
 Pons, astronomer, I 858—comet discovered by, 856
 — (St), town in France, XVIII 291.
 — town in France, XVIII 291
 PONT-A-MOUSSON, town in France, XVIII 291.
 PONT-AUDEMER, town in France, XVIII 291.
 Pont Cysyle aqueduct, III 338
 Pont du Louvre, XII 580, d'Austerlitz, 1b.—d'Archeveche, 581—St-Denis, 1b
 PONT ST ESPRIT, town in France, XVIII 291
 Ponta Delgada, IV 336
 PONTARLIE, in France, XVIII 291; VIII 114.
 PONTECORVO, in the Papal States, XVIII 291; XX 287.
 Pontederaceae, nat. ord. of plants, V 213
 PONTEFRAT, town in Yorkshire, XVIII 291; XXI 969—Castle, 1b
 PONTRE LAGOSCURO, in the Papal States, XVIII 292
 PONTEVEDRA, XVIII 292; X 373.
 PONTEVICO, XVIII 292.
 PONTIANAK, town and state in Borneo, XVIII 292; V 47.
 PONTIFEX or Pontif, XVIII 292; XIX 296
 Pontine marshes See Pomptine marshes
 Pontius, the Samnite, XIX 304
 PONTIVY, town in France, XVIII 292.
 PONTROSE, town in France, XVIII 292.
 Ponton (Mungo), his photographic process, XVII 545—photometer proposed by, 555.
 PONTON, XVIII 292—train of artillery, III 703.
 PONTOPPIDAN (Eric), XVIII 292; XIX 692—his account of a merman, XIV 217
 PONTREMOLI, town in Parma, XVIII 292.
 PONTUS, XVIII 292—monarchy of, XV 414—coins of, XVI 374—Caesar's campaigns in, XIX 326 See Mithradates.
 PONTYPOOL, XVIII 293.
 Pony, XI 656—Highland, II 338
 POZZI (Antonio), XVIII 293.
 Ponza or Pontia, island, XVIII 293.
 Pool (Gerit Tomas), exploratory voyage of, IV 252.
 POOL, in Dorsetshire, XVIII 293; VIII 111.
 — (MATTHEW), XVIII 294.
 — (Mrs), on Egypt, VIII 421—her work on Egypt, 443.

POO—POP

POOLY (H), his locomotive weighing machine, XXI 798
 POON-wood of India, XXI 277
 POONA, town in India, XVIII 294, XI 503, 504
 Poonallite, mineral, XV 75.
 Poonsed oil, XVI 496
 POORBUNDER, town in India, XVIII 295
 POOI, state of, in Lancashire, XIV 257—Manchester, 257—Edinburgh, VIII 405—France, X 268—Holland, XI 589—Spain, XX 493—education of, in England, VIII 745—then right to support, XVIII 857 See Mendicacy, Pauperism, Poor Laws
 POOR-LAWS, XVIII 295—their origin in England, VII 376, 377, n.—in Scotland, XIX 810—cottage system, VII 427, 433
 "Poor men of Lyon," followers of Valdo so called, XXI 510
 Poor-lates, English, VIII 748, XVIII 307, and n 2, 309, n. 1—permeious effects of paying wages out of, VIII 749
 Pooshkin, Russian author, XIX 547.
 POPAYAN, town of New Granada, XVIII 317.
 POPE of Rome, XVIII 317—Aquinas on the power of, I 436—ceremony of kissing the feet of, 1b 150—books prohibited by, IV 712—his council, VI 235—election of, 1b, VII 228, XVII 244—power of, during the middle ages, 531—effect of the crusades on the power of, 1b—hara of, XI 335—monarchy of the popes, XV 414—consistory, VII 298—his claims to be regarded as the successor of St Peter, XVII 482—list of Popes, XVIII 319—rise of the papal power in Rome, XIX 365—Rome under the Popes, 367—Pope Innocent VIII grants a bull for the extinction of the Valdenses, XXI 509. See Popery.
 — (Alexander), XVIII 320—mistake of, concerning the doctrine of necessity, I 123, n 1—his census of Newton and Clarke's reasonings on the existence of a Deity, 140, n 2, 146—Synonymism and Pantheism, with which he charged Clarke, brought against himself, 147—his admiration of Berkeley, 163—Memoirs of Martinus Scribales, III 308; XX 873—his intimacy with Atterbury, IV 190; and with Swift, XX 813—his treatment of Broome, V 679—his injustice to Burnian, 780—his satire on Dr S Clarke, VII 758—his opinion of Dryden, VIII 203—poetry of, XVIII 129—his quarrel with Lord Harvey, XI 361—intimacy with Lady Mary Montagu, XV 505—his epigrams, IX 275—epitaphs, 283—his criticisms on Philip's poems, XVII 514—Roscoe's edition and life of, XIX 419—Wauberton's vindication of his Essay on Man, XXI 728, 729—his friendship with Warburton, 1b.—Warton's essay on his writings and genius, 733; and edition of his works, 734—his definition of wit, 894
 — (Mr) on the construction of bridges, XII 582.
 — (Sir Thomas), XVIII 322—founder of Trinity College, Oxford, XXI 469—Warton's Life of, 735
 POPERINGHE, town in Belgium, XVIII 338.
 POPERY, XVIII 336—favoured by Charles II, V 430, 433—and by James II., 435—baptism, IV 424, 425—canon law, VI 138—canonization, 192 See Celibate, Penance, Purgatory, Reformation, Relics, Roman Catholic Church, &c.
 Pop-gun plot, V 555.
 POPHAM (Sir John), XVIII 337.
 — (Sir Home), his capture of Buenos Ayres, V 602, XVII 780—his code of naval signals, XVI 109.
 Popish plot, V 427; XII 488.
 POPLAR, parish in Middlesex, XVIII 337
 Poplar-trees, XVII 704, 759, 765—use of the wood in joinery, XII 817—specific

POP—POR

gravity of the wood, 89—as timber trees, XXI 378
 POPO, Great and Little, African towns, XVIII 387
 POPOCATÉPETL, volcano, XVIII 398; XIV 714—height of, XVII 645, 593
 POPPÉE (Sabina), XVIII 393; XIX 387
 POPPI, town of Tuscany, XVIII 388
 Poppy cake, as manure, II 405—analysis of, ib
 —, order of plants, V 182
 —, cultivation of, in Bengal, IV 649
 —poppy-seed oil, XVI 496—Mexican, 496
 POPULATION, XVIII 393—its increase in America, II 708—as influencing agriculture, 267—capability of America of supporting an immense, 710—its redundancy a reason for colonization, VII 136—Malthus's theory of, 137—tendency of the cottage system to increase it, 433, 434—effects of the cotton manufacture on, 454—emigration a remedy for superfluous, VIII 649—Pilgrimage on, IX 576—its tendency to increase, XIV 441—comparison of postal correspondence with the, XVIII 425—of Egypt, ancient and modern, VIII 426, 444—England, 753—Europe, IX 893—France, X 276—Ireland, XII 508—State of New York, XVI 217, 218—India, XI 463—Russia, XIX 521—Scotland, XIX 799—United States, XXI 622. See the Geographical Articles.
 PORAMBONITES, fossil mollusks, XVII 104
 PORAMUSHIR, island, XVIII 860
 PORCELAIN, XVIII 860—Chinese, VI 586, 587—Japanese, XII 693—manufacture of, in England, VIII 732—Shropshire, XX 230—France, X 255—photography on, XVII 551—porcelain earth or clay, XV 88, XVII 623. See Kaolin—porcelain tower of Nanking, XV 774—specific gravity of, XII 88—manufacture of, in Spain, XX 490—of Kiang-se, XIII 79. See Pottery.
 —, spar, XV 74
 PORCELLA, genus of mollusks, XV 375—fossil, XVII 109
 PORCH, XVIII 860
 PORCOSA, town in Spain, XVIII 360
 PORCUPINE, XIV 187; XVII 632—skull and teeth of, XVI 459—jaw, 419
 PORDENONE, town in Italy, XVIII 360
 —, surname of G. A. L. Rogillo, Italian painter, XVIII 360
 PORES in the leaves of plants, V 103
 Porewort, order of plants, V 183
 PORIFERA, zoophytes, XXI 1008
 PORISMS, XVIII 860—Euclid's last treatise on, X 500—Playfair on, XVIII 5—restoration of Euclid's Porisms by Dr Simson, XX 300
 PORTIDA, zoophytes, XXI 1005
 PORK, cutting and curing of, II 856—as food, IX 762—value of the imports of, VII 735
 POTOS, island, XVIII 366
 PORTNYKOV, city of Phoenicia, XVIII 866
 PORPHYRIO, genus of birds, XVI 807
 PORPHYRIES, genus of insects, IX 243
 PORPHYRY, XVIII 366, 14, XII 104—on Egyptian writing, XI 376—did he prove Sanchuniathon's cosmogony? XIX 695
 —, in geology, XV 131—trachytic, 132—felstone, or felspar, 134—quartziferous, 135—in Scotland, XIX 793—its resistance to crushing, XX 718
 PORPOISE, XIV 225—teeth of, XVI 445—white, at the mouths of the Danube, IV 743
 PORRET on electric currents, XXI 629
 PORRO (M.), his method of illuminating micrometers, XIV 745—his micrometer, 752—his helioscope, XXI 188
 PORSENA, or Porsenna (Lars), king of Clusium, XVIII 366; XIX 298
 PORSON (Richard), XVIII 860
 PORT, or harbour, XVIII 371
 —, in sea language, XVIII 371
 PORTA (Septista), on optics, I 624; XIII

POR—POR

449; XVI 525—popularity of his *Magia Naturalis*, I 625—his physical researches, IV 449—on the concentration of cold by reflection, VII 99; I 702—on dew, VII 766—on anaesthetics, VI 693—gunpowder, XI 152—principle of the stereoscope explained by, XX 684
 Porta (Giacomo della) his merits as an architect, II 452
 — (Guglielmo), sculptor, XIX 863
 — (Giambattista della), on pneumatics, XX 578
 Portable steam-engines, XX 614
 PORTADOWN, Irish town, XVIII 371; II 613
 PORTAFERRY, Irish town, XVIII 371; VIII 122
 Portal (Antoine), his system of anatomy, II 767, III 73
 PORTALEGRE, Portuguese town, XVIII 371
 Portales, VI 553
 PORTARLINGTON, Irish town, XVIII 371, 728, 730
 PORT-AU-PRINCE, XVIII 371, 376
 PORTICULUS, XVIII 371; V 327
 PORT ELIZABETH, XVIII 371
 PORTE (the Sublime), XXI 880
 Portenau. See Portenone
 Porteous mob, VIII 393
 PORTER, liquor, XVIII 371; IX 759—brewing of, V 330—cause of its dark colour, 331—draft, ib—alcohol in, 332—London porter, XIII 665; XIV 809 use of, in France, X 256
 — (JANE), novelist, XVIII 371—her Scottish Chiefs, XIX 281
 — (Sir Robert Ker), XVIII 371—on the ruins of Babylon, IV 344—his account of Persopolis, XVII 431, 432
 — (G. RICHARDSON), statist, XVIII 372
 — (Rev N.), on Coleridge, VII 110
 — (Rev J. L.), on the ruins of Palestine, XVII 189, of Palmyra, 222, 223
 — (Mr), on the sugar cane, XX 792
 PORTEUS (Belby), XVIII 372
 PORT-GLASGOW, XVIII 372
 PORTHMEUS, genus of fishes, XII 293, 298
 PORTOR, XVIII 373; XX 240—dial found at, VII 774—palace at, XV 732
 PORTICO, XVIII 373; III 512—Palladio's porticoes, III 453—hardly known in Italian architecture, ib
 Porticus, in architecture, III 512
 PORT-JACKSON, XVIII 373
 PORTLAND, isle of, XVIII 373—convicts employed on, 583—harbour of refuge at, XI 221—quarries of, VIII 111—oolite, XV 206, 208—sands, 208
 — stone, XV 208—boring of, V 44—vast blocks of, VIII 113—as a building stone, XII 712—its transverse strength, 717—resistance to crushing, 718
 —, in the State of Maine, XVIII 373
 — VASE, XVIII 373; X 667—Wedgwood's imitations of, XVIII 434
 — Roads, construction of a break-water in, recommended, V 810
 — (Duke of). See Bentinck
 — cement, V 742; XX 714, 715
 PORT LOUIS, in the Mauritius, XVIII 374; XIV 863, 864
 PORT MAHON, XVIII 374, XV 261
 PORTO ALEGRE, town in Brazil, XVIII 374
 PORTOBELLO, in Midlothian, XVIII 374; VIII 409, 410, 411
 —, in Panama, taken by the Buccaneers, V 711
 Porto d'Anzio, XVII 240
 PORTO FELIX, town in Brazil, XVIII 374
 PORTO FERRAJA, in Elba, XVIII 374; VIII 521
 PORTO MAURIZIO, XVIII 374
 PORTO NOVO, in India, XVIII 374
 PORTO RICO, island, XVIII 374—sugars of, XX 785
 PORTO SANTO, in Madeira, XVIII 375; XIII 792
 PORT OF SPAIN, XVIII 375

POR—POS

PORTPATRICK, in Wigtonshire, XVIII 375
 — violence of the waves at, XI 217
 PORT PHILIP, XVIII 376, IV 286 at seq., XIV 478
 Portrait painter, a blind, IV 751
 Portrait—painting, XVII 56, 67—Sir Joshua Reynolds on, III 716
 Portraits of Christ, XII 764, 765—photographic portraits, XVII 558—historical portraits, III 716
 PORTREE, XVIII 376; XX 317
 PORT REPUBLICAIN, XVIII 376; XI 256
 — ROYAL, in Jamaica, XVIII 376, XII 673
 — in Martinique, XIV 322
 — two nurseries so named, XVIII 376. See Armand
 PORS of a ship of war, XVIII 371
 Portsea, XVIII 377, 378, XI 204
 PORTSMOUTH, XVIII 377, XI 203—direct Portsmouth railway, ib—naval academy at, II 71—block-machinery at, I 879; IV 783—fire in the dockyard of, in 1776, V 504—fortification of, 516, 517—basin at, VIII 79—dockyard, 83—Naval College, ib—naval architectural school, ib, XX 134—harbour, VIII 721—convict establishment at, XVIII 583—early origin of dockyard, XX 120; improved by Henry VIII, 126—experiments at, in firing at iron-plates, XX 183
 — in the state of New Hampshire, XVIII 380
 —, in the state of Virginia, XVIII 380
 —, in the state of Ohio, XVIII 380
 PORTUGAL, XVIII 380, IX 403—construction of a map of, II 62—Royal Academies of Science and Portuguese history, 67, 69—colonies, 699, 702—settlements in Angola, III 106—pointed architecture, 449—army, 643—discovery and settlement of Brazil, V 279—war with France and Spain in 1762, 465—French invasion of in 1807, 603, X 148—British troops sent to in 1825, V 650—settlements in Ceylon, VI 805—colonies, VII 140—commercial treaty with Britain in 1703, 193—trade with England, VIII 732, 733—Indian possessions, X 649, 610—language, XIII 213—coins, XV 442, 444; XVI 387—newspapers, 208—postal system, XVIII 424—romance, XIX 265—monarchy, XV 414—Osorio's work on its condition under Emmanuel, XVII 4—slave-trade, XX 322, 323—tobacco manufacture, XXI 294—weights and measures, 813—wines of, 885—map of, XX. Plate. See Alphonso, Portuguese
 — Laurel, XVII 761
 Portuguese, silver mines of, IV 828
 Portuguese, their missions to Abyssinia, II 56—first circumnavigated Africa, 210—their quarrels with the Hottentots, 222—maritime discoveries, X 470, 474—intercourse with the Japanese, XII 699; and Chinese, XIII 756—their progress in discovery, XX 124—not the originators of the slave-trade, 320. See Portugal
 — man-of-war, Zoophyte, XXI 909
 PORTULACAECÆ, nat. ord. of plants, V 193
 PORTUNNA, Irish town, XVIII 369
 PORUS (Zalmius), Greek critic, XVIII 369
 — (Francis), philologist, XVIII 400
 Port wine, XVI 519; XVIII 397; XXI 885—specific gravity of, XII 69—alcohol in, XXI 888, 890
 PORUS, Indian Prince, XVIII 400—defeated by Alexander the Great, XIII 769
 POSEIDON, XVIII 400; XVI 149
 POSEN, in Prussia, XVIII 400—agriculture of, 606—swarm of ants at, III 205
 Poseidonia, or Pastum, XVII 43
 POSIDONRUS, XVIII 400; X 501—on the earth's size, IX 547; X 465
 Posidonomya, fossil mollusks, XVII 106
 Possipo, promontory of, XX 240
 PÖSEN, town in Hungary, XVIII 401

POS—POT

Position-micrometers, XIV 753
 Positive electricity, VIII 535, 537
 POSITIVISM, XVIII 401, VII 211
 POSSESSIVE, XVIII 401—case, X 749—pronouns, 756
 POSSENECK, town in Saxo-Meiningen, XVIII 401
 POST, XVIII 401
 Postage of letters in Britain, XXI 67—in Belgium, IV 626—Canada, VI 155—existing rates of, in Britain, XVIII 417. See Post-office
 POSTERN, XVIII 401
 POSTRI, XVIII 401
 Post-horse, XI 660
 Posticum, in architecture, III 512
 POSTLUMINUM, XVIII 401
 Postmaster-general, XVIII 403, 405—for foreign parts, 403
 Postmasters, license duties paid by, VII 43; XIII 435
 POST-OFFICE, XVIII 402—in London, XIII 669—Glasgow, X 651—Canada, VI 155—Scotland, XIX 810—revenue from, in Austria, IV 316; France, X 274—abuses of franking, V 168—transmission of newspapers, XVI 192—revenue of that of the United Kingdom, XXI 68—in the United States, XXI 427, 767
 Post-pliocene strata, XVII 617
 POSTULATE, XVIII 427; XIII 576
 Pot, and Pot-book, in gold coinage, VII 85
 Potameides, river-nymphs, XVI 366
 Potamides, fossil mollusks, XVII 110
 Potamogetonaceæ, nat. ord. of plants, V 214
 Potaroc, in zoology, XIV 176
 POTASH, XVIII 427; VI 484—caustic, 485—in plants, II 388—minerals of, 113—salts of, ib—silicates, ib—carbonates, ib—proportion of, in felspar, 389, VI 524—in farm-yard manure, II 403—gunpowder from chloride of, XI 158—poisonous properties of, XIV 434—optical properties of the sulphate of, XVI 663
 Potash-alum, II 635, 636; XV 97
 Potassa, in minerals, XV 66—chlorate of, discovered by Berthollet, IV 677; its poisonous properties, XIV 434
 POTASSIUM, VI 484—Davy's discovery of, VII 669—an element in minerals, XV 60, 61
 POTATO, XVIII 427; IX 760—culture and varieties of, II 315; XI 739—morganic matter in the leaves of, II 385—composition of the ash of, 487—sulphur in, 388—mineral matters and nitrogen removed from land by a crop of, 417—state of the people where it forms the principal food, VII 436—disliked in Lombardy, XIII 657—its culture in Chili, VI 549; Mexico, XIV 716; Bengal, IV 649; India, XI 456—value of the imports of, VIII 736—brandy distilled from in Norway, XVI 320—potato spirit convertible into rum, VI 516—acreage under, in Ireland, XII 615, 616; amount of produce in 1855, 617—acreage in Scotland, XIX 797; produce, ib—distilleries from, in Prussia, XVIII 696
 — disease, II 261; V 172, 670; XI 739—effects of, II 315—comparatively little felt in East Lothian, II 370
 — order of plants, V 201
 POTEMKIN (G. Alexandrovich), Russian statesman, XVIII 428; XIX 485; XXI 370, 371
 Potent-counter-potent, in heraldry, XI 325
 POTENTIAL, in grammar, XVIII 428
 —, in electrical attraction, I 980, 994
 POTENZA, town in Naples, XVIII 428
 Potentillidæ, nat. ord. of plants, V 191
 POTTER (R. Joseph), jurist, XVIII 428
 Potidaeæ, Sowerbes at, XX 375
 Potin, metal used in coinage, XVI 853
 POTOMAC, river, XVIII 429; XIV 380; XVII 647

POT—POW

Potos, genus of mammalia, XIV. 155
 Potosi, in Bolivia, XVIII 429; II 669;
 IV 821, 828—silver mines of, 825; XV
 235—climate, IV 828—population, 827
 —elevation of its site, XVII 593
 —(San Luis), Mexican city and state,
 XIV 726, 718
 Potowatomies, their marriage customs,
 II 681—their cannibalism, 682
 POTSCHINKI, Russian town, XVIII 429
 POTSDAM, in Prussia, XVIII 429
 —sandstone, protichmites of, XVII
 130, 131.
 Potstone, XV 79
 Port (Percival), surgeon, XVIII 429;
 XX 819
 —(Mr), on alum, II 635
 POTTER (John), archbishop, XVIII 430
 —(PAUL), animal—painter, XVIII
 430.
 —(Prof.), his photometer, XVII 555
 —(Mr), his microscope, XIV 784—
 on the illumination of microscopic ob-
 jects, 796—his mode of casting specula,
 XXI 135
 Potter's clay, V 343; XV 83; XVIII
 488
 —kiln, XVIII 441—wheel, 431
 POTTERY, XVIII 430; XIV 440—Delft-
 ware, VII 705—cooling vessels, 100
 Potteries in England, VIII 732, France,
 X 256, Egypt, VIII 443—Staffordshire,
 XX 580—of Arrerium, III 524.
 PORTINGER (Sir Henry), XVIII 445, VI
 597; XIII 35—his travels in Asia, III
 739, n 8—in Beloochistan, IV 640, 641,
 642—on the character of the Asiatics,
 III 749, n 2
 —(Lieut Eldred), his defence of
 Hiral, XVII 443
 PORTSVILLE, XVIII 445.
 Pouchet (F A.), his work on the cock-
 chafer, IX 24.
 —, on the circulation of mollusks,
 XV 357.
 Poudrette, manure, II 408
 POUGHKEEPSIE, town in New York, XVIII
 446
 Pouillet (M.), on the electricity developed
 in combustion, VIII 567—and by vege-
 tables, 570, V 170—on magnetic metals,
 XIV 16—his astatic needles, 90—his
 Pyrohelometer, 638—on the heating
 power of the sun, 637—on atmospheric
 electricity, 661—his hygrometer, XVIII
 709—his electrical battery, XXI 617—
 on the conductive power of liquids, 621
 —his chronoscope, 644—his electrical
 experiments and researches, 624, 651.
 Poulitoe, XX 823; XXI 555, n 3.
 POUZITAY, XVIII 446; XVI 789—as ar-
 ticles of food, IX 762, 766—manage-
 ment of, II 856—in France, X 249—
 artificial hatching of, XVIII 815.
 Pouncey (Mr) his photographic process,
 XVII 560.
 Pound, weight, XVIII 446.
 —, money, XVIII 446—value of, in
 the 15th and 16th century, VII 375, n.
 1—degradation of, XV 432.
 —(Mr), V. 263
 POUNDAGE, XVIII 446; XXI 807.
 POUROAN (St), in France, XVIII 446.
 POUSSIN (Gaspard), painter, XVIII 446
 —(Nicolas), painter, XVIII 446—
 character of his works, III 710, 711,
 XVII 76.
 Pouteau on the nerves, II 814.
 Powder See Gunpowder.
 Powders, electricity of, VIII 564.
 Powell (Prof.), on the undulatory theory
 of light, I 921—on the quality of heat
 transmitted by glass, 954.
 Power (Dr), his experiments on atmo-
 spheric pressure, XVIII 27
 —(Madame), aquana invented by,
 XV 328—on the argonaut, 402.
 —, mechanical, measurement of, XX
 601 See Prime movers, Energy.
 Power-loom, invention of, VI 305, VII
 450; XXI 787—number of power-loom
 in Britain, XIV 278; Manchester, 282;
 Lancashire, VII 457—wages of power-

POW—PRE

loom weavers, XXI 919, 920—struggle
 of hand-loom against, 781
 Powhattans, II 681
 POWNALL (Thomas), XVIII 446
 Poyaise, XI 77
 Poyninge, his government of Ireland, XII
 474
 POZO-BLANCO, town in Spain, XVIII 446
 Pozzo di Borgo (C Andea), diplomatist,
 XVIII 446
 Pozzolana, cement, XVIII 608.
 Pozzuoli, XV 782
 Practice, in arithmetic, III 593
 PRADO, town in Portugal, XVIII 447
 PRADY (W. Mackworth), XVIII 447
 PREFECT, XVIII 447
 Preforation, in botany, V 121.
 Preforation of leaves, V. 80
 PRÆNUMERE, XVIII 447
 PRÆNESTE, in Latium, XVIII 447.
 Præses, XVIII 509
 Præter-perfect tense, X 765, 767
 Præter-imperfect tense, X 765, 707
 PRÆTOR, XVIII 448, XIX 298
 PRÆTORIANS, XVIII 448, XIX 382 et
 seq.—Pertinax murdered by, XIX 346
 PRAGA, town in Poland, XVIII 448
 PRAGMATIC SANCTION, XVIII 448; XII
 22.
 PRAGUE, XVIII 448; IV 810—national
 museum library at, XIII 424—meteorolo-
 gical observations at, XIV 687—battle
 of, XVIII 563—university of, XXI
 492
 Praries, American, XVII 609—of Illinois,
 XII 861, Indiana, 371, Iowa, 459;
 Louisiana, XIII 700
 Praise, love of, I 398
 PRAM (C Hennksen), Danish poet, XVIII
 450, XIX 604
 Pranth, on the law of non-contradiction,
 XIII 573, n
 Prase, mineral, VI 67; XV 69
 Praseolite, mineral, XV 89
 Prasin, mineral, XV 103
 Prashin, Duke of, his murder of his wife,
 X 229
 Prascouris, genus of insects, IX 150
 Prætoparh, in Oude, XVII 17.
 Pratincoles, birds, XVI 808
 PRATO, Tuscan town, XVIII 450
 PRATT (Charles), Earl of Camden, XVIII
 450.
 Prawn, VII 541, IX 765
 Præagoras, anatomist, II 750—his skill
 in surgery, XX 811.
 PRAXITELES, Greek sculptor, XVIII 451
 —his works, XIX 858
 Prayer, danger of it degenerating into
 superstitious formalities, I 494—read-
 and extemporaneous, 542—Lord's
 Prayer, abuse of, I 498
 Preaching, as a means of grace, XXI 219.
 PREBEND, XVIII 451, VIII 744.
 PRECEDENCE, XVIII 451.
 PRECESSION OF THE EQUINOXES, XVIII
 462, IV 14—the discovery of, ascribed
 to Hipparchus, III 701; but known
 before his time, IV 14—Laplace's dis-
 coveries relative to, III 812—secular
 variation of, IV 131
 PRECIOUS METALS, XVIII 459—gold and
 silver fittest for money, XV 417—their
 introduction, ib.—production of, 420—
 expense of a currency consisting of, 425
 —value of, in different countries, IX
 431—what profits does a country derive
 from the possession of? VII 145—effect
 of their increase on productive industry,
 188—exports of, from Chili, VI 550;
 from Mexico, XIV 717—produce of
 Russian mines in, XIX 542, American,
 II 706, of the world, ib See Coinage,
 Money, Mines, Gold, Silver.
 Predazette, mineral, XV 92.
 PREDESTINATION, XVIII 477—Calvin's
 controversies regarding, VI 110—a
 Mohammedan doctrine, XV 304, 308.
 Predicables, III 552; XIII 699
 Predicaments, III 552.
 PREDICATE, in logic, XVIII 479; XIV
 598.
 Predication, forms of categorical, XIII

PRE—PRE

583—through singular terms, ib—
 through common terms, 584, 585, 590,
 591—in comprehension, 593—in exten-
 sion, 592—transference from whole to
 whole, 594
 Pre-emption Act in the United States,
 XXI 425
 PREEZ, or Preetz, town in Denmark,
 XVIII 479.
 PRE-EXISTENCE, XVIII 479; XIV 628
 Prefecture, in France, X 280
 Prefixes, in the Kaffir language, XIII 226
 Pregel, river, XVII 647, XVIII 662
 Pregnancy, limits and signs of, XIV 426
 —a bar to execution of a criminal, 445
 See Gestation
 Prehension, organs of, XIV 184
 Prehnite, mineral, XV 73—pyro-electric-
 ity of, VIII 561
 Prehnitoid, mineral, XV 73
 Preller and Co's combing machinery,
 XXI 925.
 Premare (Père), his specimens of Chinese
 poetry, VI 577
 Premises, in reasoning, XIV, 593
 PREMIUM, in insurance, XVIII 479, XII
 409
 Premnas, genus of fishes, XII 265.
 PREMONSTRATENSIS, XVIII 479
 PRENZLOW, Prussian town, XVIII 479.
 PREPOSITION, in grammar, XVIII 479;
 X 778, 783, 791—in Egyptian grammar,
 XI 425.
 Prepulson, mechanism of, in human an-
 tomy, III 40
 Prepucce, VI 733. See Foreskin.
 Pre-Raphaelism, in painting, XVII 86
 Pierogative (Royal), in England, VIII
 776, 792.
 Presburg, population of, XII 11.
 Presbyter, IX 279.
 Presbytery, XII 371; XVIII 482, 493—
 representation of the people in, 483
 Presbyterian Churches in Ireland, XII
 532, Scotland, XVIII 492, United
 States, XXI 422 See Presbyterianism
 PRESBYTERIANISM, XVIII 480.
 Presbyterians, IX 394—ordination among,
 XVI 704—persecution of, in Scotland,
 XIII 828. See Presbytenanism
 PRESCOTT, in Lancashire, XVIII 502.
 PRESCOTT (William Hickling) historian,
 XVIII 502—on the civilization of
 ancient Mexico, III 502—on the roads
 of the ancient Peruvians, XVII 461—
 on the civilization of ancient Peru,
 462.
 —(H. P.) on tobacco and its adulter-
 ations, XXI 295.
 PRESCRIPTION, in medicine, XVIII 507—
 in English and Scotch law, 508
 PRESENT TENSE, in grammar, XVIII 509,
 X 764, 766.
 PRESENTATION to a living in the church,
 XVIII 509
 Presently, VIII 9
 Preservation of food, IX 767—of timber,
 XXI 779; see Timber
 Presencies (Indian), XI 529.
 PRESIDENT, XVIII 509—Lord President
 of the Council, ib.—of the United
 States, VIII 775—his salary, XXI 429
 —Name of 1st, Washington; 2d, Adams
 (John), 8d, Jefferson; 4th, Madison;
 5th, Adams (John Quincy) Jackson,
 6th, Buren; 7th, Harrison, 8th, Tyler;
 9th, Polk; 10th, Taylor, 11th, Fill-
 more, XXI 439-444
 Press, XVIII 509—its condition in France
 at different periods, X 170, 197, 198,
 211, 213—newspaper press of the United
 States, XXI 423.
 —(Liberty of the). See Liberty of
 the Press, Libel.
 —, machine, Bramah's hydrostatic
 press, II 102; XII 75, 178; V. 273;
 VI 91.
 —, printing-press, XVIII 533, 544,
 558.
 Pressburg, town in Hungary, XVIII
 500
 Pressing of printed sheets, XVIII 547—
 in woollen manufacture, XXI 928.

PRE—PRI

Pressirostres, tribe of birds, XVI 796
 Pressure, mechanical action of, VIII 322
 —composition of pressures, 335—elec-
 tricity produced by, 562—of fluids, XII
 78—of water in pipes, 135—centre of,
 80—line of pressures, XIV 381—effect
 of, on the double refraction of crystals,
 XVI 637—of the atmosphere, its in-
 fluence on health, XIX 609 See At-
 mosphere—equilibrium of pressures,
 XX 538 et seq—decomposition and
 recomposition of, 542—relation of the
 pressure and temperature of steam, 564
 —pressure of steam, 563, 571 See Hy-
 drodynamics
 PRESTEIGNE, town in Wales, XVIII 500
 PRESTER JOHN, XVIII 509, II 40; IV
 653; X 393, 476
 Presto, in music, XVIII 510
 Preston, town in Lancashire, XVIII 510
 —battle of, V 454
 PRESTONPANS, town in Haddingtonshire,
 XVIII 510—battle of, V 460
 Prestwich (Mr) on the eocene tertiary
 formations, XV. 157, and n 1; 212,
 213
 PRESTWICK, Scotch burgh, XVIII 510
 Presumptive heir, III 307
 Pretender (The) See Charles Edward
 Pretention, in theology, XXI 217
 PRETERITE, XVIII 510. See Præter-per-
 feet
 Pretor See Prætor
 Pretsch (Paul), photo-galvanography in-
 vented by, XVII 544, 545, XXI 636.
 PREVESA, town in Turkey, XVIII 510
 Prevot, romances of, XIX 287
 Provost (Benedict), his experiments on
 dew, VII 768—on the colours of metals,
 XVI 856.
 —(Pierre), his theory of the moveable
 equilibrium of heat, I 944
 —(Sir George), V 617
 Prey (birds of), XVI 737—diurnal, 738—
 nocturnal, 745. See Raptores.
 PREYSLER (J. Daniel), his work on insects,
 IX 8.
 PREZEMSLAS, king of Poland, XVIII 141
 Priacanthus, genus of fishes, XII 277
 PRISM, king of Troy, XVIII 511—cha-
 racter of, 101
 Prapulus, echinoderms, XXI 987.
 PRILAPUS, XVIII 511
 PRICE (Richard), D.D., XVIII 511—his
 work on the principal questions in
 morals, I 377—considered the under-
 standing as an independent source of
 simple ideas, 378—does not explain the
 authority of conscience over the will,
 ib—suggested the sinking fund scheme
 to Mr Pitt, V. 618—on Reversionary
 Payments, III 221, 222; V. 603, 605
 —on the distinction between the will of
 God, and his nature, 556—on the popu-
 lation of England, VIII 768—on life-
 assurance, XII 393, 399—on mortality,
 XV. 625, 633, 634; XVIII 351 et seq
 —(THOMAS), XVIII 511.
 —on carpentry, XII 805; XIX 385.
 —(William), glass-painter, X. 660
 Prices, computation of, III 593—in an-
 cient Athens, IV. 217—effect of the in-
 crease of the precious metals on, VIII
 188; XVIII 475—effect of bank-notes
 on, VII 189—effects of war expenditure
 on, 190, 199—prices of grain in England
 from 1646 to 1852, 397, 378—effects of
 the subdivision of land on the price of
 raw produce, 427—by what regulated,
 XVIII 299—influence of competition
 on, 242—always coincident with the
 cost of production, ib—prices of
 hounds, XI 770. See Corn-Laws,
 Taxation.
 PRICHARD (James Cowles), XVIII 512—
 on the unity of the human race, II 121,
 XVII 538—on the indigenous Ameri-
 cans, II. 677—on the Celtic nations, VI
 363 et seq; XVII 580—on ethnology,
 IX. 841, 843—on insanity, XIV. 520 et
 seq—on the varieties of the human race,
 XVII 527.
 Pricking, of horses, XXI 560.

PRI—PRI

- Prickles of plants, V 75
 Prickly-ash, order of plants, V 189.
 Pride (Col.), V 411—Pride's purge, 1b
 PRIDEAUX (Humphry), divine, XVIII 512
 —on the Pentateuch and Canon, IV 695, 696.
 —(JOHN), bishop, XVIII 512
 —(Syme), his furnace-door for admitting air, XX 357
 PRIGGO, town in Spain, XVIII 518
 PRIESTENTZ (Vincenz), hydropathist, XVIII 513
 PRIEST, XVIII 513; I 510, n 1—distinguished from minister, 511—duties of, 1b, 512—high priest, 489—of the gospel, 512—Christ's office of a, XXI 212.
 Priesthood, Greek, IV 217
 PRIESTLEY (Joseph), XVIII 513—his opinion of Hartley's theory, I 171, and n 2—on the composition of the atmosphere, IV 180—burning of his house by the mob at Birmingham, 730, V 539—on expansion from electricity, VIII 589—on the chemical power of electricity, 594—Horsley's controversy with, XI 600—on the resurrection of brutes, 763—library founded by his recommendation at Leeds, XIII 814—a follower of Hartley, XIV 596.
 Prieto (General), VI 553
 Primary epoch, in geology, XV 195, and n 1, 196—rocks of Spain, XX 484—qualities of body, XIV 570
 PRIMATIE, XVIII 615 See Archbishop
 PRIMATICOIO (Francesco), painter, XVIII 515; XVII 63
 Prime movers, in mechanics, XIV 416
 Primer, type, XVIII 536, XXI 401, 403
 Primeval ancient history and historians, XI 543, 548
 PRIMING, XVIII 515; XI 98 See Gun-making
 —, in steam-boilers, XX 649—causes of, 650
 Primitive Methodists, XIV 694
 PRIMOGENITURE, XVIII 515—right of, not recognised in France, VII 432
 Primrose, order of plants, V 203
 —, evening, order of plants, V 192
 Primula, genus of plants, V 203, XI 749.
 Primulaceæ, nat ord of plants, V 203.
 PRIMUM MOBILE, XVIII 516
 PRINCE, XVIII 516.
 —(Le), the inventor of aquatinta engraving, VIII 801
 —(Mr), his air pump, XVIII 42.
 PRINCEDOMS in Europe, IX 397.
 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, XVIII 517.
 —OF WALES ISLAND, XVIII 516
 Prince's feather, plant, V 203.
 —ISLAND, XVIII 518
 —ISLANDS, XVIII 518
 —METAL, XVIII 516
 Princeton, in New Jersey, battle of, XVI 176; XXI 751.
 PRINCIPAL, XVIII 518; II 236.
 —, XVIII 518; XVI 711.
 —, in colleges, XXI 483 et seq.
 PRINCIPATO CITRA, XVIII 518, XX 237, 255.
 —ULTRA, XVIII 519, XX 237, 255
 PRINGLE (Sir John), XVIII 519; IV 420
 —letter of, to Forbes de Culloden, about Alex Cunningham's papers, VII 587.
 —(THOMAS), XVIII 519
 Princep (James), his interpretation of Buddhist edicts, XVII 530; X 724.
 —(Mr), on the pyrometer, XVIII 704, 705.
 PRINTING, XVIII 520—invention of, IV 706—opportunities and effects of the invention, 709; I 17; XIII 889—books before the invention of, IV 706—early, 708—for the blind, 776—Bramah's plan for printing by a roller, V 273—correction of proofs, VII 415—in Glasgow, X 653—Fust's share in the invention of, X 862—works on the origin and progress of, in Earl Spencer's library, XIII 899—lithographic, 518—printing ink, XII 884—printing-presses and machines,

PRI—PRO

- XVIII 544, 558, 559 et seq.—in Turkey, XXI 888 See Calico-printing, Bibliography, Copperplates, Gutenberg, Typefoundry
 PRINTS, XVIII 568—early prints, from woodcuts, XVIII 523, and n See Engraving
 PRIONON, genus of fishes, XII 804.
 —, genus of mammalia, teeth of, XVI 441
 PRIONOTES, genus of mammalia, XIV 191
 PRIONU, tribe of insects, IX 143
 PRIONITES, genus of birds, XVI 772.
 PRIONODON, genus of fishes, XII 323.
 —, genus of mammalia, XIV 169.
 PRIONODUS, genus of fishes, XII 286
 PRIONOPS, genus of birds, XVI 748
 PRIONOTUS, genus of fishes, XII 282
 PRIONURUS, genus of fishes, XII 304.
 PRIONUS, genus of insects, IX 144.
 PROPIS, genus of fishes, XII 275.
 PROR, XVIII 563; II 13
 —(MATTHEW), XVIII 563—passage from his Alma on the seat of the soul, I 69, n 2—poetry of, XVIII 124
 PRONES, in what they differ from abbeys, II 13
 PRISCIANUS, grammarian, XVIII 563.
 PRISCIANISTS, XVIII 563
 PRISM, XVIII 563; X 535—in mineralogy, XV 46, 47—mensuration of, XIV 506—refraction by, XVI 561, 562—Nicol's prism, I 913; XIV 789, XVI 649—method of cutting it from crystal, XIV 751
 Prismatic spectrum See Spectrum
 PRISMOID, mensuration of, XIV 506
 PRISON, PRISON DISCIPLINE, XVIII 564—prisons in China, VI 568—Edinburgh, VII 404—London, XIII 678—New York, XVI 221—Paris, XVII 284—Belgium, IV 614—Richmond penitentiary, in Dublin, VIII 220, 221—Howard's reforms in, XI 783—diet of, VIII 22—state of, XIV 444. See Penitentiary
 Prisoners, in England, VIII 748—proportion of, to the population, 749
 PRISREND, town in Turkey, XVIII 587.
 PRISTACANTHUS, genus of fossil fishes, XII 840
 PRISTIDÆ, family of fishes, XII 327.
 PRISTIGASTER, genus of fishes, XII 237.
 PRISTIGENYS, genus of fossil fishes, XII 343
 PRISTINA, town in Turkey, XVIII 587.
 PRISTIPHORUS, genus of fishes, XII 325.
 PRISTIPOMA, genus of fishes, XII 286—sail, 844.
 PRISTIPOMODES, genus of fishes, XII 286
 PRISTIS, genus of fishes, XII 327—fossil, 342
 PRISTURUS, genus of fishes, XII 323
 Pritchard (Mr), on the feeding of infusoria with coloured substances, XII 208, n 2—his work on animalcules, 212—his microscope, XIV 763—his diamond lens, 766—his sapphire lens, 767—on doublets, 773, 774—his triplet, 775—his compound microscope, 780—on the oxy-hydrogen microscope, 793—on test objects for the microscope, 802, 803—list of objects for, 806.
 Pritchett (Mr), his rifle ball, XI 101.
 PRITZWALK, in Prussia, XVIII 587.
 PRIVAS, town in France, XVIII 587.
 PRIVATEER, XVIII 587; XVI 159.
 Privet, plant, XVII 761.
 Privileges of universities, XXI 453 et seq.
 PRIVITZ, town in Hungary, XVIII 587.
 PRIVY-COUNCIL, XVIII 587—their grants for education, XV 822.
 Prize courts of the Admiralty, II 146.
 Prize-money, XVI 114.
 Prizes in universities, XXI 464 et seq.
 Froa, kind of boat, IV 800.
 PROBABILITY, XVIII 588—calculation of, I 223—doctrine of, 819; XIII 282—Laplace's improvements in its investigation, I 819; XIII 282—of testimony and design, I 820—as a guide

PRO—PRO

- to discovery, 1b—probabilities of life, III 245—Bernoulli's work on, IV 673
 See Chance, Combination
 Probang, invention of, XX 815
 PROBATE of a will, XVIII 637—duties on, XXI 65, 66
 Probation, XXI 197
 PROBLEM, XVIII 637—problems in algebra, II 538—resolution of geometrical, 542—in geometry, X 508, 596—of the three bodies, III 809; IV 105, I 828—inverse problem, in perspective, XVII 449—in practical astronomy, IV 110—Petersburg problem, XVIII 601
 Proboscidea, family of mammalia, XIV 194
 Proboscidea, division of insects, IX 221.
 Proboscus of bees, IV 571
 PROBUS (Marcus Aurelius) XVIII 637, XIX 849—his government of Egypt, VIII 473.
 —(Valerius), on punctuation, XVIII 686
 —(Æmilius), XVI 149
 PROCACCINI, family of Italian artists, XVIII 637
 —(CAMILLO), XVIII 637
 —(CARLO ANTONIO), XVIII 638.
 —(ERCOLE), XVIII 637
 —(GRILLO CESARE), XVIII 637
 Procellana, genus of birds, XVI 811.
 Procerus, genus of insects, IX 95
 Process, in anatomy, II 825
 Prochaska (George), on the injectible and non-injectible parts of the body, II 806—on the brain, 818—as the seat of the mental faculties, XVII 558, 559—on the muscles, II 821—on the nerves, 814—on the sensorium commune, XVII 676.
 Prochilodus, genus of fishes, XII 216
 PROCIJA (Giovanni di), XVIII 638; XX 258; X 13.
 —, island, XVIII 638.
 PROCLAMATION, XVIII 638
 PROCLUS, XVIII 638; X 502; XVII 233
 Procnias, genus of birds, XVI 751.
 Proconia, fossil reptiles, XVII 152.
 PROCONSUL, XVIII 639, 645; XIX 315
 PROCOPIUS, XVIII 639; VII 300; XIV 455; XIII 28.
 Proctis, genus of insects, IX 210.
 PROCTURUS, XVIII 639.
 PROCTOR, XVIII 639
 —, in universities, XVIII 639—at Oxford, XXI 456
 PROCURATOR-FISCAL, XVIII 639
 Procurators, in universities, XXI 456
 Procyon, genus of mammalia, XIV 154—teeth of, XVI 462
 PRODIGIOUS, sophist, XVIII 639.
 Producta, genus of fossil mollusks, XVII 105.
 Productidae, family of fossil mollusks, XV 338; XVII 105.
 Production of wealth, XVIII 224
 Professions, their influence on health, XIV 442.
 PROFESSOR, XVII 639—professors at Paris, XXI 448—Bologna, 451—Oxford, 457—Queen's University, Dublin, 489.
 Professorships at Oxford, XXI 457; Cambridge, 463; St Andrews, 476; Glasgow, 478; Aberdeen, 481; Edinburgh, 484; Dublin, 487.
 Profits of trade, VII 196—of mercantile speculation, 197—gross and net profits, XII 425; XVIII 240—effect of, on rate of interest, XII 425—advantage of high, XVIII 233—their rate the true test of the advantage of employments, 238—equality of, 210—vary inversely as wages, 250—effect of the fluctuation of wages on, 1b—definition and theory of 252—circumstances which occasion a rise or fall of, 1b—extra profits, 253—influence of the decreasing fertility of the soil on, 254—taxes on, XXI 45—may be lowered by taxes on raw produce, 64.
 PROORAMME, XVIII 639.

PRO—PRO

- PROGRESSION, XVIII 639—arithmetical, II 500—muscles used in, III 42
 PROJECTILES, XVIII 639, I 888—resistance of the air to, XVIII 67—possibility of a projectile from the moon reaching the earth, XIV 635—Borda on, V 36, 37. See Gunnery
 PROJECTION of THE SPIRITS, XVIII 639—orthographic and stereographic, X 488, 489—globular, 491—Plannsted's, 493—construction of maps by, 488— in mechanics, XIV 416—parallel projection of figures, 382—of systems of forces, 388
 — in perspective, XVIII 639—of points, XVII 445—of straight and curved lines, 446, 447—in reference to drawings in joinery, XII 806
 PROLATION, XVIII 639
 PROLEGOMENA, XVIII 640.
 Proximity of style, occasions when useful, VIII 233
 PROLOGUE, XVIII 640.
 PROMET, town in India, XVIII 610, V 617, 784
 Promerops, genus of birds, XVI 771
 Prometheans, matches, XIV 351.
 PROMETHEUS, XVIII 640
 Promise, duty of performance of a, XV 567
 Promissory notes, IX 416
 PROMONTORY, XVIII 640; X 183
 —of the ear, III 46
 Promotion, in the army, VII 202.
 PROMPTER, in theatres, XVIII 610
 Promus, genus of insects, IX 195
 PRONASOS, XVIII 640; III 512.
 PRONOUN, XVIII 640, X 754, 789—relative, 757—in Egyptian grammar, XI 422, 426—Condillæ on the, VII 235.
 Pronuba, name of Juno, XIII 20.
 PROXY (G C F M R de), French engineer, XVIII 640, I 890, n 1—his fraction dynamometer, 1b—on running water, XII 73, 145—his work on logarithms, XIII 555.
 Proof, XVIII 640—in jurisprudence, XIII 275. See Evidence.
 —in printing, XVIII 542.
 —of guns, VI 179; XI 97; XX 214.
 Proof-houses, XI 97.
 Propagation of plants, V 167; XI 693, 702—of the pine apple, 732—of trees and shrubs, XVII 767
 Proper motion of stars, I 815
 PROPRIETUS (Stellus Aurelius), XVIII 640—poetry of, XVIII 105.
 PROPRIETY, XVIII 641—necessity of existence of, VIII 376—real property in England and Wales, 718, 754—laws regarding real and personal, 782, 783—a basis of law, XII 256—injurious to, XIV 427—should private property at sea be exempt from attack during war? XVI 158—effects of security to, XVIII 227—utility of a right of, 228—its effect on the progress of population, 346—right of, 367.
 —(Literary.) See Copyright.
 Property-tax, V 690; XXI 53, 56—unfair and unjust, 56
 PROPHECY, XVIII 641—various ways of fulfilment of, II 79.
 Prophetic office of Christ, XXI 215.
 Prophets, Druidical, VIII 189—division by the Jews of the Old Testament prophets into classes, IV 694—indications of a future state in the books of the Old Testament prophets, I 474—Mohammed as a prophet, XV 302.
 Propolis of bees, IV 676.
 PROPORTA, XVIII 641; XIV 311.
 PROPORTION, XVIII 641—in algebra, II 500—in arithmetic, 1b; III 591, 592—geometry, II 501; X 516—proportions of figures, 619—problems respecting, 578. See Progression.
 —harmonical or musical, XVIII 641.
 Proportionals, X 517—proportional compasses, VII 221.
 PROPOSITION, in geometry, XVIII 641;

PRO—PRO

- X 508, 547—in logic, XIII 573, 574—doctrine of, 583—affirmative and negative, 583—propositions of constitution, 587—interpretation of, ib, 589—conjunctive, 629, 630—hypothetical, 590, 629, 630, 681—disjunctive, ib.—exclusive, 590
- Proprietor, XIX 815
- Proprietary insurance companies, XII 408
- Propriety, VII 248
- Propteris, genus of fossil fishes, XII 335
- Propulsion, in mechanics, XIV. 413
- Propylæum, III 462, 512—propylæa in ancient Athens, IV 165, 167, n. 1.
- Propylon, III 512
- Proscenium, in architecture, III. 512—in the Greek theatres, VIII 185.
- Proscopia, genus of insects, IX 158
- Prose, XVIII 641, XIX 105—romance, XIX 262—principles of prose style, 140—Milton's, XV 29.
- Proselytes, I 488, and n.
- Prosenchyma, tissue in plants, V 66
- Proserpine, XVIII 641, VI 887; VIII 680—a planet, IV 91
- PROSLAMBANOMENOS, XVIII 641.
- Prosoody, XVIII 642; X 744
- Prosopite, mineral, XV. 93
- Protopneus, genus of fossils, XVII 102.
- PROSTOPORCEIA, XVIII 642; XVII 444
- PROSTERNZ, town in Austria, XVIII 642.
- Prostate gland, III 70
- Prostitutes, in the London theatres, VIII 169
- Prostitution, XIV 441—among the Bazezgers, IV 525—in India, XI 470—police of, XVIII 190—connection between it and crime, ib
- Prostomis, genus of insects, IX 148
- PROSTYLE, XVIII 642; III 512.
- PROTAGORAS, XVIII 642; XX 872
- Protaster, fossil star-fish, XVII 99
- Proteaceæ, nat. ord. of plants, V. 204; IV 261
- PROTECTIONISTS, XVIII 642—their legislation in regard to the wool trade, XXI 910.
- Proteine, II 382; IX 757.
- Proteinus, genus of insects, IX 194.
- Protemys, fossil chelonian, XVII. 158
- PROTESTANT, XVIII 642—French protestants, X 268—persecution of in France, 31, 32—in Holland, XI. 562, 588—their intolerance towards the Catholics in the reign of James I., V. 887—persecution of in Mary's reign, VIII 710—origin of the name, XIII 785; XVIII. 822—churches in Europe, IX. 894—importance of philology to, XVII 541—in Prussia, XVIII 650, 653, 664—war with the Emperor of Germany, 825. See Reformation
- Protestant Association, V 491
- Proteus Anguinus, XIII 460, X 587; XVII. 183; XIX. 14, 84—dental characters of, XVI 430.
- , genus of animalcules, III. 200.
- , Egyptian king, XI. 889.
- Protichnites, XVII 130, 131
- Proto, fossil mollusks, XVII 110
- Protochloride of iron and tin, VIII. 817
- PROTOGENES, Greek painter, XVIII 642; XVII. 55, 57—his intercourse with Apelles, III 291.
- Protogine, XV. 137.
- Protonesians, people, IX. 347.
- Protoplasm, V. 67
- Protopter, order of fishes, XIII 818
- Protornis, genus of fossil birds, XVII 155
- Protosaurus, fossil reptiles, XVII 140.
- Protovirgularia, fossils, XVII. 101.
- Portoxide of iron, VI. 459—of nitrogen, 462.
- Protozoa, XVII 92
- PROTRACON, instrument, XVIII 642.
- Proustite, mineral, XV. 122.
- Proust, aeronaut, II 177.
- PROUT (Samuel), painter, XVIII 642.
- (WILLIAM), physician, XVIII. 648

PRO—PRY

- his law regarding chemical combinations, VI 442—Bridgewater Treatise, V 364
- Provençal language, IX 391, XIII 213—poetry, XVII 103, 115—spoken in Marseille, XIV 317
- PROVENCE, in France, XVIII 648, X. 277
- PROVERB, XVIII 643.
- PROVERBS, The Book of, XVIII 648—targums on, XXI 24
- Providence, excluded from the Aristotelian system of philosophy, III 546—extraordinary providence under which the Israelites were placed, I 470, distinguished from ordinary providences, 471—careless use of the word *providential*, 473 and n
- , capital of Rhode Island, XVIII 645; XIX 140, 147
- PROVINCE WELLESLEY, in the Malay Peninsula, XVIII 645
- PROVINCIA, XVIII 645
- PROVINS, town of France, XVIII 646
- Provis (W A), on the flow of water in pipes, XII 76, 136
- Provisions, preservation of, IX 786—consumption of, in London, XIII. 664, Paris, XVII 284; Glasgow, X 654—Irish provision trade, XII 521—preserved for the navy, XX 24 See Dietetics, Food
- PROVOST, XVIII 646
- Provostate, on the circular polarization of heat, XVI 683
- Prudence, Aristotle on, III 563, 565
- PRUDENTIUS (A. Clemens), poet, XVIII 646
- Prudhom, painter, XVII 76
- Prudhomme on the victims of the first French revolution, X 92, n. 2
- Prudhon (C J), his communistic schemes, VII 213
- Pruning, in gardening, XI 696
- Prunner (Leonard de), his work on insects, IX 8
- Prunus, genus of plants, V. 191
- Prusias, king of Bithynia, XVII 410
- PRUSSIA, XVIII 646; IX 402—Royal Academy of Sciences, II 64—army, III. 646—wars with Austria, IV 808—diet at Erfurth convened by, 808—policy of Austria towards, ib—invasion of Holland in 1787, V 526—invasion of France in 1792, 543, 544—subsidized by Britain in 1794, 553—war with France in 1806, 601—mutability of her political power, 614—her troops at Waterloo, 618, 619—conduct of, in regard to Hanover, X 141, 142—trade with England, VIII 732, 738—coal in, VII 126, 127—iron ores, XII 541—Jews in, 738—language, XIII 215—coins of, IV. 442, 444—births and deaths in, 623—produce of its mines, 248—monarchy, 414—education in, 816, 828—newspapers, XVI. 201—increase of population, 342—registration of births, &c., XVIII 842—railway statistics, 787—alliance with Russia against France, XIX. 492—Savings-banks, 673—postal system, XVIII. 424—production of silk, XX. 278—conduct of, in regard to the slave trade, 323—animal magnetism, 444—proportion of suicides in, 800—weights and measures, XXI. 818—factory legislation in, 791—trades-schools of, 828—voluntary starvation of a Prussian recruit, VIII 23—map of Prussia, XVIII. Plate.
- , province, XVIII 676
- Prussian blue, VI. 474—dyeing with, VIII 319—used to colour tea-leaves, IX 769, XXI 87.
- , grass, XI 742
- Prussic-acid, VI. 474—its poisonous properties, XIV 487, XVIII. 127, 128, 180, 183—plants producing, V 191 See Hydrocyanic acid
- Pruth, river, XV. 812; XVII 647; XIX. 515—treaty of the, XIX 481.
- Pryme (Abraham de la), his account of Sir Isaac Newton, XVI 206, n. 2.
- Prymnothous, genus of fishes, XII. 282.

PRY—PSY

- PRYNN (William), XVIII 676, V 804—prosecution of, IV 713—Hume's injustice to, ib—on the drama, VIII 145—his opposition to the stage, XXI 169
- PRYTTANES, XVIII 677—of Athens, IV 215
- Prytanerum, in ancient Athens, IV 163
- PRZEMYSL, town in Austria, XVIII 677
- PRZIBRAM, town in Bohemia, XVIII. 677
- PSALMANAZAR (George), XVIII. 677
- PSALMODY, XVIII 678
- PSALMS, the Book of, XVIII 678—of David, 97—Horne's Commentary on, XI. 631—targums on, XXI 24
- Psalter, Fust and Schoeffer's, XVIII 529—the Mentz psalter, 530—Roman and Gallican, IV 701—of the Virgin, V. 5.
- Psammetus, XI 389
- Psammethus, ancient Egyptian king, VIII 465
- Psammis, Egyptian king, VIII 404; XI 389
- PSAMMITHIUS, kings of Egypt, XVIII 630, VIII 464
- Psammobia, genus of mollusks, XV 350, 341, 347
- Psammodus, genus of insects, IX 120
- Psammodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 340.
- Psammocoe, genus of insects, IX 147
- Psammolepis, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 337
- Psammoperca, genus of fishes, XII 275
- Psammophis, genus of serpents, XIX 67
- Psammosteus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 337, XVII 125
- Psaris, genus of birds, XVI 748
- Psarus, genus of insects, IX 238
- Pselaphu, family of insects, IX 152
- Pselaphus, genus of insects, IX 153
- PSELLUS (M Constantinus), XVIII 680—on demons, III 809, n
- Psen, genus of insects, IX 196
- Psenes, genus of fishes, XII 298.
- Psettus, genus of fishes, XII 301, 302.
- Pseupo, XVIII 680.
- Pseudobdella, genus of annelides, XI 806
- Pseudo-bombyces, section of insects, IX 214
- Pseudoblennius, genus of fishes, XII 809
- Pseudochromidae, family of fishes, XII 288
- Pseudochromis, genus of fishes, XII. 288
- Pseudocormus, fossil ochnoderms, XVII 98, 99
- Pseudodiptera, in architecture, III 512
- Pseudo-Jonathan on the Pentateuch, XXI 23
- Pseudoliva, fossil mollusks, XVII 110
- Pseudomorphism, in crystals, XV. 54
- Pseudonymus, XVIII 680.
- , Books, IV. 711.
- Pseudo-pteripal, III. 512.
- Pseudo-prostyle, III 512
- Pseudopus, genus of serpents, XIX 41.
- Psalia, genus of insects, IX 252
- Psilomelane, mineral, XV 111.
- Psilopus, genus of insects, IX 243.
- Psilota, genus of insects, IX 240.
- Psittacara, genus of birds, XVI 780.
- Psittacus, genus of birds, XVI 783.
- Psittacus, genus of birds, XVI 780, 783
- PSKOV, in Russia, XVIII 680, XIX 521.
- Psos, genus of insects, IX. 142
- Psoschus, genus of insects, IX 180.
- Psolus, fossil holothurides, XVII 100.
- Psophia, genus of birds, XVI 798.
- Psolidae, echinoderms, XXI 986
- PSYCHE, XVIII 681—planet, IV. 91.
- Psychoda, genus of insects, IX. 226.
- PSYCHOLOGY, XVIII. 681; XIV. 555, 556—the real in, 616—relation between it and logic, XIII 567—phrenological, XVII 561—psychological arrangement of phrenology, ib
- , medicine, XIV. 463—Pythagoras' psychological notions, XVIII 711—psychological proof of the existence of God, XXI. 187
- Psylla, genus of insects, IX. 170.
- Psylli, XIX. 46, 65.

PSY—PUB

- Psyra, island, laid waste in 1824, XI 28
- Ptah, Egyptian deity, VIII 487
- Ptarmigans, birds, XVI 791, IX 762—shooting of, XX 226
- Pteraclis, genus of fishes, XII 298.
- Pterichthys, genus of fossil fishes, XII 338, XVII 129, XIX 458
- Pterinea, fossil mollusks, XVII 106
- Pterocera, mollusks, XV 388—fossil, XVII 109
- Pterochile, genus of insects, IX 197.
- Pterocles, genus of birds, XVI 791.
- Pterodactylus, III 88, XVII 151, 640.
- Pteroglossus, genus of birds, XVI 779
- Pterois, genus of fishes, XII 283
- Pteromys, genus of mammalia, XIV 178
- Pteroperna, fossil mollusks, XVII 106
- Pterophorites, section of insects, IX 219
- Pterophorus, genus of insects, IX 219
- Pteroplatea, genus of fishes, XII 328
- Pteropoda, mollusks, XV 357, 332—fossil, XVII 111
- Pteropus, genus of mammalia, XIV 147—dentition of, XVI 452
- Pterosauria, fossil reptiles, XVII 151, 154
- Pterotheca, fossil mollusks, XVII 111
- Pterygocephalus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 844
- Pterygotus, fossils, XVII 101, 102.
- Philmus, genus of insects, IX 116.
- Phliodictya, fossil animals, XVII 96, 98
- Phliopora, fossil animals, XVII 96, 98.
- Phimores, tribe of insects, IX 111.
- Phinus, genus of insects, IX 111
- PROLEMÆUS (Claudius), ancient astronomer, XVIII 681—his improvements in arithmetic, I. 702—his astronomical tables corrected by Alphonsus, king of Castile, 600—his astronomy, 198, 199; III 792; IV 53, 79, 80; its overthrow, III 797—Arabian translation of his works, 794—on refraction, IV 9—climates, VI 766, 767—his system of geography, X 466—on geometry, 501—his reference to Ireland, XII 792—on optics, XVI 521; XIII 449; I 620—on the boundaries of Syria, XX 901
- PROLEMÆUS (The), XVIII 681—hieroglyphical symbols of the name, XI 390, and n. 6
- Ptolemy Soter, king of Egypt, VIII 468—science encouraged by, II 751, III. 789, X 500; XIV 452.
- , II Philadelphus, VIII. 468—his love of science, II 751, III 789; X 500; XIV 452—Alexandria embellished by, II 460.
- , III, Euergetes, VIII. 468—his visit to Jerusalem, XII. 732
- , IV, Philopator, VIII. 469—his visit to Jerusalem, XII 732.
- , V, Epiphanes, VIII. 469.
- , VI, Philometor, VIII. 469
- , VII, Physcon, VIII. 469, 470—his cruelties at Alexandria, II 470.
- , VIII, Lathyrus, VIII. 470.
- , IX, Alexander I., VIII. 470.
- , X, Alexander II., VIII. 470.
- , XI, Auletes, VIII. 470, 471.
- , XII, VII. 471.
- , XIII, VIII 471.
- Ptyacanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII 117.
- Ptychacanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 339
- Ptychoceras, fossil mollusks, XVII 530.
- Ptychodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 840.
- Ptycholepis, genus of fossil fishes, XII 835.
- Ptychoptera, genus of insects, IX. 227.
- Ptyodactyl, reptiles, XIX 86.
- Puberty, XIV 425; XVII. 688.
- Pubis (os), III. 12.
- PUBLICOLA (Publius Valerius), XVIII. 681.
- Public works, employment of convicts at, XVIII. 588—in the United States, XXI. 431.
- Publication laws, XIX. 804.
- Publishers, value set on dramatic pieces by, XXI. 172.
- Publishing of books, VII. 856.

PUB—PUM

- PUBLIUS (Syrus), an ancient writer of farces, XVIII 681
 Puce-colour, dyeing of, VIII 313
 PUGEBUDRA, town in India, XVIII 681
 Puddingstone, XV 141
 Puddling, in iron manufacture, XII 553
 —of canals, XVI 57
 PUEBLA, in Mexico, XVIII 681, XIV 724, 718—Indians of, IX 347
 —DE DON FADRIQUE, town in Spain, XVIII 681
 —DE MONTALVAN, town in Spain, XVIII 681
 PUENTE GENIL, town in Spain, XVIII 681
 Puerperal mania, XIV 530
 Puerto-bello, taken by Admiral Vernon, V 458
 —CABELLO, in Venezuela, XVIII 682, IV 817, 819, XI 612
 —d'España, in Trinidad, XVIII 375
 DE-SANTA-MARIA, town in Spain, XVIII 681
 —LLANO, town in Spain, XVIII 682
 —PRINCIPE, town in Cuba, XVIII 682
 —La Mar, IV 827.
 —Plata, XI 254
 Puff-ball, its soporific qualities, VI 629
 Puff-birds, XVI 779
 PUFFENDORF (Samuel), jurist and historian, XVIII 682; I 88, n.
 Puffins, birds, XVI 810; IX 762—Manx puffin, XIV 243
 Puffinus, genus of birds, XVI 812.
 Pugatschef, VI 336.
 PUGET (Pierre), XVIII 682
 PUGHE (Wm. Owen), XVIII 683
 PUGIN (Augustus), architect, XVIII 683
 —(A WELBY NORTHMORE), XVIII 683—his specimens of pointed architecture, III 457, principles of, 490—his design for a Roman church, 506.
 Puglia, in the kingdom of Naples, XX 237.
 PUGNANI (Giacomo), violinist, XVIII 683
 PUGNET (M.) on the plague, XVII 748 *et seq*
 Puharrees, XI 467.
 PUISOANX, blind man of, IV 780
 Pul, III 778.
 PULCI (Luigi), poet, XVIII 684; VIII 250—poetry of, XVIII 110.
 Pulein (Robert), XXI 452.
 Pulex, genus of insects, IX 260
 PULGAR (Fernando del), historian, XVIII 684
 Pulikowa, observatory at, I 861; III 820
 Pullicat handkerchiefs, manufacture of, VII 440—folding of, VI 93
 Pulmonata, order of mollusks, XV 373.
 Pulmonifera, fossil mollusks, XV 403; XVII 108, 111.
 Pulo Way, or Ay, island, IV 409—P Rondo, ib —P Pisang, ib.
 PULPIT, XVIII 684
 Pulque, Mexican beverage, V 318, XIV 717.
 PULSAR, XVIII 684; XVII 661—effects of electricity on, VIII 602—of the horse, XXI 551, n 5
 —, leguminous plants, V 190
 —glass, XX 556
 Pultava, XVIII 263—battle of, XIX 480; XX 854
 PULZENEY (William), Earl of Bath, XVIII 684
 —(Sir William), XXI 145.
 Pulteneytown, XXI 857.
 PULZEVSK, Russian town, XVIII 685.
 Pulvinated, in architecture, III 512.
 Pulvinates, fossil mollusks, XVII 100
 Puma, XIV 170; II 718; VI 549; XVII 680, 683
 Pumice-stone, XV 72, 132—its resistance to pressure, XX 718.
 Pumiced-foot, XXI 561.
 PUMR, XVIII 685, 24, 49; XII 174, *et seq*—Galileo's observation on, IV 449
 —Bramah's, V 278, 274—for collieries, VII 120. See Air-pump.
 Pump-areometer, III 392.
 Pumping-engines, XX 611.

PUM—PUS

- PUMPKIN, XVIII 685, V 193.
 PUN, XVIII 685
 PUNOH, XVIII 685
 —, in the drama, origin of, VIII 148
 —, Suffolk, breed of horses, II 338; XX 790
 PUNCTATION, XVIII 685—in shorthand writing, XX 679. See Comma, Semicolon, etc
 PUNDEERPOOR, town in India, XVIII 686
 Punic language, XIII 209
 —wars, VI 286 *et seq*—first, XIX 309—second, 310
 PUNISHMENTS, XVIII 686; VII 506, XIV 445—Beccaria on, IV 556—of heresy, VII 438—doctrine of, XIII 275—the principle on which acts are to be selected for, 276—primary and secondary qualities of, 277—capital and other punishments in United Kingdom, VIII 750—in the navy, XVI 104, 107—temporal, under the Mosaic dispensation, I 470, 471, 473, 473, 478—of suicide, XX 801—forgery, IX 784 See Crime, Law, Prison Discipline
 —(future), described in the popular mythology of the Greeks and Romans, I 450—not revealed in Old Testament, 473, 477—not one of the sanctions of the Mosaic law, 470; but one of the sanctions of the New Testament dispensation, 481. See Future Life
 PUNJAB, XVIII 687—its rivers, XVII 606—sepoxy insurrection in, XVI 303, 309—annexed to the British possessions, V 670; XI 500
 Punjnad, river, XII 378.
 PUNJNAH, town in India, XVIII 695
 PUNO, in Peru, XVIII 695, XVII 474
 Punt, IV 800.
 Punt-shooting, XX 217.
 Pupa, genus of mollusks, XV 373
 —, of insects, IX 53
 Pupil of the eye, XIII 461; XVII 678—its contractions, III 44—in various animals, 97.
 Pupivora, family of insects, IX 184
 PURBACH (George), XVIII 695—his astronomical labours, I 600, III 796—his division of the radius, 578—mathematical investigations of, X 504.
 PURBECK, XVIII 695—quarries, VIII 111—beds, XV 208—fossil insects of, XVII 103; mammals, 101
 PURCELL (Henry), musician, XVIII 695.
 PURCHAS (Samuel), XVIII 695.
 Purified powder magazine, VI 351.
 Purgatives for domestic animals, XXI 556, n 1.
 PURGATORY, XVIII 695, 336.
 PURITANS, XVIII 696, XII 368; VIII 712—under James I, V 382—their hostility to the stage, VIII 160; XXI 169—of New England, XXI 432. See Nonconformists
 Purkine on the cylinder axis, II 810—on the structure of the teeth, XVI 407, 409—on the effect of galvanism on the eye, XXI 634
 Purline, XIX 387—best manner of framing, VI 250
 Purmann, German surgeon, XX 818
 PURNEAU, in Bengal, XVIII 696
 Purple, dyeing of, VIII 311, 319—Tyrian, 273, 273; XXI 406—for printing with, XVIII 556.
 Purpura, genus of mollusks, XV 366—dye from, VIII 272.
 Purple, in heraldry, XI 324.
 Purpurina, fossil mollusks, XVII 109.
 Purre, bird, XVI 803
 PURSER, or Paymaster (Ships), XVIII 696; XVI 105, 110, 114, 115
 Purslane, plant, XI 745—order of plants, V 103.
 Purveyance, levying of, II 253, 254.
 Pus, in medicine, XVII 652—pus-cells, 660.
 Puschkinito, mineral, XV 85.
 Pusey (Mr.), on carts, II 279—on portable thrashing machines, 281—on the agricultural implements of the Great Exhibition, 285—on irrigation, XII 619.

PUS—PYR

- PUSHKIN (A Sergejewitch), Russian poet, XVIII 696
 Putamen, in botany, V 135.
 PUTDOL, XVIII 697
 PUTIVL, Russian town, XVIII 697.
 PUTNEY, in Surrey, XVIII 697.
 PUTREFACTION, XVIII 697, IX 766—substances which resist, III 277, IX 767—influence of electricity on, VIII 597
 PUTTEE, town in India, XVIII 697.
 PUTTEBALA, town in India, XVIII 697.
 Putting, game, XI 170
 PUTTUN, town in India, XVIII 697
 PUTTY, XVIII 697, V 756; X 669, 670
 PUY (Le), town in France, XVIII 697
 PUY-DE-DOME, in France, XVIII 697.
 PUTYLAURENS, town in France, XVIII 698
 Puysegur (Marquis de), XX 413—magnetic somnambulism discovered by, 421 *et seq*
 —(Count Maxime de), mesmerist, XX 423
 PUZZUOLI, XVIII 698, 697
 PWLLHILL, in Wales, XVIII 698, VI 55
 Pycnite, mineral, XV 88
 Pycnodontes, family of fossil fishes, XII 337, 350, XVII 125, 126
 Pycnodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 337, XVII 126
 Pycnogonum, genus of Arachnides, III 386
 PYCNOSTYLE, XVIII 698; III 612
 PYDIA, XVIII 703—battle of, XIX 314; XI 12.
 Pygæus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 345
 Pygastor, fossil echinoides, XVII 99, 100
 PYGMALION, XVIII 698; VI 280
 Pygocentrus, genus of fishes, XII 217
 Pygopristis, genus of fishes, XII 247
 Pygopterus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 335, XVII 125.
 PYLADIS, XVIII 698; XVI 708.
 —, dancer, XVIII 698, IV 398
 Pyloric appendages, in fishes, III 111
 PYLOS, or Pylus, ancient town of Messina, XVIII 698; IV 205; XV 831
 PYM (John), XVIII 699, V 387, 400, 401.
 PYNAKIR (Adam), landscape painter, XVIII 700.
 PYNON (Richard), printer, XVIII 537.
 Pyralis, genus of insects, IX 216
 Pyrallothe, mineral, XV 82.
 Pyramid, in geometry, X 335—how to develop, XII 807—mensuration of, XIV 607—in mineralogy, XV 41 *et seq*
 PYRAMIDS of Egypt, XVIII 700, III 436, 437, 451, 457; VIII 454, 455, 500, 501—attempt to pull them down, II 23—battle of, VIII 438—probably intended for gnomons, X 464.
 —of Mexico, XIV 719.
 —octagonal, construction of, III 410
 Pyramidal bodies of the brain, III 55.
 Pyramidellidae, family of mollusks, XV 383.
 Pyrauga, genus of birds, XVI 751.
 Pyragillite, mineral, XV 89.
 Pyragyllite, mineral, XV 121
 PYRENEAN, mountains, XVIII 700; III 993; IX 382; XVII 595; XX 486—climate, 488—carriage roads over, III 303—botany of, V 227—height of the, XVII 642—campaign of the, XXI 820.
 —BASRES, a department of France, XVIII 701; X 242
 —HAUTES, XVIII 701; X 242.
 —ORIENTALES, XVIII 702; X 242.
 Pyreneite, mineral, XV 85.
 Pyrgita, genus of birds, XVI 760.
 Pyrgos, aqueduct of, III 334.
 Pyrina, fossil echinoides, XVII 100.
 PYRITES, XVIII 702; XV 114, 116—iron, VI 490; crystallization of, VII 557—copper, VI 496—tin, XV 121—gold in, VI 499—sulphur from, XV 246—in Devonshire, VII 763.
 Pyritonema, fossils, XVII 96.
 PYRITZ, town in Prussia, XVIII 702.

PYR—QUA

- Pyrmont, mineral waters of, XV 38
 Pyrochlore, mineral, XV 91.
 Pyrochoa, genus of insects, IX 133
 Pyrochroides, tribe of insects, IX 133
 Pyodon, genus of fishes, XII 813
 Pyro-electricity, VIII 529, 557
 Pyro-gallic acid, VIII 281
 Pyrolaceæ, nat ord of plants, V 198
 Pyroigneous acid, its power of preserving animal food, IX 767
 Pyrolusite, mineral, XV 111
 Pyromancy, VIII 54
 Pyromania, XIV 632.
 PYROMETER, XVIII 702—invention of, I 762—Bonguarts's, XVIII 444
 Pyromorphite, mineral, XV 105
 Pyrope, XV 98—in Fifeshire, IX 544
 Pyrophorus, XIV 361.
 Pyrophyllite, mineral, XV 79
 Pyrophyllite, mineral, XV 88.
 Pyrosclerite, mineral, XV 80
 Pyroscope, VI 783; I 760.
 Pyrosulphite, mineral, XV 79.
 Pyrosoma, mollusks, XV 334—their humidity, ib , XVII 574
 Pyrosomidae, family of mollusks, XV 334.
 PYROTECHNIC, XVIII 700—school of, in Belgium, IV 622
 Pyrothite, mineral, XV 90.
 Pyroxene, mineral, XV 81
 PYTHAGORA, or Pyrrhic dance, XVIII 708, VII 465, 645
 Pyrrhic, mineral, XV 91
 PYRRHO, sceptic, XVIII 708; XIX 707
 Pyrrhocorax, genus of birds, XVII 754.
 Pyrrhosclerite, mineral, XV 108.
 Pyrrhotine, mineral, XV 115.
 Pyrrhula, genus of birds, XVI 701
 Pyrrhulina, genus of fishes, XII 251.
 PYRRHUS, king of Epirus, XVIII 708—his war with the Romans, XIX 305—death of, 306—his conduct in Sicily, XX 900.
 Pyralia, genus of mollusks, XV 387—fossil, XVII 110.
 Pyrus, genus of trees, XVII 763.
 PYTHAGORAS, XVIII 700; X 497, XIV 451; XX 810—philosophy of, III 538; XVII 231—on the mystical properties of numbers, III 575; XVII 232, and n.—astronomy, III 788—abstinence from beans enjoined by, IV 627—many of his doctrines derived from India, V 271—his residence at Crotona, VII 621—resemblance between his philosophy and that of the Druids, VIII 185—his esoteric and exoteric scholars, IX 332—doctrine of the metempsychosis, XIV 628—treatment of mental diseases, 627—on vision, XIII 449; XVI 621—Thalalus on the doctrines of, XVII 516—school of, XVII 787, 789.
 —, sculptor, XIX 854.
 Pythagoreans, their Societies, XVIII 712
 —mathematical theory of the universe, XVII 800.
 PYTHIAS, ancient navigator, XVIII 712, 161, n. 2—on astronomy, III 789—his voyages, ib ; X 462.
 PYTHIA, XVIII 712; VII 709; XVIII 698.
 PYTHIAN GAMES, XVIII 712; X 397.
 Pythias, VII 642.
 Pythina, fossil mollusks, XVII 107.
 Pytho, genus of insects, IX 132.
 Python, fabled serpent destroyed by Apollo, III 299
 —in zoology, XVII 634; II 744; IX 62, 60.
 Pythoness, priestess of Apollo, VII 709. See Pythia.
 PYX, trial of the, XVIII 812; III 706, 767—process of pyxing, VII 94.
 Pyxidium, in botany, V 136.

Q

- Q, letter of the alphabet, XVIII 713—in abbreviations, II 20.
 Quabenus (Zacharias), his burning mirrors, VI 11.
 Quack doctors, XIV 464, 466.

QUA—QUA

QUADI, XVIII 718, VII 806—marvellous story of a Roman victory over the, III 280
 QUADRANGLE, XVIII 718
 Quadrans, Roman coin, VII 67.
 QUADRANT, XVIII 718, X 485, 518—Davis', IV 351—mural, 153, XV 688—Hadley's, I 748, XVI 80—telescopes applied to quadrants, III 802—causes of error in the use of, XVI 32
 QUADRANTAL, XVIII 718
 QUADRATIC EQUATIONS, XVIII 718; II 510
 Quadratrix, XX 521
 QUADRATURE, XVIII 718—of the circle, I 699, 700, X 580, XX 520—in astronomy, XVIII 718
 Quadratus, apologist in the primitive church, IX 401
 QUADRIGA, XVIII 718.
 Quadrilatera, family of crustacea, VII 541
 Quadrilateral figure, to find the area of, XIV 504—bone in birds, III 85
 Quadruman, section of insects, IX. 88.
 QUADRI (F. Xaverio), XVIII 718
 Quadroom, XIV 719
 Quadrumania, in zoology, XIV. 185, 186, II 774; XVII. 681—of America, II 712—their bones, III 75 *et seq*—muscles, 91—teeth, 105; XV 455 *et seq*—stomach, III 108
 Quadrupeds, characters of, II 778—kinds used as food, IX 761 See Mammalia
 QUADRUPLE, XVIII 714
 —Alliance, V 455.
 QUESTOR, XVIII 714
 Quagga, XIV 201.
 QUAIL, XVIII 714; XVI 797; VIII 483; IX. 762—of Scripture, XVII 192—fighting with, VII 61
 QUAINI (Luigi), painter, XVIII 714.
 Quain (Richard), his works on anatomy, II 767, 770—on fatty degeneration, XVII 696
 —(Jones), his work on anatomy, II 770; III 74
 QUAKERS, XVIII 714—their affirmation equal in law to an oath, II 200; XVI 389—their address to James II., V 434—their opposition to slavery and the slave trade, 527, XX. 321—registration of their marriages, XVIII 884—Barclay's Apology for, IV 442—places of worship in Scotland, XIX 801 See Barclay (Robert), Fox (Geo), Penn (William).
 QUANG-SI, in China, XVIII 724
 QUANG-TON, in China, XVIII 724.
 Quans, Lapland race, XIII 237
 QUANTITY, in prosody, XVIII 724—in algebra, II. 459 *et seq*—the idea of quantities infinitely great and small first introduced into Geometry by Kepler, I. 554—in logic, XIII 569.
 Quantic hills, XX 410.
 QUARANTINE, XVIII 724—establishments, XIV. 445—laws, XVII 749, 751.
 QUARLES (Francis), XVIII 724—his poetry, 122.
 Quarndon, chalybeate spring, near Derby, VII 755.
 QUARRY, stone, XVIII 725—English quarries, VIII. 726—French, X 251 See Blasting
 —hunting phrase, XVIII. 725—in falconry, ib.; X 249.
 Quartermen, diseases of, XIV 442.
 QUART, measure, XVIII 725.
 QUARTATION, XVIII 725.
 QUARTER, XVIII 725—quarters of a horse, ib.—in astronomy, ib.—in heraldry, ib.; XI 329—of a ship, ib.
 QUARTER-MASTER, XVIII 725.
 QUARTER-MASTER-GENERAL, XVIII 725; III. 664; XXI 702.
 Quarter clocks, VII 17.
 QUARTERING, in heraldry, XVIII 725; XI 325, 339, 340.
 Quarterly Review, XIX. 100—establishment of, 821—on languages, XIII 197—on the character of Horne Tooke, XXI 809—Gifford's editorship of, X.

QUA—QUE

622, Lockhart's, XI 549—Isaac d'Israeli's contributions to, XII 631
 QUARTETTO, in music, XVIII 725; XV 742
 Quartz, XV 68—common, ferruginous, and spongyform, 69—optical phenomena of, I 910, XVI 588, 600, 627, 652, 677—specific gravity of, XII 88.
 —rock, or Quartzite, XV. 158—in Scotland, XIX 792, 793
 Quasdamovich (General), XV. 787.
 Quassia, order of plants, V. 189
 Quaternions, in geometry, I 813, n 8
 QUATRE-BRAS, XVIII 725—battle of, IV 597; V. 619
 Quatrefores (M.), on mollusks, XV 357—on the value of alpaca wool, XXI 906
 Quatre-foil, in heraldry, III 512; XI 326
 QUATREMEERE-DE-QUINCY (A C), XVIII 725—his work on the Olympian Jupiter, XIX 855
 QUATUORVIR, XVIII 725
 QUAYE, in music, XVIII 725.
 Quays, on tidal rivers, XVI 79.
 QUEBEC, XVIII 725—climate, II 673, 674—taken by General Wolfe, V 464, VI 133, XXI 484—population, VI 144—trade of, 148
 QUEDAH, XVIII 726
 QUEDLINBURG, town in Prussia, XVIII 727.
 —beet, XX 796
 QUEEN, XVIII. 727—Queen-dowager, VIII 131
 QUEEN ANNE'S BOUNTY, XVIII. 727.
 Queen-bee, IV 571, 580
 QUEEN-CHARLOTTE-ISLANDS, in Australia, XVIII 727; IV 265
 Queen Charlotte's Sound, in New Zealand, XVI 234, 235
 QUEEN'S COLLEGES, XVIII 727; VIII 223; XII 532, XXI 459
 —COUNTY, XVIII 727; XII 508, 509, 515, 517
 —University, in Ireland, XVIII 223, XII. 532, XXI 489
 —ware, XVIII 434
 QUEEN'SFERRY, South, XVIII 730—North, IX 795—ferry at, 797
 QUEENSTOWN, in Cork, XVIII 730; VII 871
 Quekett (Mr), his list of test objects, XIV 804
 QUELPAERT, island, XVIII 730
 Quenstedt, his definition of theology, XXI 181—on the divine attributes, 189
 QUENTIN (St), in France, XVIII. 730—cotton manufactures of, X. 253—canal of, 244.
 Querard (M.), his list of Laplace's works, XIII 282
 Quercitum, VIII. 296
 Quercitron-bark, yellow dye-stuff, IV 445; VIII. 296, 318—for wool, 297
 QUERETARO, in Mexico, XVIII 730, XIV. 718, 723—proportion of baptisms and burials in, XVIII 842.
 QUERINI (Angelo Maria), cardinal, XVIII 730.
 Querculella, genus of birds, VII. 819.
 Querula, genus of birds, XVIII 750.
 QUESADA, town in Spain, XVIII 781
 QUESALTEANGO, in Guatemala, XVIII 731; XI. 76, 77.
 QUESNAY (François), XVIII 731; VIII. 375—on the vibration of the nerves, I 171 n—on political economy, XVIII. 220, 221—his intimacy with Adam Smith, XX. 840—on the incidence of taxes, XXI 40
 QUESNE (Abraham), Marquis de, admiral, XVIII 734—his expedition against Algiers, II 571
 —(Fort du), V 463.
 Quesnel, his moral observations on the New Testament, XII 686.
 Quesnoy (Francisco di), sculptor, XIX 884.
 Quetelet (M.), on the electricity of clouds, VIII 581—on magnetism, XIV 14, 66

QUE—QUO

—on the population of the Netherlands, XV 620, 634, 644—on the time of flowering in plants, XVII. 625—on the proportion of suicides in different countries, XX 800—on temperature, XVII 625
 QUEVEU, in heraldry, XVIII 734
 QUEVEDO Y VILLEGAS (F Gomez de), XVIII 734—poetry of, 115—his romance, XIX 286
 Quezal, bird, XVI 779
 Quiberon, British expedition to, X 97—peninsula of, XV 577
 Quichua language, II 689, XIII 233
 Quichuas, IX 348
 Quick-lime, as a deodorizer, XIX 621
 Quicksilver See Mercury
 QUID-PRO-QUO, XVIII 735
 QUIETISM, XVIII 735, XV 757
 QUILMANE, or Kilmane, XVIII 735, XV 669
 QUILLET (Claude), XVIII 735
 QUILLOTA, town in Chili, XVIII 735—department of, VI 547
 QUILLO, town in Zaquebar, XVIII 735.
 QUILON, town in India, XVIII 735
 QUIMPER, town in France, XVIII 735
 QUIMPERLE, town in France, XVIII 735
 QUIN (James), tragedian, XVIII 735, XXI. 175—his friendship to Thomson, 234.
 —(Dr), his imitation of ancient gems, XXI 33
 QUINARIUS, coin, XVIII 736; XVI 383.
 Quinatzen, Mexican king, XIV 609
 QUINAUT (Philippe), poet, XVIII 736
 Quince, V. 191—culture of, XI 716
 Quince-trees, XVII 764
 Quincey (Mr de), Life of Pope in this work by, XVIII 320, n 1
 QUINCUNX, in gardening, XVIII 736
 QUINCY, town in Massachusetts, XVIII 736
 —, town in Illinois, XVIII 736.
 QUINDECAGON, XVIII 736.
 QUINDECIMVIR, XVIII 736; VII 690
 Quindiu, one of the Andes, III 131—pass of, II 668
 Quinet, on Paulus' theory respecting miracles, XV 263, n 1
 QUININE, XVIII 736; V 196; VI 518, 725—as a remedy for ague, XII 436
 QUINQUATRES, or Quinquatras, festival, XVIII 736.
 QUINQUEREMIS, XVIII 736
 Quinquina tree, Condamine's account of, VII 230
 QUINQUIVIR, XVIII 736
 QUINTANA (M Joseph), Spanish poet, XVIII 736—on Moorish ballads, 113
 QUINTANAR DE LA ORDEN, town in Spain, XVIII 737
 QUINTETTO, in music, XVIII. 737.
 QUINTILIANUS (M Fabius), XVIII 737—Cappenheimer's edition of, V. 787; Burman's edition, ib.; Rollin's, XIX 251—Spalding's, XX. 495—on painting, XVII. 81, 81—on ancient sculpture, XI 850
 QUINTUS SMYRNAEUS, or Q Calaber, Greek poet, XVIII 738.
 Quipu, a substitute for writing among the Peruvians, XVII 402.
 Quirinal Hill, XIX 356, 357.
 Quirinus, I 458
 QUIRITES, XVIII 738; XIX 316—origin of the name, VII. 591
 Quiros (Pedro Fernandez de), his voyage of discovery, IV 262—discoveries of, 265; XVIII 181.
 QUIRO, XVIII 738—climate, VIII. 387—elevation of its site, XVII 598—volcanoes enclosing the plain of, ib.—height of its mountains, 645
 Quitor, XXI 580.
 Quiver, III. 427.
 Quixote (Don), VI 619—Smollett's translation of, XX. 861. See Cervantes.
 Quoins, in architecture, III. 512; V. 740
 Quorra. See Niger
 QUORUM, XVIII 738.
 Quoy on the mollusca, XV. 827.

R—RAD

R

R, letter of the alphabet, XVIII. 739—in abbreviations, ib.; II. 20.
 Ra, Egyptian deity, VIII. 437.
 RAAB, town in Hungary, XVIII 739.
 RAAT, town in Bengal, XVIII 739.
 RABAT, town in Morocco, XVIII 739, XV. 596.
 Rabbet of the keel, in ship-building, XX. 185
 RABBI, XVIII 739—stipend allowed to, in France, XII 782 See Jews.
 Rabbinical language, XIII. 209—Bible, XIX. 835.
 RABBIT, XVIII. 739; XIV. 188—rearing and management of, II. 356—as food, IX. 762—teeth of, XVI. 454, 455—skins, X. 349, 351—shooting of, XX. 223
 Rabbith-Moab, ruins of, XVII 189.
 RABELAIS (Dr François), XVIII 739—his resemblance to Aristophanes, VIII. 139.
 RABENER (G Wilhelm), satirist, XVIII. 743.
 Rabies, or canine madness, XXI. 575.
 Raby Castle, VIII. 267
 RACONIG, town in Italy, XVIII 743
 RACE-HORSE, XVIII 743, XI 633, 662—speed of, VII 230, XI 643—action of, 642—race-riding, 686; at Newmarket, XVI 176—duty on, XIII 435
 RACES OF MAN, XVIII. 743; II. 775; V. 373; XIX. 607—in Sindh, XX. 305 See Ethnology.
 —or roosts, in the sea, cause of, XI. 217.
 Raceme, in botany, V. 114.
 Rachamach, libd, XVI 740.
 RACHET, tigèdienna, XVIII 743.
 RACHIS, in botany, V. 113.
 RACINE (Jean), poet, XVIII 743—his friendship with D'Aleau, IV. 814—dramatic works of, VIII 185
 —town in Wisconsin, XVIII 743.
 RACING, XVIII. 746; XI 686—betting on horse-racing, X. 395—amongst the Greeks, 397.
 RACK, instrument of torture, XVIII 746.
 Rackett (Mr), on the Lymington shimp, VII. 543.
 Racle (M.), on iron bridges, XII. 578.
 Racoma, genus of fishes, XII 257.
 Raccoon, XIV 154—teeth of, XVI 462—its fur, X. 349
 RACZ-KEVE, town in Hungary, XVIII 747.
 Radama, king of Madagascar, XIII. 792.
 RADCLIFFE (Ann Ward), XVIII 747—her romances, XIX. 276.
 —(Dr John), XVIII 747—Radcliffe Library founded by, XVII. 38—his ludicrous method of emptying abscess in the fauces, XX. 827, n.
 —Library, XIII. 386; XVII. 35; XIX. 445.
 —(Mr), his machine for dressing cotton cloth, VII. 451.
 —Observatory, III. 817
 RADERZY DE RADERZY (Count Joseph), field-marshal, XVIII 747—his proceedings in Italy, XII 656, 657, 668.
 RADHUNPOOR, in India, XVIII. 747.
 Radiant heat, I. 800, 801, 942, 952; XI. 292—law of emanation of, 944, 947—growing importance of the subject, 943—influence of colour on, 945—De la Roche on, 954—recent observations on, 955—polarisation of, 909, 956. See Leslie (Sir John)
 Radiata, IX. 60; II 772—characteristics and classes of, III. 192—arrangement of, in zones at various depths, IX. 773—number known, XVII. 631—fossil, 95.
 Radiated polypes, XXI. 1002.
 Radiation of cold, XI. 264.
 —terrestrial, XIV. 644—fogs, 854.
 Radicals, in chemistry, VI. 502.
 Radicle, of plants, V. 78.

RAD—RAI

Radcliffe, mineral, XV. 75
 Radiolites, fossil mollusks, XVII 107
 Radish, culture of the, XI 740—horse-radish, 745.
 RADUS, XVIII 748—in geometry, X 513
 —bone, in man, III 32—in the mammalia, 81—in reptiles, 88—in birds, 88.
 —vector, VIII 358; X 643
 RADNORSHIRE, XVIII 748—population and value of property, VIII 754
 RADOM, town in Poland, XVIII 749.
 Radzivil (Prince), XVIII 145, 150
 Rae (Dr), fate of Sir John Franklin and his party discovered by, X 298; XVIII 175—his northern explorations, 169, 172, 174
 Rde Bareil, town in Oude, XVII 17.
 RAEBURN (Sir Henry), portrait-painter, XVIII 749.
 RAEGAN, town in India, XVIII 751
 RAFFAELLE (Sanzio), XVIII 750, XVII 87 n. 2, 62, 67—his style of architecture, III 452, of painting, 708, 709—cartoons of, VI 304—genius of, VIII 171—specimen of sketches by, VIII Plato—Vaga generally reckoned his best pupil, XXI 503
 —ware, XVIII 432.
 RAFFELS (Sir T. Stamford), XVIII 750—on the origin of the population of the Indian Archipelago, III 748—on Batavia, IV 496—governor of Java, XII 709—institution at Singapore established by, XX 307.
 Rafflesia Arnoldi, V. 209—discovery of, XVIII 751.
 Rafflesiaceae, nat. order of plants, V 209
 Raft (Dr), XIX 696—on the earliest discoverers of America, II 698, n. 3—on the early Norwegian settlements in Greenland, ib.; XI 30, n.
 Rafters, in carpentry, VI 204—best form of, XIX 382
 Rafts, life, XIII 439.
 Rag-fallowing, II 307.
 RAGLAN (J. H. P. Somerset), baron, XVIII 751; XXI 375, XIX 501, 503—death of, 509.
 —Castle, XV. 499.
 RAGMAN'S ROLL, XVIII 751.
 Ragoba, XI 491
 Ragotski, his alliance with Sweden, XX 852—defeated and killed by the Turks, 852
 Rags, bleaching of, IV. 770—paper made from, XVII 261—quantity imported, VIII 735.
 Ragstone hills, XIII 64.
 RAGUSA, in Dalmatia, XVIII 751.
 —in Sicily, XVIII 751.
 Rahbek (Knud Lyne), Danish author, XIX 694.
 Raia, genus of fishes, XII 327—R. Lem-prieri, 207, 220, 325.
 Raia, sub-order of fishes, XII 326
 Raiaia, island, XXI 871.
 Raiaia, family of fishes, XII 327—fossil, XVII 118.
 RAIKES (Robert), XVIII 751—first Sunday-school originated with, VIII 746.
 Rails, in joinery, V. 751, 752; XII 814—in railways, XVIII 754—origin of the term, 752—edge, 753—fish-belly, ib.—bridge, 754—double-headed, 755, 756—fish-joint, 757—saddle-back or Barlow, 758.
 RAILWAYS, XVIII 752—origin of, I 884—locomotive adapted to, ib.—speculations on, in 1825, ib.—their superiority to common roads, ib.—practicability of high velocities on, 885—their influence on agriculture, II 264—rickyard railways, 208—portable farm, 280—viaducts of, III 889 (see Iron Bridges)—in collieries, VII 125—influence on dairy husbandry, 662—as joint-stock companies, XII 818—iron arches and bridges for, 588 *et seq.*—Egyptian railway bridges, 609—their superiority to swift canal boats, XVI 53—conveyance of mails by, XVIII 415—railway post-offices, 416—roofs over railway stations, XIX 395 *et seq.*—railway springs, XX

RAI—RAL

96—city railroads in New York, XVI 225, Philadelphia, XVII 510—termini in London, XIII 679; Edinburgh, VIII 394, 411, Birmingham, IV 732; Dundee, VIII 287—in Austria, IV. 815—Bengal, 651—Bombay, V. 3—Belgium, IV 626—Bavaria, 517—Chili, VI 552—Canada, 155—connected with Montreal, XV 523—in England, VIII 722—Scotland, XIX 808—France, X. 217, 244—Norway, XVI 332—Holland, XI 582—Iceland, XII 528—Portugal, XVIII 398—Prussia, 670—Two Sicilies, XX 250—Spain, 491—the Punjab, XVIII 698—kingdom of Sardinia, XIX 637—Russia, 536—connected with Sheffield, XX. 97—Sweden, 864—Switzerland, 890—connected with Stirling, 701; with Sidney, New South Wales, 896—formulas for the resistance of engines and trains on, 615—smucles on, 800—in United States, XXI 427—in Turkey, 384—application of electro-magnetism to railway-breaks, 644 See the different countries in England and Scotland, the different states of North America; and the geographical articles in general, Tunnel, Locomotive, Steam-Engine, Stations, Stephenson, Watt, &c.
 RAIMACH (Abraham), engraver, XVIII 799
 Rain, XIV 656—in America, II 672—decreases from the equator to the poles, VI 784—rare in Egypt, VIII 422, become more frequent since the cultivation of the palm-tree, XVII 614—laws which regulate the distribution of, 613—circumstances which produce a high and low average fall, ib., 614—between the tropics, ib.—influences unfavourable to, ib.—rainless districts, ib.—why prognosticated by fall of the barometer, IV. 459; XVIII 26—its influence on rocks, XV. 139—impressions of rain-drops in rocks, XVII 131—fall of, in England, VIII 718; France, X. 241, Oikney, XVI 720—among the Himalayas, XI 446—Prussia, XVIII 662—of frogs, XIX 76
 Rain-gauge, XIV. 656.
 Rainbow, XVIII 799; XIII. 449; XIV. 679; XVI 525, 526, 531, 687—method by which its nature was ascertained, I 588—speculations of Maurolycus respecting it, 625—discovery of Antonio de Dominis, ib.—theory of, 898—spurious bows, ib.—coloured rings, 899; XIV. 679—delicacy of its phenomena as a test of theory, I 899—colours of, VI. 615—colours of supernumerary, 648—polarisation of, XVI 683.
 Rainey (Mr), on the ocean mail service of the United States, XVIII 426
 Rainhill, competition of locomotives at, I 886
 RAISINS, XVIII 799—of Malaga, XIV 107—quantity imported into Britain, VIII 735.
 Raja, family of fossil fishes, XII 341.
 RAJAH, Indian title, XVIII 799.
 RAJAHMUNDRY, in India, XVIII 799
 RAJESHAH, in India, XVIII 800.
 RAJMAHAL, town in India, XVIII 800.
 RAJPEETHA, Indian state, XVIII 800.
 RAJPOOTANA, in India, XVIII 800.
 Rajpoots, XI 464, 465—in Jeypoor, XII 784—in Oude, XVII 19. See Rajpootana.
 Rake, horse, II. 279.
 —of a ship, XVIII 801.
 Rakeburg (J.), his work on insects, IX. 23.
 Raking mouldings, XII 808.
 RAKKA, Turkish town, XVIII 801.
 RALEIGH (Sir Walter), XVIII 801; IV. 335; VIII 718—execution of, V. 384—fond of chess, VI. 538—his attempts to colonise America, 247—his notice of the Warawa, IX. 248—on the ships of the Normans, XVI. 80—on English ships, 92—on shipping, XVI. 125—his work on the Royal Navy quoted, 128—trailing voyage to America, 127—his intimacy with Spenser, 506.
 Ralf (Mr), his work on Desmidia, III. 212.
 Ralling, Swedish senator, XX 857.
 Rallus, genus of birds, XVI 807.
 Raimen (M.), his seismograph, XXI 644.
 Ram Island, III 284
 RAMADAN, Mohammedan fast, XVIII 802, IV 375, XV 303, XX. 908
 Ramage (M.), on the atmosphere of the moon, IV. 43, 44
 Rāmāyana, Indian epic poem, XVII 520—translation of, 529
 Ramazzini (Bernardino), his work on the diseases of artificers, XIV 423
 RAMBERVILLERS, town in France, XVIII 802
 RAMBLA, town in Spain, XVIII 802
 RAMBOUILLET, town in France, XVIII 802—flock of merinos at, X. 248
 Rambou (J. P.), his works on insects, IX. 17.
 Rameau's theory of harmony, XV. 701
 Rameaux on the temperature of plants, V. 169.
 RAMESSES, kings of Egypt, XVIII 802; VIII 461, 462, 463—statue of Rameses, II. 509—tomb of Rameses III., 513 See Sesostrius.
 Ramesseum of El-Kurneh, VIII 509, XIII. 381—musical sounds from, XIV 492
 RANGURH, in India, XVIII 802
 Ramilles, battle of, V. 449.
 Ramiro II, XX 462
 Ramselsberg, mineral, XV 116.
 RAMMOUIN ROY (Rajah), XVIII 802.
 RAMNAD, town in Madras, XVIII 803.
 RAMPANT, in heraldry, XVIII 803, XI. 332.
 RAMPART, XVIII 803; IX. 813, 819.
 Ramphastos, genus of birds, XVI 779.
 Ramphocles, genus of birds, XVI 751.
 Ramphohynchus, fossil reptiles, XVII. 151
 Rampion, V. 198—culture of, XI. 743
 RAMPOOR, in India, XVIII 803
 Rams, Leicester, II. 345—letting of, 346—price of Cheviot rams, 347 See Sheep
 RAMSAT (Allan), XVIII 803; VIII. 403—his manner of editing old poetry, VII. 634—edict of the Town-council of Edinburgh regarding the sale of his works, 357, n. 1—his Monk and the Miller's Wife, VIII. 250—poetry of, XVIII 124.
 —(ANDREW MICHAEL), XVIII 803.
 —(Prof.), on agrarian laws, II. 246.
 —(Prof.), on geology, XV. 181, 182, n.
 Ramsbottom's wool-combing machine, XXI. 925.
 Ramsbottom (Mr), on salmon fry, IX. 592, 593, n. 2.
 RAMSDEN (Jesse), optician, XVIII. 804—the quadrant and sextant improved by, I. 749—his dividing machine, ib.; X. 742—his optical instruments, III. 808—his balance, IV. 384—optigraph, VI. 119—micrometers, XIV. 748, 749—his method of testing the expansion of measuring rods, XVIII 708—his eye-piece for telescopes, XXI. 124, 125, n.—theodolite by, 331—zenith sector, ib. 335.
 Ramsey (David), his patent for ships, XX. 636.
 —in Huntingdon, XVIII. 804.
 —town in Isle of Man, XVIII 804; XIV. 245, 246.
 RAMSDATE, town in Kent, XVIII. 804—foundation of its pier laid by means of a diving-bell, VII. 64—population, XIII. 67.
 RAMUS (Petrus), XVIII. 804; I. 30, 708—on Euclid, IX. 366—on syllogisms, XIII. 625, n.
 RAMUSIO (Giambattista), XVIII 805; 164.
 Rana, reptile, XIX. 76—bones of, III. 86 *et seq.*—ears, 99—tongue, 100.
 Ranatra, genus of insects, IX. 165.
 Randall (Mr), on the school system of New York, XV. 820.
 RANDENS, town in Denmark, XVIII 805.
 RANDOLPH (Thomas), poet, XVIII 805.
 —regent of Scotland, XIX. 756.
 RANDOM BROT, XVIII 805.
 RANON, in gunnery, XVIII 806; XI. 148—

RAN—RAT

English tables of ranges, 146—French, 149
 RANGER of a forest, XVIII 806
 RANGOON, XVIII 806—taken by the British in 1825, V. 646, 783
 Ranceps, genus of fishes, XII 270—genus of fossil reptiles, XVII 136
 Ramidae, family of reptiles, XIX 75.
 Ranjit Singh, XVIII 692, 693
 RANK, XVIII 806—relations of, among animals, III. 187—in China, VI 587, 594—inequality of, necessary, VIII 376, XX 818—distinction of, XVI 280—in Russia, XIX. 524 See Caste.
 —in the navy, XVI 102—army, VII. 202.
 —AND FILE, XVIII 806.
 Rankine (Prof.), on the mechanical theory of heat, XX. 560—on the specific heat of the air, 561—his formula representing the relation between the pressure and temperature of steam, 566—on the density of steam, 669—his work on the steam-engine and other prime movers, 617, 619—his formula for the work of gaseous steam, 623; of dry saturated steam, 624, 625—on the heat of combustion of coal, 630—on the temperature of the products of combustion of coal, 632—his formula for expressing the efficiency of a furnace, 634
 Rannoch (Loch), A.VII. 455.
 Ransom, of knights, XIII. 113.
 Ransome's plough, II. 271.
 —artificial stone, XX. 735—his application for protecting the surface of stones, ib.
 RANTLES, XVIII 806; XIV. 694.
 Ranunculaceae, nat. order of plants, V 140—acid and narcotic species, XIV 439.
 Ranunculus, culture of, XI. 752
 Ranville (Gueron), X. 196 *et seq.*
 RANZ DES VACHES, XVIII 806.
 Ranzani on birds, XVI 731, 800
 RAOUX ROCHETTE (Désiré), XVIII 806.
 Rapacious birds See Raptores.
 RARE, crime, XVIII 806; XIV. 428
 —oil, XVI. 495, 497.
 —plant, II. 321, 336.
 Rape-cake, a manure, II. 301—analysis of, 405.
 Raper (Capt.), on the Himalaya mountains, XI. 448.
 Raphel. See Raffaella.
 Raphic, in botany, V. 133.
 Raphides, or crystals, in plants, V. 74.
 Raphidia, genus of insects, IX. 179.
 Raphillite, mineral, XV. 81.
 Raphiosaurus, fossil reptiles, XVII. 152.
 Raphistoma, fossil mollusks, XVII. 110.
 RAPHOR, Irish town, XVIII 807; VIII. 105.
 RAPIN (Paul de), historian, XVIII 807.
 Rapp (General), X. 139.
 Rappee, snuff, XXI. 295, 297.
 Raptores, order of birds, XVI 737; XVII. 633—of Europe, 824.
 Rarotonga, island, XVIII. 279—missionaries in, XXI 871—New Testament in the language of, ib.
 Rasciana, in Hungary, XII. 11.
 RASGRAD, Turkish town, XVIII 807.
 RASK (Rasmus Christian), XVIII. 807; XIX. 696—his labours in philology, XVII. 528, 529, 531, 535—on Anglo-Saxon literature, VIII. 793.
 Rasores, order of birds, XVI 784.
 Raspberry, culture of, XI. 718.
 Rasse, in zoology, XIV. 166.
 RASOVA, Turkish town, XVIII 809; VII. 654.
 RASZADT, town in Baden, XVIII. 809—negotiations at, in 1798, V. 693—murder of the French ambassador at, X. 112.
 RASTALL (John), XVIII. 809.
 RASTENBURG, town in Prussia, XVIII 809.
 Rastrelli, architect, buildings in Petersburg erected by, XVII. 486, 491.
 Rasturges, graptolites, XVII 98.
 RAT, XVIII 809; XIV. 181—rats in Jamaica, XII 682; in India, XI. 456—spiny-rat, XIV. 180—water-rat, 183—

RAT—RAY

- musk-rat, *ib.*; its fur, X. 848—means of destroying rats, XXI. 548.
- RATAPIA, XVIII. 809.
- RATCHEP, XVIII. 809; VII. 14, 15; XIV. 400.
- Ratcliffe, treason of, V. 504.
- Ratel, quadruped, XIV. 156.
- RATES, in the navy, XVIII. 809; XVI. 94, 95—church-rates, poor-rates (see these articles).
- RATHANGAN, Irish town, XVIII. 809.
- Rathbone (William), VII. 477, *n.*
- RATHDOWNEX, Irish town, XVIII. 809.
- RATHENOW, town in Prussia, XVIII. 809—engagement at, 649.
- Rathke (Heinrich), on the crustacea, VII. 540, 544.
- RATHKEALE, Irish town, XVIII. 809.
- Rathlin, island, III. 284.
- RATBOR, town in Prussia, XVIII. 809.
- RATTO, XVIII. 809; X. 517—in logarithms, XIII. 557—ratios of musical intervals; see Music, Temperament.
- RATTON, XVIII. 809.
- RATIONALISM, XVIII. 810.
- RATISBON, XVIII. 810, IV. 518.
- RATLINES of a ship, XVIII. 810.
- Rattails in horses, XXI. 579.
- RATTANS, XVIII. 810.
- Rattle-snakes, XVII. 634; XIX. 54, 68—poison of, 45—skull and teeth of, XVI. 432—poison-fangs, *ib.*—their bite poisonous, XIV. 440.
- Rattler, steam-ship, trials of screw-propellers in, XX. 640, 659—description of, 665.
- Rattoons, XX. 792.
- Ratzeburg (J. T. C.), his work on insects, IX. 24.
- Rau, Dutch surgeon, XX. 818.
- RAUCH (Christian), sculptor, XVIII. 810.
- Raucourt (M.), on the velocity of rivers, XII. 144.
- Rauschel on the arteries, II. 790.
- RAVAILLIAC (François), assassin, XVIII. 811; X. 34.
- RAVELIN, XVIII. 811; IX. 818.
- Raven, XVI. 764.
- Ravenel's hive, III. 295.
- RAVENGLASS, town in Cumberland, XVIII. 811.
- RAVENNA, XVIII. 811; XVII. 241, 243—the Goths at, XII. 840—taken by the Lombards, XIII. 641—recovered by the Venetians, *ib.*—recession of the sea from, XIX. 207.
- Ravensbourne, river, XIII. 65.
- RAVENSBURG, XVIII. 812.
- Ravenscroft, dramatist, XXI. 171.
- Ravensworth Castle, VIII. 267.
- Ravi, or Ravee, river in the Punjab, XVIII. 687, 688; XII. 69; XIII. 158.
- Raw produce, value of, VII. 386, XIV. 273—effects of a bounty on the exportation of, VII. 387—effects of the subdivision of land in the price of, 427—price of, increased by small farms, 429—taxes on, XXI. 63, possible effects of, on wages and profits, 64.
- Rawandians, II. 599.
- RAWITSCH, or Rawicz, town in Prussia, XVIII. 812.
- Rawinson (Sir H. C.), his discovery of the mode of interpreting cuneiform characters, IX. 361; XI. 369; XVII. 580, 584—on the tabular libraries of Assyria, XIII. 882—on Ecbatana, VIII. 370—on the capital of Assyria, XVI. 275—his Herodotus, XVII. 453.
- (Rev. George), on the language of the Pelasgi, XVII. 871.
- RAT (John), XVIII. 812; XIV. 461—on Scotch agriculture, II. 258—his natural method of classifying plants, V. 178—on fishes, XII. 205—on the mammalia, XIV. 125—his high scientific and personal character, *ib.*—on birds, XVI. 726—his works on insects, IX. 3—his book on proverbs, XVIII. 643—on the branch or par, IX. 594—his intimacy with Sir Hans Sloane, XX. 332.
- in optics, XIII. 450, 452. See Light, Spectrum, Optics.

RAY—REC

- Rayger (Dr Charles), on a swarm of ants at Posen, III. 265.
- RAYMOND OF SEBONDE, XVIII. 813—Montaigne's Apology for, I. 61—his Theologia Naturalis, *ib.*, 52—Turnebus and Grothius's opinion of, 52, *n.* 3—(G. M.), on singing, XV. 719.
- Raymundus de Penyafort, VI. 189.
- RATNAL (G. T. François), XVIII. 813—on the effects of the discovery of America, and of a passage to India by Cape of Good Hope, I. 19—Diderot's literary aid to, VIII. 15.
- Raynond on the Roman languages, XVII. 528.
- Rays, fishes, XII. 325—fossil, XVII. 119.
- Razor-shells, XV. 350.
- Razors, manufacture of, VII. 600.
- Razoumoffskin, mineral, XV. 84.
- RAZZI (G. Antonio), painter, XVIII. 813.
- Ré, island, VI. 422—Egyptian deity XI. 382—or Reis, coin, XV. 436.
- Reaching machines, XII. 172.
- Reaction, in dynamics, VIII. 324—universal reaction a law of the material world, 364.
- Read (Mr), on the electricity of vegetable bodies, VIII. 570—his electrical conductors, 608—on atmospheric electricity, XIV. 660.
- Read's subsoil pulveriser, II. 271.
- Reade (Dr Joseph), his permanent soap-bubble, XVI. 600—his microscope, 603—(Rev. J. B.), his mks, XII. 383—his photographic process, XVII. 545.
- READING, town in Berkshire, XVIII. 814; V. 403.
- in Pennsylvania, XVIII. 814.
- Readings, various, of Scripture, laws for determining, XIX. 841—dramatic reading, XXI. 172.
- REAL, XVIII. 814—in metaphysics, XIV. 611—theories of, not founded on consciousness, *ib.*—as given in consciousness, 613—in cosmology, 615—in psychology, 616—in theology, 619—in morality, 622—in the philosophy of taste, 623.
- Spanish coin, XVIII. 814; XV. 445.
- REALIJO, in Nicaragua, XVIII. 814; XVI. 244.
- Realgar, VI. 495; XV. 122.
- REALISM, XVIII. 814. See Nominalists and Realists.
- REAMUR (R. A. F. Steur de), XVIII. 815—his report on silk-producing spiders, III. 875—on the bee, IV. 671—on the shape of bells, 628—his patronage of Brisson, V. 308—his work on insects, IX. 4, XIV. 125—Reaumur's porcelain, XVIII. 444—his thermometer, XXI. 222, 228—on echinoderms, XXI. 992, 993.
- Reapers, wages of, II. 313; XIX. 455.
- Reaping, with the sickle, II. 313—with machinery, 314.
- machines, II. 276—reports on, *ib.*, 277.
- REASON, XVIII. 814; XV. 811—extension of the term to the moral faculties, I. 347—distinguished from instinct, XII. 392—Jacobi's idea of, 668—law of, XIII. 253—in relation to Christianity, I. 516; XVI. 298; XVIII. 810—Kant on, XIII. 48, 49—Leibnitz on a sufficient reason. See Leibnitz.
- Reasoning, XIV. 593; XIII. 601.
- REARE, city of the Sabines, XVIII. 815.
- Reay, country of, XX. 840.
- Rebate, in joinery, XII. 808.
- RUBBO, musical instrument, XVIII. 815.
- Rebecca insurrection in Wales, VI. 53.
- Rebellion, Scotch, in 1716, V. 453; in 1745, 480—Irish, in 1798, 563 (see Monmouth, O'Neill)—Chinese, VI. 597.
- Rebelling, in engraving, VIII. 804.
- REBUS, XVIII. 815.
- REGANATI, Italian city, XVIII. 816.
- Receptacle, in botany, V. 118.
- Recife, XVII. 416; V. 295.
- Reciprocal equations, II. 522.
- RECITATIVO, in music, XVIII. 816.
- RECKONING (Ship's), XVIII. 816; XVI. 25.

REC—REE

- Reclaiming of moorlands, II. 358—bogs, 361—fens, 363—land, from the sea, *ib.*, from rivers, XVI. 83.
- Recoil, wheels of, XII. 172.
- RECORDE (Robert), XVIII. 816; I. 708 and *n.* 1; X. 504—on algebra, I. 558, II. 485.
- RECORDER, XVIII. 816.
- Recording machines, XIV. 415.
- Records (Public), XVIII. 816.
- Recruiting, in Austria, IV. 317—Egypt, VIII. 515—France, III. 639, 642—Spain, 643—Prussia, 647—Russia, 649—Bavaria, 652—Turkey, 658—Mr Wyndham's Act, V. 599.
- Rectangle, X. 508—to find the area of, XIV. 502.
- Rectification of the circle, XX. 520.
- Rectitude, XV. 541—a real quality, *ib.*—foundation of, 543—different theories on, *ib.* et seq.—criticism of, 557—how a knowledge of it is acquired, *ib.*—an attribute of God, XXI. 192.
- RECTOR, XVIII. 816; XVII. 309—English, VIII. 743—in universities, XXI. 416, 475, 478, 481.
- Rectum, in man, III. 61—in animals, 111—surgical treatment of diseases of, XX. 833.
- Recupero on an eruption of water from *Etna*, II. 197.
- RECURRING SERIES, XVIII. 816.
- RECURVOSTRA, genus of birds, XVI. 806.
- RECURSANTS, XVIII. 816.
- RED, colour, XVIII. 817—dyeing of, VIII. 282, 317—method of dyeing wool, 288; silk, 291; cotton and linen, 292—varieties of, XV. 69—for printing, XVIII. 556. See Chromatics.
- band fish, XII. 303.
- Crug, remains of cetacea in, XVII. 168.
- fire, how produced, XVIII. 707.
- ink, XII. 383.
- lead, XIII. 302.
- River, XVIII. 817, XIII. 699, XVII. 605, 647.
- River. See Halya.
- SEA, XVIII. 817—commerce of, III. 356—canal of the, VIII. 430—projected ship canal for joining the Mediterranean with, *ib.*—evaporation in, XVII. 871—coal formations, 583.
- Red-deer, XIV. 208; XX. 212—fossil, XVII. 171.
- Red-grouse, XVI. 791—shooting, XX. 224.
- Red-lag, or Red Robin, disease in wheat, V. 172.
- Red-snow, V. 75; XI. 43.
- Redan, IX. 809, 810—at Sevastopol, XIX. 504, attack on, 509, 510.
- Redbreast, bird, XVI. 755.
- Redburn viaduct, Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, XVIII. 763, 764.
- REDFORD, town in Worcester, XVIII. 817.
- REDFORD, XVIII. 817.
- Redgrave (Mr), on the factories of ceramic wares, XVIII. 445—on the French factory law, XXI. 791.
- REIL (Francesco), XII. 660—his work on insects, IX. 3.
- Redier's dial-marking watch, VII. 35.
- Redmund's hinges, XI. 532.
- REDON, town in France, XVIII. 817.
- REDONBR, XVIII. 817; IX. 809, 811.
- Redpole, bird, XVI. 761.
- REDRUTH, town in Cornwall, XVIII. 817.
- Redruthite, mineral, XV. 118.
- Redshank, bird, XVI. 805.
- Redstart, bird, XVI. 755.
- Redtenbacher (L.), his works on insects, IX. 22.
- Reduction, in arithmetic, III. 587—of fractions, in algebra, II. 494—of decimal fractions, III. 699, 602—of motions and forces, VIII. 340—of syllogisms, XIII. 614, 616, 617, 627.
- REDUPLICATION, in music, XVIII. 820.
- Reduvius, genus of insects, IX. 158.
- Redwing, bird, XVI. 751.
- REE (Lough), XVIII. 820; XIII. 684; XXI. 838.
- Reed (General), XVI. 803.

REE—REF

- Reed, weaver's, XXI. 783.
- REEDS, coral, XVIII. 820; XXI. 1003. See Coral.
- Reeling, of silk, XX. 230, 281.
- REES (Abraham), XVIII. 820.
- (Dr Owen), on cases of insanity in Pentonville Penitentiary, XVIII. 581.
- REETZ, town in Yorkshire, XVIII. 820.
- REEVE (Clara), XVIII. 820—character of her romances, XIX. 276.
- (Lovell), his work on conchology, XV. 327.
- Refining of iron, XII. 553—of sugar, XX. 794.
- Reflecting telescopes, XVI. 532 (see Telescope)—microscopes, XVI. 775—glasses, VI. 1.
- REFLECTION OF LIGHT, XVIII. 821; XIII. 451; XVI. 544, 553—laws of, I. 904; XVI. 553—from different kinds of mirrors, *ib.*—from disintegrated surfaces, 690—spectra produced by, 612—double reflection, 669—polarisation of light by reflection, 634; I. 902; laws of, XVI. 635, 641; I. 912—Attwood on, IV. 233. See Catoptrics.
- of cold, VII. 532, XI. 264—of heat, I. 763; VI. 1, XI. 262.
- in mental philosophy, XIV. 555—Descartes' clear conception of that operation of the mind afterwards called reflection, I. 57—the last faculty that unfolds itself, 58—Locke on the ideas resulting from, 110–112—Locke's use of the term, 253, ambiguous meaning he attaches to it, XIV. 560, 562 and *n.* 3, 563, *n.* 1, 577—definition of by La Harpe, I. 116, *n.*
- Reflectors in lighthouses, XIII. 469, 470 et seq. See Lighthouses.
- REFORM, PARLIAMENTARY, XVIII. 821. See Parliament.
- Act, VIII. 778; XVII. 202; X. 738—passing of the, V. 603; XVII. 299—provisions of, V. 660—Sir R. Peel's opposition to, XVII. 804.
- REFORMATION (The), XVIII. 821—Burnet's history of, V. 792—in Denmark, VII. 740—England, VIII. 698, 709, 706; VII. 488—Scotland, XIII. 127; XIX. 772 et seq.—Holland, XI. 588—Switzerland, XX. 885—a consequence of the revival of letters, I. 16—its influence on the progress of society, IX. 390—extended to Ireland, XII. 475—its influence on the progress of medicine, XIV. 469; and on education, XV. 808—supposed to have been hostile to art in England, A VII. 77, this opinion unfounded, XIX. 866—destruction of MSS. at the, XVII. 212—connection of mysticism with, XV. 750—conduct of James V. of Scotland in reference to, XIX. 774—Stuart's history of, in Scotland, XIII. 783—opposition to, in Lancashire, XIII. 180—in Kirkcudbright, 101. See Luther, Knox, &c.
- Reformations in religion, I. 524—principal hindrances to, *ib.*; attaching too much importance to matters not essential, 525, mistaken views of Christian unity, *ib.* 526; dread of innovations, 525, 529—what is meant by reformation of a church, 530—dangers to which reformers are most liable, *ib.*
- Reformatory Schools, in England, XVIII. 202—general results of the system, 203—in Scotland, 205—Ireland, 208—reformatories for the young, 586—legislative measures regarding, 587.
- Reformed Presbyterian Church, XVIII. 501—in Russia, XIX. 629.
- Refracting telescopes, II. 30—microscopes, XIV. 776—glasses, VI. 1. See Telescope.
- REFRACTION, XVIII. 820—of light, XIII. 449, 451, 452; XVI. 529, 558—discovery of the true law of, by Snellius, I. 627; XVI. 530; yet claimed by Descartes, *ib.*; VI. 279—angle of, III. 143—in astronomy, I. 828; IV. 8—theory of, *ib.*—law of, 9—observations of diverse astronomers on, *ib.*—mode of finding how much the rising of the

REF—REG

sun or a star, is advanced by, 112—
atmospheric refraction in the polar re-
gions, XVII. 584—table of atmospheric
refractions, IV. 148—separation of
colours by, VI. 644—laws of extraordi-
nary, 658—double, I. 901; XIII. 452;
XV. 56, XVI. 581, 625; theory of, I.
905; XVI. 543, production of, 671, by
pressure, 542; law of, in crystals, 626
et seq., I. 905—Beccaria on, IV. 580;
polarisation of light by, XVI. 633, 542;
colours of doubly-refracting substances,
VI. 655—Dollond's experiments on,
VIII. 94—Fermat on, IX. 517—table of
refractive powers, XVI. 558—by prisms,
562—through plane glasses, 563—by
spheres, 564—convex lenses, *ib.*—con-
cave lenses, 565—cylindrical lenses, 567
—polarisation of light by, 642 *et seq.*—
conical, I. 918; XVI. 548, 656—triple,
546—explanation of simple and double,
I. 895
Refraction of heat, VI. 1, XIII. 452, XI.
286—double refraction of, 267
Refractors, cylindric, for lighthouses, XIII.
472.
Refrangibility of light, I. 748; XVI. 578,
579—of heat, I. 956 See Refraction.
Refrigerators, for cooling wort, V. 328—of
a still, VIII. 47, 49.
REGALIA, XVIII. 830.
REGARDANT, in heraldry, XVIII. 830; XI.
332
REGATTA, XVIII. 830.
Rogen, in Bavaria, IV. 516
Regency of Britain, the Prince of Wales'
title to the, V. 531—his appointment
to the, 611.
Regeneration, in theology, XXI. 218
REGENY, XVIII. 830—in universities, XXI.
448, 455
—burd, XVI. 754
Regent's Canal, XIII. 662—bridge, XII.
603.
—Park, London, XIII. 668
REGGIO, town of Naples, XVIII. 830, XIX.
103; XX. 242.
—town in northern Italy, XVIII. 830.
Regiam Majestatem, XX. 314.
REGIMURUM, XVIII. 831.
REGILLUS (Lake of), XVIII. 831.
REGIMEN, XVIII. 831. See Dietetics.
REGIMENT, XVIII. 831. See Army.
REGIOMONTANUS, XVIII. 831; VI. 82—
advanced mathematics by his works, I. 551
—introduced trigonometry and decimal
fractions, *ib.*; X. 504—his artificial dove,
II. 166—his improvement of almanacs,
598—his division of the radius, III. 578
—his astronomical labours, 796; I. 600
—his mathematical works, X. 504—Co-
pernicus' admiration of, VII. 348. See
Müller (Johann).
Regions of the human body, III. 1—of the
head, in phrenology, XVII. 565
REGIS (Pierre Sylvain), XVIII. 831.
Register-barometers, IV. 460.
Register-Office, Edinburgh, VIII. 396—
dome of, XIX. 388.
Register Office, General, London, XVIII.
834
Registering thermometers, XXI. 224.
Registers, parish, XV. 600; XVIII. 839—
differences in those of different counties,
380—Inferences drawn from, 352—fal-
lacy of mortuary, 356. See Registration.
Registrar-general, XVIII. 834—superin-
tendent registrars, *ib.*; of births, deaths,
and marriages, *ib.*—registrars in Scot-
land, 840.
REGISTRATION (general) of births, baptisms,
marriages, &c., XVIII. 831—in Belgium,
IV. 615—births, marriages, and deaths,
registered in England, in 1882, VIII.
755, 756.
—of DEEDS, XVIII. 842
—of letters, XVIII. 417; XXI. 67—
colonial and foreign, XVIII. 418.
Regium donum, XII. 832.
REGNAULT (Henri-Victor), XVIII. 843; I.
854—on the coefficient of the expansion
of gases, *ib.* and *n.* 4—on the elasticity

REG—REI

of steam, 958; XX. 558, 559—on latent
heat, I. 958—on specific heat and hy-
grometry, *ib.*—on hydriodynamics, XII.
78, 158—on the compressibility of fluids,
78—his condenser hygrometer, 187—his
analysis of the mud of the Nile, XVII.
425—his analysis of sea-water, XVII.
574—on the expansion of mercury,
XVIII. 702; XXI. 221—on salt crystals,
XIX. 584—on the specific heat of air,
XX. 561—his formulas representing the
relation between the pressure and tem-
perature of steam, 566—on the latent
heat of steam, *ib.*—on gaseous steam,
570—on the thermometer, XXI. 223
Regnier (General), V. 602
—de Graaf, anatomist, II. 762.
Regnier's dynamometer, VIII. 365
Regona (L), his works on the silk-worm,
IX. 24
Regula, in architecture, III. 512
Regulator of a watch, VII. 28—of gas-
lights, X. 421.
Regule, in heraldry, XI. 325
REGULUS (M. Ahlius), Roman consul,
XVIII. 843; XIX. 309; VI. 288, 289,
290—his encounter with a huge serpent,
XIX. 68.
—monk, III. 136
—genus of birds, XVI. 756.
—stat, IV. 79
—of antimony, cohesion of, XX. 757
REHER, in India, XVIII. 843.
Rehoboth, XII. 767.
Reich of Freiberg, on the earth's density,
I. 835, and *n.* 1.
REICHA (Anton), XVIII. 843—on musical
scales, XV. 708—on melody, 715, 716,
718—on the fugue, 735 and *n.*—on
musical composition, 739
REICHENAU, in Bohemia, XVIII. 843.
REICHENBACH, town in Saxony, XVIII.
844.
—town in Prussia, XVIII. 844—
treaty of, X. 162.
—(Bacon), his odyle theory of mes-
meric somnambulism, XX. 434—experi-
ments of, 435—notice from a review of
his work, *ib.*
—(L. T. L.), his work on insects, IX.
12.
REICHENBERG, town in Bohemia, XVIII.
844.
Reid (General), his bequest to the Univer-
sity of Edinburgh, XII. 402; XXI. 483.
—(Dr THOMAS), XIX. 1—ambiguity
of a passage in his works relative to
colour, I. 65 *n.*; and relative to the per-
ception of visible figure, 66 *n.*—sense in
which he uses the word *suggestion*, 167,
2—great object of his inquiry, 218—
Dr Adam Ferguson on his works, 219, *n.*
1—his essays on the Intellectual and on
the Active Powers of Man, 223—unfor-
tunate in his choice of the terms *common
sense* and *instinct*, 403—on analogi-
cal reasoning, II. 745—on the difference
between anger and resentment, III. 141
—on the mental capacity of the blind,
IV. 774—on hearing, XIV. 564—atten-
tion, 575—imagination, 576—Royer
Collard's esteem for his works, XIX.
467—his attempted refutation of Hume's
arguments, XIX. 709.
—(Thomas), on clocks, VII. 20.
—(Sir WILLIAM), XIX. 3
REIGATE, in Surrey, XIX. 3—drestone of,
XX. 712.
Reikiavik, town in Iceland, XII. 199, 200.
Reil on the brain, II. 767—on the neurile-
mma, 808.
REIMARUS (Il. Samuel), XIX. 3—on the
character of Jesus Christ, XII. 762 and
n. 5, 763.
REIMS. See Rheims.
Reinard (M.), on Greek fire and gun-
powder, XI. 151.
Rein-deer, XIV. 206; XVII. 632; XVIII.
179; IX. 887—of Greenland, XI. 43—
Lapland, XII. 236, 238, 240—Norway,
XVI. 824—gaddy of, XIII. 236; migra-
tions caused by, 240—fossil, XVII. 170,
171.
Rein-deer moss, or lichen, XIII. 235; V.
217.
Reineke, a fable, IX. 462
REINERUS (Thomas), XIX. 4
Reinhard, his definition of theology, XXI.
181.
REINHOLD (Erasmus), XIX. 4—his opi-
nion of Kant's principle called Practical
Reason, I. 198—his reasons why Kant's
Critique of Pure Reason made so great
an impression in Germany, *ib.*
—astronomer, III. 798.
REISSER (Johann Jacob), XIX. 4.
Reiss on voltaic electricity, XXI. 627
Reissenen on the vessels of the mucous
membranes, II. 837
Reiz (F. Wolfgang), philologist, XVII.
524
Rejangs, people of Sumatra, XX. 805.
RELAND (Adrian), XIX. 4
Relations of animals, Lamarck's views on,
III. 187.
Relative pronoun, X. 757.
Relays, in electric telegraphs, XXI. 108,
109, 11.
RELIEF in sculpture, XIX. 4, 845—in
painting, 5—in fortification, IX. 798.
—Church, XVIII. 493—union of, with
the Secession, 500—places of worship,
in Scotland, XIX. 801.
RELIGION, XIX. 5—of Abyssinia, II. 57,
221—Africa, 223—Algeria, 576—Asia,
III. 750—Attica, IV. 216—Australia,
297—Austria, 317—Bavaria, 519—Bel-
gium, 616—Bolivia, 820—Brazil, V. 297
—Burmah, 782—Canada, VI. 168—
Chile, 546—China, 568—United States,
XXI. 422 (see the other geographical
articles)—operation of conscience in
relation to religious systems, I. 427—
the object of Scripture is to teach reli-
gion, 458—introduction of false reli-
gions, *ib.*; crept in gradually, 464—
pagan religions, 456—a pagan's reason
for holding his religion, 466, and a
Christian's, *ib.*—reforms in, 521—
corrections of abuses in, generally re-
sisted or delayed, 537—ancient notion
of, III. 545, 546—Aristotle's views of,
566—employed as an aid to government,
IV. 216—arguments of the dissenters in
1772 against articles of faith, V. 474,
475—liberality and toleration regarding,
in Buenos Ayres, 727—union of, with
a walkie spirit, in chivalry, VI. 603—
decay of, during the French revolution,
X. 81—opposition to its re-establishment
in France, 125, *n.*—ecclesiastical history,
XI. 540—religious worship and societies
in London, XIII. 604—when a state
institution, ought to be freely discussed
by the press, 372—passive obedience
and non-resistance, once a religious
doctrine, 373—a cause of insanity,
XIV. 536—Plato on, XVII. 812—religi-
ous aspect of rivers, XIX. 179, 222—
difference between religious knowledge
and theological philosophy, I. 619—
religion established by law, has not, on
that ground, any claim on the con-
science, 542—elements of, X. 184. See
Buddha, Christianity, Devotion,
God, Mohammedanism, Mythology, Per-
secution, Polytheism, Popery, Presby-
terianism, Reformation, Roman Catho-
lics and Roman Catholicism, Supersti-
tion, Theology, Toleration, Gospel,
&c. &c.
Religious education, XV. 812
—madness, XIV. 533, 536.
—missions, XV. 269. See Missions.
REMBANG, in Java, XIX. 5.
REMBRANDT VAN RHIN, XIX. 5—his pic-
tures, III. 711; XVII. 75.
Remorse, XI. 388.
Reminiscence, Plato on, XVII. 804.
REMIREMONT, French town, XIX. 6.
REMSCHIED, Prussian town, XIX. 6.
RERMO (San), Italian seaport, XIX. 6.
Remond (M. Dubois), on the electrical
currents of the human body, VIII. 571
—on voltaic electricity, XXI. 638. See
Raymond.

REI—REM

Remonstrant Synod of Ulster, XII. 532
REMONSTRANTS, XIX. 6; III. 617; XI.
573, XVIII. 478—their views of ori-
ginal sin, XXI. 304
Remontore escapements, VII. 11, 19, 21;
XVII. 386
Remora, family of fishes, XII. 270—Pliny's
account of, *ib.*—in India, XI. 457—used
for catching turtle, *ib.*
Remorse, I. 384.
REMPHAN, XIX. 6.
REMUS, XIX. 6; 206.
REMUSAT (J. P. Abel), XIX. 6—on the
Chinese alphabet, II. 609
REMY (St), French town, XIX. 7
RENAIX, town in Belgium, XIX. 7.
Renal calculi, among cattle, XXI. 570.
Renaldi's thermometer, IV. 457.
Renan (M), on the Egyptian language,
XI. 412
RENAUDOT (Eusèbe), orientalist, XIX. 7—
on the Greek alphabet, II. 612
—(Theophraste), his Gazette, XVI.
195, 196
RENDLE (James Meadows), engineer, XIX.
7—on the construction of breakwaters,
XI. 221.
Rendle (Mr), of Plymouth, his mode of
heating hot-houses, XI. 724.
RENNESBURG, town in Denmark, XIX. 7.
RENNÉ of Anjou, XIX. 8, XIII. 694; XX.
259, 263.
—(Marc), Marquis de Montalembert,
his work on fortification, IX. 835.
Renewer (M), on the lower greensand,
XV. 210, *n.*
RENFREW, Scotch town, XIX. 8.
RENNERSSBURG, XIX. 8—separated from
Lanarkshire, XIII. 174—agricultural
statistics, XIX. 796, 797, 798—popula-
tion, 799.
RENI, Turkish town, XIX. 9.
RENNELL (James), XIX. 9—on the Peri-
plus of Hanno, II. 209; X. 461—on the
ruins of Babylon, IV. 341—on the geo-
graphy of India, X. 473—on the con-
quest of India by the Mohammedans,
XI. 478—on the climate of the (thaurs),
X. 599—on the site of Troy, XXI. 356,
358
RENNES, town in France, XIX. 10—popu-
lation, X. 277.
Renmet, VII. 624; XV. 10.
Renzie (George), on the friction of water,
XII. 76—his experiments in hydraulics,
163—on the transverse strength of
stones, X. 717, 718.
—(James), his works on insects, IX. 17.
—(John), XIX. 10—on the Plymouth
breakwater, XI. 222; V. 307—South-
wick Bridge designed by, 361; XII.
589—his iron bridges, *ib.*—on canals,
XVI. 53—his plan of Waterloo Bridge,
V. 363—his diving-bells at Howth and
Plymouth, VIII. 65, 66.
Renoud (A. G.), on the printing of Aldus,
IV. 710.
Reuschild, Swedish general, XX. 854.
REUT, XIX. 13—nature, origin, and pro-
gress of, XVIII. 243—does not enter
into price, 247—influence of situation
on, *ib.*—of land in England, VIII. 724
—of furms, II. 263, 264—takes on, X.
43—would not be affected by a tax on
profits, except in the case of the farmer,
46.
REUTON, village in Dumfriesshire, XIX.
13.
REYCK (James), martyr, XIX. 13;
XVIII. 501.
Renzi (Dr Salvatore de), on the rate of
mortality in Naples, XV. 624.
RÉOLE (La), in France, X. 632.
REPEATING CLOCKS, XIX. 13; V. 37.
—clocks, VII. 10.
Repentance, in theology, XXI. 218.
Rephan, XIX. 6.
REPP (T. Gudmundsson), XIX. 13.
Representative government, X. 732.
REPUZEV, XIX. 13.
Reproduction, organs of, in man, III. 68;
in brutes, 113; in plants, V. 112—phy-
siology of, 148, 149—in the crustacea,
2 A

REM—REP

Remonstrant Synod of Ulster, XII. 532
REMONSTRANTS, XIX. 6; III. 617; XI.
573, XVIII. 478—their views of ori-
ginal sin, XXI. 304
Remontore escapements, VII. 11, 19, 21;
XVII. 386
Remora, family of fishes, XII. 270—Pliny's
account of, *ib.*—in India, XI. 457—used
for catching turtle, *ib.*
Remorse, I. 384.
REMPHAN, XIX. 6.
REMUS, XIX. 6; 206.
REMUSAT (J. P. Abel), XIX. 6—on the
Chinese alphabet, II. 609
REMY (St), French town, XIX. 7
RENAIX, town in Belgium, XIX. 7.
Renal calculi, among cattle, XXI. 570.
Renaldi's thermometer, IV. 457.
Renan (M), on the Egyptian language,
XI. 412
RENAUDOT (Eusèbe), orientalist, XIX. 7—
on the Greek alphabet, II. 612
—(Theophraste), his Gazette, XVI.
195, 196
RENDLE (James Meadows), engineer, XIX.
7—on the construction of breakwaters,
XI. 221.
Rendle (Mr), of Plymouth, his mode of
heating hot-houses, XI. 724.
RENNESBURG, town in Denmark, XIX. 7.
RENNÉ of Anjou, XIX. 8, XIII. 694; XX.
259, 263.
—(Marc), Marquis de Montalembert,
his work on fortification, IX. 835.
Renewer (M), on the lower greensand,
XV. 210, *n.*
RENFREW, Scotch town, XIX. 8.
RENNERSSBURG, XIX. 8—separated from
Lanarkshire, XIII. 174—agricultural
statistics, XIX. 796, 797, 798—popula-
tion, 799.
RENI, Turkish town, XIX. 9.
RENNELL (James), XIX. 9—on the Peri-
plus of Hanno, II. 209; X. 461—on the
ruins of Babylon, IV. 341—on the geo-
graphy of India, X. 473—on the con-
quest of India by the Mohammedans,
XI. 478—on the climate of the (thaurs),
X. 599—on the site of Troy, XXI. 356,
358
RENNES, town in France, XIX. 10—popu-
lation, X. 277.
Renmet, VII. 624; XV. 10.
Renzie (George), on the friction of water,
XII. 76—his experiments in hydraulics,
163—on the transverse strength of
stones, X. 717, 718.
—(James), his works on insects, IX. 17.
—(John), XIX. 10—on the Plymouth
breakwater, XI. 222; V. 307—South-
wick Bridge designed by, 361; XII.
589—his iron bridges, *ib.*—on canals,
XVI. 53—his plan of Waterloo Bridge,
V. 363—his diving-bells at Howth and
Plymouth, VIII. 65, 66.
Renoud (A. G.), on the printing of Aldus,
IV. 710.
Reuschild, Swedish general, XX. 854.
REUT, XIX. 13—nature, origin, and pro-
gress of, XVIII. 243—does not enter
into price, 247—influence of situation
on, *ib.*—of land in England, VIII. 724
—of furms, II. 263, 264—takes on, X.
43—would not be affected by a tax on
profits, except in the case of the farmer,
46.
REUTON, village in Dumfriesshire, XIX.
13.
REYCK (James), martyr, XIX. 13;
XVIII. 501.
Renzi (Dr Salvatore de), on the rate of
mortality in Naples, XV. 624.
RÉOLE (La), in France, X. 632.
REPEATING CLOCKS, XIX. 13; V. 37.
—clocks, VII. 10.
Repentance, in theology, XXI. 218.
Rephan, XIX. 6.
REPP (T. Gudmundsson), XIX. 13.
Representative government, X. 732.
REPUZEV, XIX. 13.
Reproduction, organs of, in man, III. 68;
in brutes, 113; in plants, V. 112—phy-
siology of, 148, 149—in the crustacea,
2 A

REP-RES

VII. 539—reproduction of lost or mutilated organs in animals, III. 176, 375; XIX. 29, 82—function of, XVII. 656, 668—diseases of, 702—in zoophytes, XXI. 973 *et seq.*, 1002. See Generation.

REPTILIA, or Reptiles, XIX. 13; II. 772— their bones, III. 74, 86—muscles, 91—organs of smell, 94—eyes, 95 *et seq.*—ears, 99—tongue, 100—vocal organs, 102—nervous system, 103—brain, 104—teeth, 105, XVI. 428 *et seq.*—stomach, III. 109—intestines, 110—heart, 112—lungs, 113—secretory organs, 113—hibernation of, 181; XII. 62—blood globules of, II. 779—kinds used as food, IX. 763—figures of, borne on arms, XI. 333—their odontology as applied to classification, XVI. 477—order of their appearance in the strata of the earth, XVII. 92—fossil, 132 *et seq.*—geological distribution of, 154—foot-prints of, 129, 130—distribution of, 634—number known, 631—period of the greatest development of reptile life, 640—mode of fecundation, 683—of Africa, II. 218—America, 714—Ceylon, VI. 394—India, XI. 456—Madagascar, XIII. 800—Sumatra, XX. 804. See Serpents, Tortoises, Lizards, Crocodiles, &c.

REPTON (Humphry), landscape-gardener, XIX. 87.

— in Derbyshire, VII. 753.

REPUBLIC, XIX. 87—Plato on a, XVII. 809—republics in Europe, IX. 397—Swiss, XX. 886. See Democracy, Athens, United States, &c.

Repulsion, IV. 219—electrical, VIII. 556, 554—law of, 549—alternate attraction and repulsion in some bodies, XX. 752, 753—the cause of some bodies swimming in liquid fluids specifically lighter than themselves, 753.

RAQUENA, town in Spain, XIX. 87.

Regneno (Vincenzo), on the ancient lyre, XIX. 752.

Requesens, XI. 568.

Requesena, fossil mollusks, XVII. 107.

REQUISTA, village in France, XIX. 87.

Resch Ghutha, XII. 776.

Reschid Pasha, XXI. 376.

Resedaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 182.

Resende (Garcia de), X. 623, n. 1.

Resenius (Prof.), his edition of the Edda, VIII. 388.

Reservoirs, water passing from one to another, XII. 123—altitude of, 130.

Resht, or Reshd, Persian town, XIX. 87.

Residence, limits of insurance policy as to, XII. 410.

RESIN, XIX. 87—in chemistry, VI. 517—in mineralogy, XV. 123—electricity developed during the melting and cooling of, VIII. 565—specific gravity of, XII. 89—quantity imported, VIII. 735—how distinguished from gum, XI. 93—resin-gas, X. 428—used as the bases of varnish, XXI. 526.

RESINA, Neapolitan town, XIX. 88.

Resinous electricity, VIII. 535, 537—discovery of, 535.

Resist-pastes, in calico-printing, VIII. 317.

RESISTANCE OF FLUIDS, XIX. 88; 192 *et seq.*; XII. 189; I. 886—to the motion of a vessel, XX. 158, 662—law of, 663—of the air, XI. 106 *et seq.*; XVIII. 67—to the vibrations of a pendulum, XVII. 381. See Projectiles.

— of materials, V. 348—of stones, XX. 713, 715, 717—of walls, 720. See Strength of Materials.

— in mechanics, XIV. 380, 381—rolling resistance, 408.

Resolution of forces, VIII. 384.

— in music, XV. 722.

Respect, duty of, XV. 566.

Respiration, XVII. 662; III. 170; XVIII. 72—quality of the air changed by, 73—mechanism of, 113—essential to mammiferous animals from birth, II. 726—different modes of, in vertebrate animals, 772, 773—of plants, V. 104—of arachnids, III. 369—bees, IV. 578—insects, IX. 47—fishes, XII. 225—whales,

RES-REV

XIV. 237—reptiles, XIX. 14, the batrachians, 74; serpents, 48—length of time during which the breath can be held in, VIII. 55—mode of restoring it, in drowned persons, 182—respiratory food, VI. 522. See Amphibia, Diving.

Respiration (organs of), in man, III. 66—in the lower animals, 112—diseases of, XXI. 571—in the crustacea, VII. 539—in birds, XVI. 734—in the echinodermata, XXI. 983. See Lungs, Phthisis.

Ressons on gunnery, XI. 108.

Restadi, peace of, IX. 870.

Restall's lock, XIII. 539.

Restaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 215.

Restif de la Bretonne, character of his novels, XIX. 289.

Restiform bodies of the brain, III. 55.

Restoration of Charles II., V. 420—literature of that period, XV. 29—news-papers, XVI. 182.

Resurrection, analogy between it and the metamorphosis of insects, IX. 54—of Jesus Christ, XII. 560.

Retail dealers, advantage of, XVIII. 237.

Retallation, Arabian law of, III. 352—regarded by Socrates as a duty, XX. 397.

Retarded motions, VIII. 344.

Retarding forces, VIII. 347.

Rete mucosum of the skin, II. 834; VII. 223.

Retention, a universal law of mind, XIX. 111.

Retford (Dr), on Roman Catholic missionaries, XV. 277.

— (East), town in Nottinghamshire, XIX. 89.

RETHIEL, town in France, XIX. 89.

RETICLE micrometers, XIX. 89; XIV. 758.

RETICULATION, XIX. 89. See Lace.

RETIMO, or Retimo, in Ciete, XIX. 94.

Retina of the eye, III. 44, XIII. 461; XVIII. 678—occasional insensibility of, in oblique vision, XVI. 695—whether the seat of vision, 695—duration of impressions on, 113—in various animals, III. 97.

Rehnasphait, XV. 194.

Retinite, mineral, XV. 124.

Retort, gas retorts, X. 411—steam-boiler, XX. 615.

Retreat, The, lunatic asylum, XIV. 528.

Retreats in war, XXI. 718.

Retriever-dogs, XX. 220.

Retting of flax, II. 332, IX. 655; XIII. 494—Schenck and Watt's process, II. 332.

RETZ (Cardinal de), XIX. 94.

Retzia, fossil mollusks, XVII. 104.

Retzius (Prof.), on the teeth, XVI. 407, 409.

REUCHLIN (Johann), XIX. 95; XVII. 523—his method of pronouncing Greek, IX. 329.

REUS, town in Spain, XIX. 96.

Reuss, in Germany, XIX. 96.

— (M.), on the capillaries, II. 709.

Reussin, mineral, XV. 99.

REUTLINGEN, in Wurtemberg, XIX. 97.

Revalenta Arabica, an empirical preparation, XIII. 333.

REVEL, Russian seaport, XIX. 97; IX. 339—Lutheran church at, 529.

— town in France, XIX. 97.

REVELATION, XIX. 100—proof that there must originally have been some revelation to man, I. 450, 452—disbelieved in, from there being no infallible interpreter, 500—revealed law, XIII. 253. See Theology, Scripture.

— Book of, XIX. 98; III. 297.

Reveley (Mr), his description of the jarrah tree, XXI. 278.

Revenge, law of, for blood, among the Arabs, III. 352—a frequent cause of cannibalism among the Fijians, XVIII. 275.

Revenue of Aitica, IV. 217—of the United Kingdom, VIII. 751—items from which it arises, XXI. 75—of Ireland, XII. 525—of the United States, XXI. 428. See Funding System, Political Economy, Taxation, and the different Kingdoms.

REV-RHE

Reverberatory furnace, X. 356.

Reverence due to the Deity, XV. 571; XXI. 195. See Devotion, Veneration.

REVEREND, XIX. 100.

REVERSION, in English law, XIX. 100.

— in annuities, XIX. 100. See Annuities.

— of series, in algebra, II. 532.

Revêtement, in fortification, XI. 819.

Revett's Antiquities of Athens, III. 456.

Review, XIX. 100. See Edinburgh Review, Quarterly Review.

Revival of learning in Europe, I. 14, VII. 535, XIII. 387, 388—naturally produced the Reformation, I. 15—its effects on the advancement of physical, metaphysical, moral, and political science, 16-20. See Learning.

Revolution, in England, of 1688, XIX. 100, V. 439; VI. 667, XI. 578—in Greece, 22—in Chile and La Plata, II. 701.

— (French, of 1790), V. 535, X. 45—retrospective view of the, 121—its effects on agriculture, 245—on religious institutions, 267—organisation of the police at the outbreak of, XVIII. 187.

REVOLVER, pistol, XIX. 100—Col Colt's, XI. 102—Deane and Adam's, 113.

Revolving magnetism, XXI. 638.

REWA CAUNTA, in India, XIX. 100.

REWAN, Indian state, XIX. 100.

Rewards (future), described in the popular mythology of the Greeks and Romans, I. 459—temporal, under the Mosiac dispensation, 470, 471, 473, 478—not one of the sanctions of the Mosiac law, 479; but one of the sanctions of the New Testament dispensation, 481.

Reymond (D Du Bois), on animal electricity, I. 901. See Remond.

Reynaud (Jean), on the form of continents, XVII. 571.

REYNOLDS (Sir Joshua), XIX. 101; XVII. 56, 78, 82, 83, 84—his character as a painter, III. 714, XVII. 74—on the imitation of nature in painting, III. 716—on Raphael's style, 708—his theory of beauty, IV. 539—his friendship with Burke, V. 775, Goldsmith, X. 706—his tribute to Vanbrugh, XXI. 619—on Gainsborough, X. 367.

— (William), on the strength of gun metal, V. 358, 360—on non cement, 361.

Rezat, in Bavaria, IV. 516.

RHABDOLOGY, XIX. 102, XV. 777.

RHADAMANTHUS, XIX. 102, VII. 493.

RHELEIA, XIX. 102.

Rhetian Alps, II. 624; X. 532; XX. 888.

RHEMUS (G. J.), X. 505; II. 547; XIX. 104.

Rhetio-Romance language, IX. 391.

Rhagium, genus of insects, IX. 146.

Rhamnaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 183.

RHAMNUS, town of Greece, XIX. 103.

Rhamphichthys, genus of fishes, XII. 234, 236.

Rhamphognathus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 346.

Rhamphomyia, genus of insects, IX. 236.

Rhamphosus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 344.

Rhamphus, genus of insect, IX. 140.

Rhameses the Great, Scythian campaign of, XVII. 264.

Rhaphium, genus of insects, IX. 242.

RHAPSODIST, XIX. 103.

Rhatany order of plants, V. 183.

RHAEZES, Arabian physician, XIX. 103—his medical writings, XIV. 450—his skill in surgery, XX. 815.

Rhea, Egyptian deity, XI. 882 and n. 9.

— genus of birds, XVI. 796.

RHEGION, XIX. 103; XVIII. 830—coins of, XVI. 363.

Rheldol, in Wales, VI. 283.

RHEIMS, town in France, XIX. 103—population, X. 277.

Rheingau, XV. 801; XIX. 144—wines of, XXI. 886.

Rhetus's eye-piece for telescopes, XXI. 124.

RHEXANUS (Beatus), XIX. 104.

RHE-RHO

RHENUS, XIX. 104. See Rhine.

Rheostats, Wheatstone's, I. 984; XXI. 625—for considerable resistance, 113—for feeble resistance, 113.

RHETICUS, XIX. 104. See Rheticus.

RHETORIC, XIX. 104—Aristotle on, I. 54; III. 556—characters of abbreviation in, VI. 419—among the Druids, VIII. 189—reprobated by Plato, XVII. 802—article on, in this work, by Professor Spalding, XX. 496.

RHEUMATISM, XIX. 142—in veterinary science, XXI. 557.

RHEIN, Bas, and Haut, departments of France, XIX. 143.

Rhina, genus of insects, IX. 140.

— genus of fishes, XII. 327—dental pavement of the upper jaw, XVI. 423.

RHINE, river, XIX. 144; IX. 381, X. 582; XI. 581; XVII. 647; XVIII. 602; XIX. 181, XX. 888—navigation of, IX. 385—delta of, XVII. 586—velocity of its current, XII. 144, 145—quantity of matter suspended in the current of, XV. 86 and n. 1.

— Province of, XIX. 145, IV. 518—rocks of, XV. 199, 202.

— Confederation of the, X. 142.

Rhineland, agriculture of, XVIII. 666.

Rhinolepis, genus of fishes, XII. 263.

Rhinella, genus of reptiles, XIX. 81.

Rhinellus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 338.

Rhingia, genus of insects, IX. 240.

Rhinichthys, genus of fishes, XII. 258.

Rhinobatidae, family of fishes, XII. 327.

Rhinobatus, genus of fishes, XII. 327.

RHINOCEROS, XIX. 145, XV. 198, 204—in Abyssinia, II. 55—Africa, 217—Assam, III. 764—Java, XII. 702—Sumatra, XX. 804—dentation of, XVI. 471—fossil, XVII. 169.

Rhinodon, genus of fishes, XII. 324.

Rhinodontidae, family of fishes, XII. 324.

Rhinolophus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 149.

Rhinopoma, genus of mammalia, XIV. 149.

Rhinoptera, genus of fishes, XII. 328.

Rhinosinus, genus of insects, IX. 138.

Rhinota, genus of insects, IX. 138.

Rhinotragus, genus of insects, IX. 145.

Rino, seaport in the Malay peninsula, XIX. 145.

Rhiphuda, genus of insects, IX. 227.

Rhipicera, genus of insects, IX. 107.

Rhustrostris, genus of insects, IX. 125.

Rhizobolaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 186.

Rhizocarpeae, nat. order of ferns, V. 144, 216.

Rhizodus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII. 123, 124.

Rhizome, in botany, V. 79, 143.

Rhizophoraceae, nat. order of plants, V. 191.

Rhizophyta, zoophytes, XXI. 999.

Rhizopoda, class of fossils, XVII. 93—of zoophytes, XXI. 1006.

RHOE Island, XIX. 146; XXI. 419, 433—debt of, 428—wines of, 838.

RHOES, XIX. 147—Colossus of, VI. 422; VII. 151, 350; probably served as a lighthouse, XIII. 463—sculptors natives of, XIX. 858—coins of, XVI. 377.

— (Alexander de), his account of tea, XXI. 88.

Rhodens, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 347.

Rhodium, VI. 499—specific gravity of, XII. 83—oil of, used in destroying vermin, XXI. 548.

Rhodius (Joannes), his Life of Celsus, XX. 812, n. 1.

Rhodizate, mineral, XV. 94.

Rhodochrome, mineral, XV. 80.

Rhododendron, XI. 748—in Ceylon, VI. 394.

RHODOMANN (Laurentius), XIX. 149.

Rhodonite, mineral, XV. 82.

Rhodope, genus of mollusks, XV. 369.

— mountain, XXI. 376.

Rhodospirææ, sub-order of algae, V. 218.

Rhocus, ancient sculptor, XIX. 863.

Rhomb Spar, XV. 92.

Rhombic system, in crystallography, XV. 47—twin crystals in, 52.

RHO—RIC

- RHOMB, XIX. 147; X. 508—crystallisation, VII. 561, n. 4
 Rhombus, XIX. 147, X. 508.
 — genus of fishes, XII. 272—fossil, 345; XVII. 128
 RHONE, French department, XIX. 149
 — river, XIX. 149; XVII. 647, XX. 888—blue colour of, XVII. 574—floods, 600—slope and velocity, 601—Perte du, XX. 887—course of, through Valais, XXI. 504
 RHOEN, XIX. 150; V. 204—culture of, XI. 744—quantity imported, VIII. 735.
 RHUDDLAN, Welsh town, XIX. 150
 — Marsh, trigonometrical base on, XXI. 331, 334.
 RHUM and Rhumblin, XIX. 150, X. 485.
 RHYDDLAW, XIX. 150.
 RHYME, XIX. 150
 Rhyme (Thomas the). See Thomas of Breckeloune
 Rhynchaea, genus of birds, XVI. 803.
 Rhynchennus, genus of insects, IX. 140
 Rhynchaspis, genus of birds, XVI. 817.
 Rhynchichthys, genus of fishes, XII. 279.
 Rhynchites, genus of insects, IX. 138
 Rhynchobates, genus of fishes, XII. 327
 Rhynchobdella, genus of fishes, XII. 292.
 Rhyncholites, fossil mollusks, XVII. 111, 113
 Rhynchonella, genus of mollusks, XV. 338
 Rhynchonellidae, family of mollusks, XV. 338.
 Rhynchophora, family of insects, IX. 137.
 Rhynchops, genus of birds, XVI. 817
 Rhynchosaurus, fossil reptiles, XVII. 141
 Rhynchostoma, tribe of insects, IX. 133
 Rhyphus, genus of insects, IX. 230
 Rhypticus, genus of fishes, XII. 276.
 RHYTHM, XIX. 150, 254—musical, XV. 717
 RHYTHMOMETER, XIX. 150.
 Rhyzophagus, genus of insects, IX. 142
 RIAZAN, in Russia, XIX. 151, 521
 Ribadeneira (Pietro), his history of Loyola, XII. 750.
 RIBALZA (Francisco), painter, XIX. 151.
 — (Juan), painter, XIX. 151.
 Ribble, English river, XIII. 177, XVIII. 510; XXI. 957—improvement of its navigation, XVI. 77.
 Ribbon apodals, sub-order of fishes, XII. 220
 Ribbon-fish, XII. 303.
 Ribbon-jasper, XV. 69.
 Ribbon-saws, XIX. 678.
 RIBBAUVILLE, town in France, XIX. 151.
 Ribeira, in the Azores, IV. 336.
 RIBERA (José de), painter, XIX. 152.
 Ribgrass order of plants, V. 203—spike of ribgrass, 115.
 Ribs of man, III. 9, 10,—of the mammalia, 76—birds, 85—reptiles, 87—fishes, 80.
 RICARDO (David), XIX. 152; V. 636—on the high price of gold before the recoinage, VII. 79—on the wages of labour, 143, 144—on the corn-laws, 368 *et seq.*—on the cottage system, 435—on bullion, IX. 437—his article on the Funding System in this work, X. 323, n.—on the currency, XV. 429—on political economy, XVIII. 249—his theory of profits, 252—Malthus' examination of his doctrines, XIV. 117—on taxation, XXI. 46 *et seq.*—on tithes, 63
 RICAUT (Sir Paul), XIX. 156.
 Riccate on flaxions, IX. 738.
 RICCI (Sebastiano), painter, XIX. 156; XVII. 72.
 Riccaceae, sub-order of hipaticae, V. 217.
 RICCIARELLI (Daniele), painter, XIX. 156.
 RICCROLI (G. Battista), XIX. 156—his astronomical labours and opinions, I. 611; III. 801—his catalogue of stars, IV. 80.
 Riccoboni on love-intrigue in the French drama, VIII. 154.
 RICE, XIX. 156; XVII. 630—as food, IX. 769—analysis of, ib.—quantity imported, VIII. 738—in Ceylon, VI. 299; China, 588; Bengal, IV. 648; Italy, XII. 639; India, XI. 463; Lombardy, XIII. 655; Madagascar, 792; Nepal, XVI. 142; United States, XXI. 425.

RIC—RID

- RICHE (Claudius James), XIX. 157—his account of the ruins of Babylon, IV. 342 *et seq.*, XVI. 273—his collection of oriental MSS., XIII. 392
 — father and son, managers of Drury Lane Theatre, XXI. 173.
 — and Poor, their duties to each other, XV. 569.
 RICHARD I., king of England, XIX. 157—reign of, VIII. 674—character of, ib.—death, 675—his expedition to the Holy Land, 481, 482; VII. 525, 529—his patronage of minstrels, XV. 252—treatment of the Jews, XII. 779; VIII. 675—his fleet, XX. 120—his encouragement to the University of Oxford, XXI. 453—tournaments in the time of, 318
 — II, XIX. 157—reign of, VIII. 684
 — his visits to Dublin, 217—his household magnificence, XI. 773—his Irish policy, XII. 472—his fleet, XX. 121
 — III, XIX. 157—reign of, VIII. 693
 — his encouragement of players, XXI. 165
 — DE BURY, XIX. 157
 — OF CIRENCESTER, XIX. 158
 — on the roots of plants, V. 76, 77
 RICHARDSON (Jonathan), portrait-painter, XIX. 158
 — (J. D.), his work on the honey-bee, IX. 24
 — (James), his expedition to Central Africa, II. 211, X. 478
 — (Mr.), of Hull, notice of his works on brewing, V. 319
 — on Milton, XV. 34.
 — on political economy, XVIII. 219.
 — (SAMUEL), novelist, XIX. 158—his dislike of Fielding, IX. 540 and n.—merits of his novels, XIX. 271.
 — (Sir John), on the aurora borealis, IV. 247, 249—on the Wolverine, XIV. 156—on the skunk weasel, 158—on the American field-mouse, 182—on the jay-falcon, XVI. 745—on the Loucheux Indians, XIII. 220—his northern explorations, XVIII. 172.
 RICHTELIN (A. J. Duplessis), cardinal, XIX. 159—his treatment of Cornille, VIII. 149—compared with Mazarin, XIV. 874—minister to Louis XIII., 34—plot for assassinating, XIX. 94.
 Richer on the figure of the earth, IX. 548.
 Riches See Wealth.
 Richieu (Duke of), X. 174—his cabinet, 175—retirement of, 179—second ministry of, 181—resignation in 1821, 183.
 Richman (Prof.), his death while making electrical observations, VIII. 528—on the Leyden jar, 612
 RICHMOND, town in Yorkshire, XIX. 165
 — castle, XXI. 957.
 — in Surrey, XIX. 166; XX. 836, 837
 — in Virginia, XIX. 166, XXI. 597, 598, 599.
 RICHTER (J. Paul Friedrich), XIX. 166—his novels, 291.
 — on chemical combination, I. 937.
 Richner, XIX. 263.
 Richnus, genus of insects, IX. 262.
 Rickards on the Hindus, XI. 471 *et seq.*—on British exports to India, 461—on the Maliks of India, 512.
 RICKMAN (Thomas), architect, XIX. 168—on pointed architecture, III. 480 *et seq.*—(John), his notice of Telford, XXI. 145—Life of Telford edited by, 146.
 RICKMANSWORTH, in Hertford, XIX. 169.
 Ricchet battery, IV. 511.
 Riddarholms Church, in Stockholm, figures and relics in, XX. 705.
 Riddell (Prof.), his binocular microscope, XIV. 784.
 — on the delta of the Mississippi, XV. 279.
 Riddle, or enigma, II. 162.
 Rideau Canal, VI. 134.
 Ridges, in ploughing, best method of forming, II. 286.
 Ridgway (Messrs), of Horwich, their improvements in bleaching, IV. 759.
 Ridicule, largely employed in the Greek comedy, VIII. 139—a sense of the rid-

RID—RIO

- culous as an incentive to virtue, XV. 564
 Riding, XI. 672—as an exercise, 170 See Horsemanship
 Ridinger, engraver, VIII. 809.
 Ridley (Henry), on the anatomy of the brain, II. 764
 — (Nicholas), bishop, XIX. 169; XIII. 247.
 RIDOLFI (Carlo), XIX. 169
 RIENZI (Nicolo Gabrini de), tribune, XIX. 169, 366, 367; XII. 649, XVII. 497.
 RIESINGBURGE, XIX. 171
 Riest, village in Sicily, XIX. 171
 Riess (P.), and Moser, on magnetism, XIV. 13—on solar magnetism, 596
 RIETI, town in the Papal States, XIX. 171
 — delegation of, XVII. 243
 Rieves and Cox (Messrs), their telescopes, XXI. 119
 Riffault (M.), on voltaic currents, XXI. 628
 RIFLE, XIX. 171—principle of, XI. 127—American, 101—Minté, ib.—Enfield, ib.—rifle-shooting, XX. 211.
 Rifle-bird, XVI. 772.
 Riflemen, III. 686
 RIGA, XIX. 171, 531—In the church at, 529—taken by Gustavus Adolphus, XX. 818.
 — or red pine timber, XXI. 275
 RIGAUD (Hyacinthe), painter, XIX. 173
 — (Prof.), on Ptolemy's Optics, XVI. 521—on the use of telescopes in England, 528
 RIGDON (Sidney), Mormon, XV. 569
 Rigel, star, IV. 79.
 RIGGING of a ship, XIX. 172—tension of, XX. 180—chain and wire-rope rigging, 23.
 Right Ascension, IV. 3
 — PETITION OF, XIX. 172; V. 302, XX. 97.
 — TITLE, XIX. 172.
 Right and wrong See Ethical Philosophy, Moral Philosophy, Conscience.
 — in law, XIII. 255
 RIGHTS, XIX. 173; XIII. 274—of nations, in time of peace, 282, in time of war, 285—offences of the press with regard to private, 380—means of preventing the violation of, by the press, 282—the Economists on, VIII. 376—municipal rights, 781.
 — of Man, French declaration of, V. 54, 62—Society of, 208—Paine on, V. 543; XVII. 45.
 — BILL OF, XIX. 173.
 Rigidity of timber, X. 172.
 RIGVEDA. See Vedas.
 Rhine, hoar-frost, VII. 765—frost-rime, XI. 42
 Rhinella, fossil mollusks, XVII. 109.
 RIMINI, XIX. 173; XVII. 241.
 Rimula, fossil mollusks, XVII. 111.
 RINCON (Antonio), painter, XIX. 173; XVII. 75.
 Ring-ouzel, XVI. 751.
 Ringbone, XXI. 558.
 Ringlove, XVI. 793.
 Ringent corolla or Calyx, V. 124.
 Ringenda, fossil mollusks, XVII. 111.
 Rings, in optics, produced by crystals, XVI. 651, 652
 Ringwood, in Hampshire, XIX. 173.
 Ringworm, XIX. 173; XVII. 697.
 Rhinocini (Archbishop), XII. 483.
 Riobamba, town in Ecuador, VIII. 388.
 RIO DE JANEIRO, XIX. 174; V. 281, 295
 — climate of, II. 678; V. 293—population, 295—vegetable productions, 293—European emigrants in, 295—sciences taught in, 297—commerce, 299—attack of the French on, 282—settlement of, 280, 281—library at, XIII. 431.
 — GRANDER, river, XIX. 175.
 — del Norte, Mexican river, XIV. 715, 729; XVII. 604.
 — DO NORTE, province of Brazil, XIX. 176; V. 295.
 — DO SUR, province of Brazil, XIX. 176; V. 295.
 — Negro, XVI. 130. See Negro (Rio).

RIO—ROA

- RIOJA, in La Plata, XIX. 176, XVII. 779.
 Riolan, physician, XIV. 460
 RIOM, town in France, XIX. 176
 RIONERO, town of Naples, XIX. 176.
 Riots, discussion, in 1780, on the mode of quelling, V. 493
 Riouw, in East Indies, XIX. 145
 Ripadolite, mineral, XV. 78
 Rhiphorus, genus of insects, IX. 133
 RIRLET, town in Yorkshire, XIX. 177
 RIPON, town in Yorkshire, XIX. 177; XXI. 959.
 RIPPERDA (J. William), baron of, XIX. 177.
 Ripple-marks on rocks, XV. 159.
 Rippling of flax, XIII. 494.
 Rishu, ancient lectures on medicine, XIV. 450, 457
 Risings, castle, VIII. 682
 Risso (M.), on birds, XVI. 731.
 Rustgouche, river, XVI. 163.
 Rita, genus of fishes, XIX. 262.
 Ritchie (Dr W.), on electricity, VIII. 540
 — his photometer, XIII. 455; XVII. 555—his torsion galvanometer, XXI. 642
 Ritschl on Plantus, XVIII. 2, 3
 RIZZO (Joseph), XIX. 177—on the minstrels, 257—his attack on Watson's History of English Poetry, XXI. 735.
 RITZENHOUSE (David), astronomer, XIX. 178
 Ritter (J. D.), his edition of the Theodosian Code, VI. 711
 — (J. W.), on the prismatic spectrum, I. 921, XIII. 452—on the influence of magnetism on chemical action, XIV. 41—on the sun's rays, XVI. 536—on the effects of galvanism upon the eye, XXI. 631.
 — on Hindu philosophy, XVII. 230, 231, notes.
 Rittingerite, mineral, XV. 112
 Ritual, Egyptian funeral, VIII. 411.
 RIVA, town in the Tyrol, XIX. 178
 Rivaroli on the causes of the French Revolution, X. 48
 Rive (de la). See Delarive.
 RIVE-DE-GIER, town in France, XIX. 178
 RIVER, XIX. 179; X. 483; XVII. 600—courses and slopes of, 601; XVI. 78—theory of rivers, I. 886—motion of, XII. 70, 71—flow of water in, 141—physical characteristics of, XVI. 57, 87—compartmentments of, 57—tidal compartmentments, 63—velocity of their currents, 78—nutrients suspended in, 86—discharge of, 87—velocity and inclination of, XII. 145; XVII. 601—embankments of, VIII. 636—straightening the course of, ib.—rights of different nations respecting, XIII. 285—action of, on rocks, XV. 140—deposits at the mouths of, ib. 141, 217; XVI. 86; XVII. 586—lengths of, &c., 646—with subterranean courses, 601—great number and magnitude of navigable rivers in America, II. 676—none of the first-class flow westward, 676—African rivers, 213, 214; XVII. 607—Asiatic, III. 733; XVII. 606—dredging of, XVI. 68—European rivers, IX. 394, XVII. 605. See Delta, Navigation (Inland), and the geographical articles.
 River-mills, XIV. 654.
 River-walls, XIV. 71.
 River-weed order of plants, V. 207.
 Rivers (Mr), on the culture of pears, XI. 714—his orchard houses, 724.
 Rivetting of iron plates, XX. 176, 195—rivetting machine, 177.
 Riviera, XIX. 633, 634.
 RIVOLI, Italian city, XIX. 223—battle of, X. 101; XV. 790.
 Rixdollar, XV. 443, 444, 445.
 RIZZ (Francisco), Spanish painter, XIX. 223.
 RIZZI (Sebastiano). See Ricci.
 Rizzio, or Rizzio, murder of, XIX. 784.
 RIZZAN, in Russia, XIX. 161.
 RIZZY, Russian town, XIX. 223.
 Roach, A. L. 256—angling for, III. 101
 ROAD, in navigation, XIX. 233; X. 483.
 ROAD-MAKING, XIX. 233—roads in China, II. 688—Port, 688, 688—England, VIII.

ROA—ROB

- 722—France, X. 244—Palestine, XVII. 191 and *n.*—Russia, XIX. 436—Scotland, 807—Ireland, XII. 528—Isle of Man, XIV. 245—bridges now used for raising the level of, III. 339—of the sixteenth century, VII. 188—embankments to serve as, VIII. 646—road over the Sumpion, II. 624, *n.*, XIX. 228, XX. 298—Roman military, XIX. 308—of the Two Sicilies, XX. 250—of Spain, 491—Sweden, 864—United States, XXI. 427—in landscape gardening, XVII. 773—repair of roads by contributions of labour, XXI. 43—steam-carriages on, I. 884—carnage roadway, III. 493. See Highways
- ROANNE, town in France, XIX. 229.
- Roard (M.), on the varnish of silk, IV. 769, 770.
- Roaring, a disease of the domestic animals, XXI. 571.
- Roasting, IX. 765—loss sustained by animal food by, 766.
- Robbery, honourable in Arabia, III. 349—a profession in India, XI. 520; XXI. 818—of mail-coaches, XVIII. 407.
- Robbia (Luca della), his porcelain, XVIII. 432, 433—his sculpture, XIX. 860
- Robell (M.), his process of galvanography, XXI. 636.
- Robert de Belesme, VIII. 669.
- the Devil, VIII. 664.
- (Eugene), his work on the silkworm, IX. 23
- of Gloucester, XIX. 229—his rhyming description of Ireland, VIII. 794
- king of France, XIX. 229, X. 12
- I, king of Scotland. See Bruce
- II and III, kings of Scotland, XIX. 229, 757
- (Leopold), XIX. 229
- Robert's analysis of pale Indian and Scotch ales, V. 334.
- Roberts (Captain Julius), his mortar, XI. 142.
- (Lewis), on the trade of Manchester in 1641, VII. 440
- Robertson (Mr.), on the mortality of children, XV. 614.
- (Mr.), on the excavations of the Phœnix dactylas, XV. 354.
- (Dr William), XIX. 229—on the balance of power, IV. 390—on the beneficial effects of the Crusades, VII. 527—on Indian chronology, XII. 789—sum paid for his History of Charles V., 802—Gilbert Stuart's enmity to, XXI. 738.
- Robertson's patent robes, XIX. 410.
- Roberval, IX. 671—originality and mathematical genius of, I. 555—claimed the discovery of the area of the cycloid, *ib.*—improved the method of quadratures, *ib.*—his disputes with Descartes, VI. 279.
- ROBBEVALLIAN LINES, XIX. 233.
- Robes, mistress of the, XI. 778.
- ROBESPIERRE (F-M-J-Isidore de), XIX. 233; X. 69 *et seq.*—his power, 89—downfall and execution, 91, 92—denounced by Tallien, XXI. 14. See Danton.
- Robin Hood, XV. 599.
- Robineau-Desvoidy, his works on insects, IX. 14.
- Robinet, on the formation of dendrites, VII. 550.
- Robinia viscosa and pseud-acacia, XVII. 762, 759.
- Robins (Benjamin), XIX. 235—sketch of his life, writings, and contributions to mathematics, I. 717, *n.* 1—his essay on Prime and Ultimate Ratio, 718, *n.* 1—his method of determining the impulse of balls, 726—on Leibnitz's law of continuity, 133, *n.* 1—his defence of the Newtonian calculus, IX. 676—on gunnery, XI. 103, 107 *et seq.*—his experiments on the resistance of the air, XVIII. 114; XX. 4, 11—on Euler's overweening confidence in analysis, 771.

ROB—ROC

- ROBINS or Robyns (John), astronomer, XIX. 235
- filter, IX. 582.
- Robinson (Dr), on the site of Capernaum, VI. 206—on Idumæa, XII. 153, 159—on the topography of Jerusalem, 735 *et seq.*—his estimate of the population of Jerusalem, 747—on the passage of the Israelites through the Red Sea, XVIII. 819.
- (Dr), of Armagh, his experiments in voltaic electricity, XXI. 627.
- (John), Independent, XII. 368
- (Prof.), on gunnery, XI. 119, 129, 131 *et seq.*
- (Robert), Baptist minister, XIX. 236.
- ROBINSON (Prof John), XIX. 237, I. 871—as a practical philosopher, 870—as an expositor of science, 871—his friendship with Watt, *ib.*—his adventures, *ib.*—his appointment to the University of Edinburgh, *ib.*—his articles in this work, *ib.*—his mechanical philosophy, 872—on electricity and magnetism, *ib.*—his knowledge of mathematics, *ib.*—as a lecturer, 873—his philosophical character, *ib.*—his steam-carriage, 881—anticipation of Volta's pile by, 868—on the arch, III. 415—on the construction of bridges, V. 358, 360, 361—his article in this work on Carpentry, VI. 249—on the electric shock, VIII. 602—on magnetism, XIV. 5, 14, 22, 24, 25—on theories of harmony, XV. 702—on musical intervals, 705—on the strength of ropes, XIX. 402—his article River, in this work, 179, *n.*—his theory of roof, 374—his article Seamanship, in this work, XX. 18—on steam, 554, 557.
- Robley (Mr), his culture of the bread-fruit, V. 301.
- Robson (George Fennel), painter, XIX. 240.
- Rocambola, plant, XI. 741.
- Roccamonina, XX. 236.
- Rocella, lichen. See Aichil.
- ROCKDALE, in Lancashire, XIX. 240—failure of the saving's bank at, 664.
- Roche (de la). See Delarocche
- Abbey building stone, XX. 712.
- ROCHEFORT-SUR-MER, town in France, XIX. 241—pillage at the dockyard of, X. 227—British expedition against, V. 463
- ROCHEFOUCAULD (François), Duke de la, XIX. 241—influence of his writings, I. 54, 55, 56—Johnson's and Voltaire's opinions of, 54, 55—manner in which he polished his writings, 54—tendency of his maxims unfavourable to morality, *ib.*—excellent private character of, 55—narrow sphere in which he studied mankind, *ib.*—reasons why his name should be united with Montaigne's, *ib.*
- ROCHELLE (La), town in France, XIX. 241—sail, VI. 515—surrender of, in 1628, XIX. 164.
- ROCHESTER, in Kent, XIX. 241—population XIII. 67—foundation of the piers of the new bridge at, XX. 723.
- town in New York, XIX. 242.
- (Earl of). See Wilmot.
- Rochon (Abbe), his micrometers, XIV. 750, 751, 752.
- Rock-alum, II. 637.
- Rock-cork, XV. 81—leather, *ib.*—wood, *ib.*
- Rock-crystal, XV. 69—circular polarisation in, XVI. 676—mines of XV. 246—refraction of XVI. 659—dichroism in, 666—abundant in Lapland, XIII. 234—as a plate for the knife-edge of pendulums, XVII. 338
- Rock-elm, XXI. 276
- Rock-goat, XIV. 211.
- Rock-oil, XVI. 493.
- Rock-rose order of plants, V. 188.
- Rock-salt, XV. 98, 145, 148; XVII. 622—its wonderful transparency for heat, I. 955. See Salt and Salt Mines.
- Rock-sheep, XIV. 213.
- Rock-soap, XV. 83.
- Rock-work, in gardening, XI. 747.
- ROCKET, XIX. 242; XI. 142, XVIII. 707;

ROC—ROG

- III. 698—their use in cases of shipwreck, XIII. 441, 445.
- Rocking-stones, VIII. 187, XV. 166—in Devonshire, VII. 764. See Logan-stones.
- Rockingham (Marquis of), his administration, V. 501, IX. 861—his patronage of Burke, V. 775
- forest of, XVI. 297.
- Rocks, composition of, II. 390, 391—blasting of, IV. 755—boring of, V. 44—stratified arrangement of, 233; derived from the crystalline, XVII. 619—origin and classification of, XV. 129, 155—igneous, 131—volcanic, *ib.* 190—trappane, 134—granitic, 136—aqueous, 139—chemical and organic, 141—aeolian, 150—metamorphic, 130, 150, 153—mechanically-formed, 139—in landscape gardening, XVII. 773—ancient volcanic, XXI. 606
- ROCKY MOUNTAINS, in North America, XIX. 242, II. 674; XVII. 594, 645; XXI. 420—goat and sheep of the, XIV. 211, 213.
- Rocou, VIII. 296.
- Rocouancourt, aqueduct of, III. 336.
- Rocnor, in France, XIX. 243.
- Rod, fishing, III. 150, 152
- a measure, V. 736
- discharging, in electricity, VIII. 611.
- Rodentia, XIV. 177, 135; II. 774, XVII. 632—their bones, III. 76 *et seq.*—muscles, 91—organs of smell, 94—nervous system, 103—intestines, 110, 111—odontology of, XVI. 453, III. 106—of America, II. 713.
- Roderick, king of the Goths in Spain, XX. 460.
- Ropez, in France, XIX. 243.
- Rodger (Lient), his life-raft, XIII. 439
- Rodgers (Mr), on preserving lumber from dry rot, XVI. 99.
- anchor, III. 118, 119; XX. 24, 25
- Rodier (Mr), on the composition of the blood, XVII. 664.
- Rödiger (Emilius), philologist, XVII. 533
- Rodil (General), XX. 478.
- RODNEY (George B.), Lord Rodney, XIX. 243, XX. 132—his defeat of the Spaniards, V. 403—De Grasse defeated by, 500.
- Rodoso, Turkish town, XIX. 244
- Rodriguez, or Rodrigo, island, XIX. 244; XIV. 364.
- Rodriguez (Manuel), on the Amazon, XVI. 81.
- Jesuit, XII. 752
- ROE, XIX. 244—of the salmon, as a bait, III. 166
- See Ova
- deer, XIV. 208—hunting of, XII. 40—fossil, XVII. 171—a pairing animal, III. 181.
- river, XIII. 680
- Shetland islands, XX. 118.
- Roe-stone, XV. 146. See Oolite.
- Roebing (Mr), his suspension bridge over the Niagara, XII. 690
- ROBZUCK (John), XIX. 244—site of the Carron iron-works selected by, XX. 702.
- ROEMER (Olaus), XIX. 245—on the successive propagation of light, I. 614, II. 35, IV. 74; XVI. 584—his astronomical labours, III. 802—on thermometers, IV. 457—his transit instrument, 152—his thermometers, XXI. 221—on the micrometer, XIV. 745, 747.
- (J. Charles), his works on insects, IX. 8.
- ROERMONDE, in Limburg, XIX. 245.
- Roessel, his work on insects, IX. 4.
- Roesterstamm, his works on insects, IX. 14.
- ROGATION-WEEK, XIX. 245.
- Rogonia, genus of fishes, XII. 287.
- Roger, king of Sicily, XX. 257, 263—silk introduced into Sicily by, VIII. 276; XX. 292.
- ROGER-DE-HOVEDEN, XIX. 245; XI. 779.
- ROGER-DE-WINDOVER, XIX. 245.
- ROGERS (Samuel), English poet, XIX. 245.
- (M.), his dialytic telescopes, XXI. 132, 123.

ROG—ROM

- Rogers' boiler for hot-houses, XI. 722
- (Prof H. D.), on faults in rocks, XV. 176—on the silurian rocks of North America, 197—on the carboniferous rocks of United States, 204—fossil reptiles discovered by, XVII. 133.
- (Woodes), XVIII. 269.
- Roget (Dr), his Bridgewater Treatise, V. 304—on magnetic cuives, XIV. 46, 47—his galvanoscope, XXI. 642—on mouduse, 996
- Roggewen (Jacob), his voyages to the Polynesian islands, XVIII. 277, 279.
- Rogle, Falls of, XIX. 426
- Rognat (M.), on the Roman knights, III. 633
- Rogue-money, VII. 467.
- ROMAN (Henri, Duc du), XIX. 248
- arms of the family so named, XI. 330, *n.*
- ROHAULT (Jacques), Cartesian philosopher, XIX. 249—Dr Clarke's translation of his Physics, VII. 757.
- ROHLUND, XIX. 249; XVI. 301; XVII. 21.
- Rohillas, XI. 480—Warren Hastings' treatment of, V. 520; XI. 490, XIX. 249.
- Rohita, genus of fishes, XII. 267.
- Rohri. See Roree.
- ROLAND (M. J. P.), XIX. 249—her character of Condorcet, VII. 238
- (Mr), on fencing, IX. 503, 504.
- ROLLE (Michel), mathematician, XIX. 250—his objections to the differential calculus, I. 649; IX. 673.
- Rollers, agricultural, II. 273—used in coining, VII. 89, 90—printer's, XVIII. 547, 548.
- birds, XVI. 765
- Roller (M. Brun), on the White Nile, XVI. 271.
- ROLLI (Paolo Antonio), Italian poet, XIX. 250.
- ROLLIN (Charles), XIX. 250.
- (Lodov.), X. 218, 223, 230, 338.
- Rolling of a ship, XX. 153 and *n.* 1—cause of, 161—influence of form on, 162.
- Rolling-mills, in iron manufacture, XII. 661—in silver coming, VII. 89, 90.
- ROLLO, XIX. 251, VIII. 664.
- (Dr), his manner of treating diabetes, VIII. 24
- ROLLUCK (Robert), of Edinburgh, XIX. 251; XXI. 482
- Rollox (St), chemical works of, X. 650
- Rolls, Master of the, XVIII. 816.
- ROMA (Comarca di), in the Papal States, XIX. 252.
- ROMANOSI (G. Domenico), XIX. 252.
- Romanc language, XI. 22; XIII. 210.
- Romain, aeronaut, death of, II. 179.
- ROMANE (William), English divine, XIX. 252.
- Roman Catholic Church, the world indebted to, for much of its present enjoyments, I. 14—the opposing of revelation to reason its most objectionable tenet, 21—its corruptions of Christianity in the sacrifice of the mass, 512; in the worship of images and saints, *ib.* 514—abuse of keeping the Scriptures and conducting public worship in a dead language, 527, 528 and *n.* 2—disproof of the unchangeable character of, 528, *n.* 1—its infallibility, 531, 532—orders in, VIII. 115, *n.* 5—colubacy of its clergy, VI. 362; policy of that measure, I. 627, *n.* 2—separation of the Greek Church from, XI. 34—points in which the Greek Church differs from, 35—European nations belonging to, IX. 394—funeral rite in, X. 344—ordination, XVI. 703—differences of the Greco-Russian Church from, XIX. 627—in Russia, 529—its missions, XV. 275—mass, XIV. 339—sacraments, XIX. 567—doctrine as to the Lord's supper, I. 512; and purgatory, XVIII. 695—indulgences, XII. 377; sale of, XIII. 724—churches in England and Wales, VIII. 745; in Scotland, XIX. 801—hierarchy in Ireland, XII. 632. See Popery, Pope, Reformation, Luther.

ROM—ROM

ROMAN CATHOLICISM, XIX. 252

Catholics, in Canada, VI 158—
Ireland, XII 475 *et seq.*—Austria, IV.
317—Bavaria, 519—Belgium, 616—Scot-
land, V 549, XIX. 801—their demon-
ology, III. 211—Paganism mingled with
their doctrines, *ib.*, n. 2, 314—notes
against, in 1780, V 491—Mr Pitt on
their emancipation, 578—measures in
Parliament for their relief, 490, 538,
549, 624, 625, 631, 638, 640, 652, XII
500, Sir Robert Peel's part in, XVII
369—Emancipation Act passed, V 656—
Irish Catholic Association, 641, 642,
647, 653; XII 501—suppressed, V 655
—Catholic Board and Committee, XVI
403; XII 501—none executed in Ed-
ward the Sixth's reign, VIII 710—penal
laws against Irish, XII 492, 493, *pa-*
tially repealed, 497—in England, VIII.
744, 745—number of, in the different
European states, IX. 395—Germany,
X 588—Holland, XI 588—places of
worship and schools, in London, XIII
666—collision between the Catholics
and Protestants in Scotland, in 1558,
XIX 780—their intrigues in favour of
Queen Mary, 788

—coment, V. 742—plastering with,
744—decay of, on walls, *ib.*—its power
of resisting compression, XX. 715

—HISTORY, XIX. 294; XI. 542, 543
—invasion of Arabia, III 362—capture
of Athens, IV. 172—conquests in Brit-
tain, V 376 *et seq.*—wars with the Car-
thaginians, VI 288 *et seq.*—Constantino-
politan history, VII 302—occupation of
Cornith, 368—wars with the Cimbrs,
VI 723—conquest of Ciete, VII 496—
emigrations of northern nations by
which the empire was overthrown,
VIII 650; X 555, 576, 577—emphic,
VIII 653—conquests in Germany, X
574 *et seq.*—conquest of Illyria, XII
364, Judea, 770, XVII. 194; Mace-
donia, XIII 776; Pergamum, XVII.
410; Palmyra, 221—Spain, XX. 457—
wars with the Parthians, XVII 310
et seq., 435; Persians, 435; Mithridates,
XV. 284; XVIII 292; with the Goths,
X. 727—Niebuhr's Roman History,
XVI. 257, 259, 261; XI 546—Gibbon's
Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire,
X. 611 *et seq.*; XI 540, 548—Ferguson's
History of the Roman Republic, IX.
511—Sir G. C. Lewis on the Credibility
of early Roman History XVI 261—
Hietvetia subjected, XX. 883—Syria
under the Roman rule, 904, 910, 911—
wars with the Syracusans, 900—war
with the Tacentines, XXI. 22 See the
Chronological Table, VI. 678 *et seq.*

Roman-candle, XVIII. 708

ROMANA (Don P. Caro y Sureda), general,
XIX 252.

ROMANCE, XIX. 253—of the age of chiv-
alry, VI 622 *et seq.*—Persia the birth-
place of, *ib.* 703—three cycles of,
XVIII. 108—old French, 115—Egypt-
ian, VIII. 442—romantic sagas of Ire-
land, XIX. 690—writers of Sweden, 701
—languages, XIII. 528, 532.

Romand (Bal. E. de), his work on insects,
IX. 21.

Romano (Giulio), Italian painter, XVII.
69. See Giulio, Romano

—town in Italy, XIX. 354.

Romans, their notions respecting a future
state, I. 469—their acclamations, II. 77
—abusus, 6—posture during meals, 80
—action at law, 118—adoption, 140—
adoration, 150—mode of punishing
adultery, 156—advocates, 157—ediles,
159—*res*, 186—agrarian laws, 245—agri-
culture, 250; XVIII. 212—altars, II. 631
—ambassadors, 652; XIII. 816—ana-
tomical knowledge, II. 761, 762—demon-
ology, III. 310—apprenticeships un-
known to, 826—first employed the arch
extensively, 443, 469—carpentry and
joinery, 445—domestic architecture, 467
—theatres, 470—palaces and villas, *ib.*
—numerals, 572; VI. 418—army, III.

ROM—ROM

629—armour, 632—artificers, 632—au-
gurs, IV. 240—banqueting rooms, 421—
their mode of voting, 399—basilica, 485
—baths, 499, 505, III. 470—beards, IV.
527—dining-couches, 564—bricks, V.
342, XVIII. 431—burials, V 773—burn-
ing of the dead, 795—burying-places,
VI 22—calendar, 76 *et seq.*, 665, 666—
camps, 122—candidates, 170—caps, 205
—camps in Britain, 327, XIII. 90,
VIII 251; other remains there, 268—
encouragements to marriage, VI 363—
chariots, 422—cock-fighting, VII 50—
law (see Civil Law)—coins, 67; XV. 432,
436; XVI. 351, 353, 356, 381—colonies,
VII 135—collegium, 118—comitia, 182—
tribes, 183—commerce, 186—mines, 188
—concubinage, 229—crows, 522, 523—
dancing, 645—decumviri, 690—their
opinions on dew, 765—dials, 775—dicta-
tors, VIII 8—divorce, 67—drama, 141
—dumviri, 270—dyings, 273—their ac-
quaintance with silk, 276—standard of
the eagle, 366—Egypt under, 472, 474
—feasts, IX. 494—knowledge of ethno-
logy derived from, 342—sword used by,
502—feudal system, 520—exposure of
children, 457—their possession of Gaul,
X 1—gambling, 394—funeral rites and
orations, 341—geographical discoveries,
463—mathematical knowledge, 503—
festivals and sacrifices to the dead, 509,
513—gladiators, 640; VIII. Plate—
beast-fights, X 390—glass-manufacture,
657—gymnasia, XI 168—gynaecae,
170—treatment of the hair, 182—trade
with India, 460—horsemanship, 673—
hunting, XII 32—hydrostatical knowl-
edge, 70—their treatment of the sum-
mullet, 279, and the mukena, 280—
informers, 380—insurance, 393—rate of
interest, 428—irrigation, 621—religious
toleration, 772—libel, 356—libraries,
XIII 385—acquaintance with the effects
of light, 449—lotteries, 690—language
(see Latin Language)—medical jurispru-
dence, XIV 422—origin and develop-
ment of medicine among, 453—sources
of gold to, *ib.* 231—monarchy, 412—
census, 600—mourning, 608—municipal
system, 680—mythology, 765—educa-
tion, 808—nobles, XVI. 280—oath, 399
—their canals in England, 54—paint-
ing, XVII. 58, 67, 69—pantomime, 238
—parasites, 270—philology, 519—po-
etry, XVIII. 103—neglect of trade and
political economy, 212—posts, 402—pon-
tiff, 202—punishments, 555—provinces,
646—primogeniture, 510—stamps, 621—
law regarding rape, 806—roads, XIX.
228, 308; in Britain, IV 606; in Scot-
land, 741, 742—period of their rule in
Scotland, 741—sanitary measures, 692—
sculpture, 858 *et seq.*—shipping, XX.
117, 118—shoes, 208, VI. 68—senate,
XX. 43—slavery, 319—their imperfect
acquaintance with the power of steam,
573—shorthand writing, 675—incanta-
tions resorted to for the cure of diseases,
812—their masonry, 710—knowledge
of sugar, 791; of surgery, 812 *et*
seq.—suicides, 789; laws against, 801
—trophies, XXI. 354—measures, 804;
VII. 230—weights, XXI. 806—vines,
882 See Roman History, Rome, Latin
Language.

ROMANS (Theodore), Flemish painter,
XIX. 366.

Rome (Ancient), XIX. 356—destitute of
academies, II. 60—amphitheatres in,
729; III. 469—aqueducts, 383—streets,
471—cloacas, 443; VII. 2—architecture

ROM—ROO

of, III. 443, 469—built of brick, 444—
quantity of water brought to, 324—
capitol, VI 219—houses do not appear
to have had chimneys, 555—*clia* of
its foundation, 666—arcus, 733—cata-
combs, 330—citizens of, 735—colossi in,
VII 151—commerce, 186—emigration
from, VIII 650—libraries, XIII 384,
433—state of medicine and surgery in,
XIV. 453, XX. 812—drama in, VIII
141—architectural remains of, III 470
et seq., 486 *et seq.*—bakers in, IV 376—
raising the value of coins in, XV 436
—medical profession and literature in,
XIV 453—plebeians of, XVIII 8, 9—
customs duties in, XXI 63—legacy
duties, 65—plan of, XIX. Plate See
Roman History, Romans

ROMB (Modern), use of the modern city,
XIX. 366—site of, 356—Academy of
Lancel, II. 63—Academy of Painting,
68—academies of Belles Lettres, 70—
alum of, 639—aqueducts, III 337—
dome of St Peter's, 413, 452—architec-
ture of St Peter's, 455, 483, 484; XIV
738, of the Farnese Palace, III 452, 479,
485—Pantheon, 469, 470, 484—temple
of Jupiter Stator, 486—centre employed
for the nave of St Peter's, 376—jubilee,
XIII 14—libraries, 411, 412—coins, XV
442, 414—school of painting, XVII 67
—early painting, XVIII. 532—state of
sculpture, XIX. 860 *et seq.*—French oc-
cupation of, in 1849, XII. 659—why it
has become the centre of the Romish
Church, I. 527—railways connected
with, XVII 245—disturbances at, in
1797, X. 107—measures, XXI 805—
weights, 806.

Romé d'Isle (M.), on the lines charac-
teristic of minerals and plants, III. 160—
on crystallisation, VII. 551

Romelle, or Roméine, mineral, XV 107

ROMFORD, in Essex, XIX. 370.

ROMILLY (St Samuel), XIX. 370—charac-
ter of, I. 391, n. 2, VIII. 241—his
friendship with Dunmont, *ib.*—his ob-
jections to judge legislation, XIII. 269.

ROMNEY (George), painter, XIX. 371

—(New), XIX. 372—Romney marsh,
XIII. 65, 66; embankments of, VIII
613.

ROMORANTIN, town in France, XIX. 372.

ROMSEY, town in Hants, XIX. 372

ROMULUS, XIX. 372, 296—supposed laws
of, VI. 738

Ronalds (R.), his electrical machine, VIII.
636—his electrical telegraph, 513, 627—
on the electricity of the air, 578—his
pendulum doubler of electricity, 615—
his improvements on electrometers, 622
—his electrograph, 626—his electrical
pistol, *ib.*—his atmospheric conductor,
627—his photographic register, XIV.
660.

RONALDSHAY, island, XIX. 372—South,
XVI. 718—North, 718, 719.

Roncesvalles, battle of, XVIII. 701.

RONCIGLIONE, in the Papal States, XIX.
372.

RONDA, town in Spain, XIX. 372.

Rondani (C.), his works on insects, IX.
22

Rondelet (Guillaume), ichthyologist, XII.
204; XIV. 121

—on the contraction and expansion
of wood, XII. 816—his *L'Art de fleurir*,
805; *ib.* 717, 718.

Roney (Sir Cusack P.), letter of, on
Canada, VI. 145.

RÖRKE, town in Denmark, XIX. 372.

RONNEBURG, in Saxo-Altenburg, XIX. 372.

RONRAN (Pierre de), XIX. 372—character
of his poetry, XVIII. 116.

RONSBURY, town in Prussia, XIX. 373.

ROOD, land measure, XIX. 373.

ROOF, XIX. 373—tile-roofs, V. 735—
slater's work, 745—plumber's work,
755—mode of rendering fire-proof,
XIII. 438, 439—roofing of ships, XVI.
99. See Carpentry.

ROOK, bird, XVI. 764—its flesh, IX. 763—
rook-shooting, XX. 216.

ROO—ROS

ROOKE (Sir George), XIX. 400; V 445—
his capture of Gibraltar, 418
Rooms, proportion and arrangement of,
III 488—heating of, by stoves, XX
739 *et seq.*

Rooshuysen, Dutch aceonchem, XX. 818
Roos (Lord), case of, VIII. 69

Root (square and cube), extraction of the,
III. 606

Root-crops, II. 315

Roots of plants, V. 76—physiology of, 99—
cause of the formation of, XI 693—con-
nection between them and the branches,
XXI. 269—seek out the best soil for
themselves, *ib.*—asculent roots, XI. 739,
IX. 760

RORE, XIX. 401—Coulomb on the stiffness
of ropes, VII 462; XIV. 407—strength
of, XX. 756—mode of twisted osiers,
II. 688.

Rope-dancer, VII. 616, II. 115, X. 328.

Rope-ladder, XIII. 414

ROPE-MARKING, XIX. 403—at Woolwich,
VIII. 81, Chatham, *ib.*

Rophites, genus of insects, IX. 199.

Roque (La), his description of the coffee-
tree, VII. 53.

—(SAN), in Spain, XIX. 415

Roquefavour, aqueduct of, III. 336.

ROUAI, town in India, XIX. 415; XX.
305

Roiquail, species of whale, XIV. 235—in
Greenland, XI. 43.

Rorqualus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 231.

ROSA (Salvator), XIX. 415

Rosaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 190

ROSAMOND, XIX. 415, XIII. 638.

ROSARIO DE CUQUITA, XIX. 415; X. 797.

ROSBARY, XIX. 416, IV. 526; XI. 740.

—See Chuylet.

—collection of roses, XI. 749.

Rosas (General), V. 290, 728.

Rosecelmus, of Compiègne, numismatist,
XVI. 284, XVII. 621

ROSCHE (Q.), comic actor, XIX. 416; VIII.
142

ROSCOF (Henry, Robert, and Thomas),
XIX. 419.

—(WILLIAM), XIX. 416—his Life of
Lorenzo de Medici, XIV. 448; of Leo
X., *ib.*—his translation from Aldus, IV.
710—his translation of Landi's History
of Painting, XIII. 240—on the oppor-
tuneness of the invention of printing,
IV. 709—on Pope, XVIII. 320, n. 2.

ROSCOMMON, XIX. 419—extent of land
under crop, XII. 516—produce of crops,
517

—(W. DILLON), earl of, XIX. 422.

ROSCULA, town in Ireland, XIX. 423.

ROSE, XIX. 423; XI. 748, 749—rose order
of plants, V. 190—roses of Arabia, III.
245, of Provins, XVIII. 646; Egypt,
VIII. 481—wars of the Roses, 690, 694
—oil of; see Attar of Roses.

—(George), his Act on Friendly So-
cieties, X. 310.

—in heraldry, XI. 326.

—(Sir Hugh), XVI. 310, 313.

—(Stewart), his interview with Moz-
zofanti, XIV. 732.

Rose-colour, in dyeing, VIII. 292.

Rose-quartz, XV. 69.

Rose-window, III. 512.

Rose-wood, in Umdunns, XI. 612

Rosace, sub-order of plants, V. 191.

ROSEAU, in Domlun, XIX. 423.

Roselite, mineral, XV. 96.

Rosellin, mineral, XV. 79.

ROSELLINI (Hypollito), XIX. 423—on ancient
Egyptian monuments, XI. 409, 431.

Rosennary, plant, V. 202; XI. 745—all of,
XVI. 407.

Rosenthal on the codices of the Old
Testament, XIX. 892.

ROSEN (P. Augustus), orientalist, XIX. 423
—on philology, XVII. 532.

—(Dr George), on the Ossetian lan-
guage, XVII. 630.

Rosenreich, echo at, VIII. 378.

ROSENBAUM, in Hungary, XIX. 423.

—in Transylvania, XIX. 423.

Rosenberger on Italy's comet, I. 565.

ROS—ROT

- ROSES, attar of, XIX. 423 See Attar of Roses.
- ROSETTA, XIX. 423; VIII. 497—attacked by the British in 1807, 492
- stone, VIII. 469; XI. 377—language of, 378—Dr Young's analysis of its inscription, 378—Porsen's restoration of the text, XVIII. 369
- Rosetta (G. V.), on dyeing, VIII. 273
- ROSEHEIM, town in France, XIX. 424
- ROSGIUGLIANS, XIX. 424, IV. 448; XV. 757.
- Rosin. See Resin.
- ROSLIN, XIX. 424—chapel, III. 448; VIII. 408.
- Rosnay (Gaston), on iron bridges, XII. 579
- Ross (Andrew), his micrometer, XIV. 761—microscopes, 764, 765, 781—object-glasses, 778, 780
- (General), V. 617
- (Sir John), XIX. 424—his arctic voyages, XVIII. 171, 172; X. 478; XI. 40.
- (Sir J. Clark), his antarctic voyage, X. 475; XVII. 584; XVIII. 181; scientific results of, I. 995—magnetic poles ascertained by, 991, XVII. 617—on the temperature of the ocean, VII. 777; XIV. 644—on barometric depression at sea, 667—his northern explorations, XVIII. 172—Lieutenant to Parry, XVII. 307
- (Mr), his photographic process, XVII. 548.
- AND CROMARTY, XIX. 425—vitrified forts in Ross, IX. 791, 792—fall of immense hailstones in Ross, XIV. 659—agricultural statistics, XIX. 796, 797, 798—population, 799
- in Herefordshire, XIX. 424
- (New), in Wexford, XIX. 424
- or Roscarbery, in Cork, XIX. 424, VII. 370.
- ROSSANO, town of Naples, XIX. 427.
- Academy of, II. 63
- ROSSBACH, battle of, XVIII. 653; XXI. 713, 714, 715.
- Rosse (Earl of), his telescopes, I. 863, IV. 151; XXI. 128—his mode of supporting specula, 130, 131; metals used in forming, 135; polishing, 139.
- ROSSI (Pellegrino), count, diplomatist, XIX. 428.
- (De), on MSS. of the Scriptures, XIX. 387.
- (Pietro), his works on insects, IX. 8.
- ROSSIA, genus of mollusks, XV. 400
- ROSSIENY, in Russia, XIX. 428
- Rossignol (Dr), his work on the lungs, XI. 74
- ROSSWYN, in Saxony, XIX. 428.
- ROSTAN (M.), on animal magnetism, XX. 427.
- Rostellaria, genus of mollusks, XV. 388—fossil, XVII. 109
- ROSTOCK, German city, XIX. 428—university of, XXI. 492.
- ROSTOPCHIN (Fedor), count, XIX. 428; X. 157.
- ROSTOV, two Russian towns so named, XIX. 428.
- ROSTRA, XIX. 428; X. 838
- Rosthamus, bird, XVI. 743.
- Rostrum of a ship, IV. 526.
- Rot (Dry) See Dry Rot.
- in sheep, XXI. 670.
- ROTA, town in Spain, XIX. 428.
- ecclesiastical court, XIX. 428
- ROTATION, XIX. 429; VIII. 394; XIV. 387—theory of, I. 824, 825—magnetism of, XIV. 9, 31—electrical, VIII. 564—Atwood on, IV. 284—in gunnery, XI. 129—in plants, V. 68—Foucault's experiment on the rotation of the earth, I. 855; XVII. 388—of a ship, XX. 13, 17.
- of crops, V. 98—advantage of, VI. 525—in Essex, IV. 836—in the lowlands of Scotland, XIX. 798; in Aberdeenshire, ib.
- Rotatory grates, XX. 354.
- Rotharis, Lombard king, XIII. 640.

ROT—ROX

- ROTHENBURG, XIX. 444.
- Rother, river, VII. 754
- ROTTERHAM, in Yorkshire, XIX. 444
- ROTHERSAY, XIX. 444; VI. 26—climate of, XIX. 795.
- Rothière (La), battle of, X. 166.
- Rothoffite, mineral, XV. 85
- ROTSCCHILD, commercial house, XIX. 444
- (Mayer Anselm), XIX. 444
- (Nathan Mayer), XIX. 444.
- ROTTCEK (K. W. Rodecker von), XIX. 444.
- ROTTENBURG, XIX. 445
- ROTTERDAM, XIX. 445—population, XI. 582—prison, 588
- Rotula. See Patella.
- ROTUNDA, or Rotundo, XIX. 445
- ROUBAIX, town in France, XIX. 446.
- ROUBILLAC (L. François), XIX. 446—sculpture of, 864.
- Rouble, Russian coin, XV. 444, XIX. 537, n
- Roucon, III. 257 See Anotta.
- ROUVEN, in France, XIX. 446—population, X. 277—suspension bridge at, III. 491—roof of the Salle des Pas Perdus at, XIX. 392.
- Rouge, VIII. 286.
- Rouge (M. de), on hieroglyphics, XI. 44.
- Rough-cast, V. 744.
- ROULERS, town in Belgium, XIX. 447.
- Roulon, bird, XVI. 791
- Roum, coast of, IV. 744.
- See Sivas
- Round, in music, VI. 332.
- Table, knights of the, VI. 622
- Towers. See Towers.
- ROUNDELA, XIX. 447.
- Roundheads, V. 400
- Roundsmen's system of relief to the poor, XVIII. 304.
- Rous (St John), V. 500
- Rouse (Mr), of Leicester, pneumatic experiments of, XVIII. 67
- Rousey, island, XVI. 718, 719
- ROUSSEAU (Jacques), painter, XIX. 447.
- (JEAN BAPTISTE), XIX. 447—poetry of, XVIII. 117—his meeting with Voltaire, XXI. 657.
- (JEAN-JACQUES), XIX. 448; VIII. 240—on the origin and history of language, I. 174—merits of his *Emile*, 184, its influence on education, XV. 809—on Robinson Crusoe, VII. 697—his quarrel with Diderot, VIII. 14, with Hume, XII. 5—on the impossibility of proving a miracle, XV. 265—his objection to the right of property, XVIII. 228—character of his romances, XIX. 288—influence of his *Contrat Social* on the French Revolution, 233—Madame de Staël's admiration of, XX. 524
- Roussette, species of bat, XIV. 147.
- ROUSSELLON, XIX. 450; X. 277.
- Roux (Polydore), on the acrid liquor of ants, III. 265—on birds, XVI. 731.
- Rove and Roving-frames, XX. 510, 511.
- ROVEREDO, XIX. 450
- Rovettus, genus of fishes, XII. 296.
- ROVEZZANO (Benedetto da), sculptor, XIX. 860.
- ROVIGNO, XIX. 450.
- ROVIGO, XIX. 450.
- (Savary), Duke of, governor of Algiers, II. 574.
- ROWANDIZ, town in Turkey, XIX. 450.
- ROWE (Nicholas), XIX. 450—dramatic works of, VIII. 164—his dramatic reading, XXI. 172—sums paid for his plays, ib.
- Rowe's diving machine, VIII. 59.
- Rowley (Thomas), Chatterton's forged poems of, V. 705; VI. 421; XXI. 410.
- (WILLIAM), XIX. 451.
- ROWNO, town in Russia, XIX. 451.
- ROXANA, XIX. 451.
- Roxburgh Castle, death of James II. at, XIX. 760.
- (Dr), on the Tussock and Arrindy silkworms, XX. 289, 290
- Roxburgh (John), Duke of, sale of his library, XVIII. 582.
- Roxburghiaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 210.

ROX—RUD

- ROXBURGHSHIRE, XIX. 451—agricultural statistics, 796, 797, 798—population, 799.
- ROXBURY, in Massachusetts, XIX. 456.
- Roxo, cape, XX. 49
- Ror (General Wilham), XIX. 456—his barometrical measurements, I. 730, IV. 465, 466—measurement of the difference of longitude between Greenwich and Paris, IX. 550—his measurement of the first base of the trigonometrical survey, 653—on the temperature of the air at different heights, VI. 780—his share in the trigonometrical survey of Britain, XXI. 330, 331
- (M. le), his work on Greek ruins, III. 456—on dew, VII. 767
- ROYAL, XIX. 456.
- Academies, II. 63 et seq
- Academy of Sciences, Paris—experiments in seamanship undertaken by, XX. 4, 10, 11
- Agricultural College, X. 680
- Agricultural Society of England, II. 265
- Bank of Scotland, XV. 483
- FAMILY, XIX. 456
- George, man-of-war, sinking of the, V. 501.
- in gunnery, XI. 141
- Institution in Edinburgh, VIII. 396—for the encouragement of the fine arts, 397.
- Institution in London, I. 941, XIII. 674, XXI. 230
- Military College, II. 71
- OAK, XIX. 458
- Orders of Knighthood, XIII. 123
- Society of London, XIII. 674—origin and influence of, I. 47, IV. 462, XIV. 461; XVIII. 25, 33—Sir H. Davy's conduct as president, VII. 672—library of, XIII. 393—experiments on cohesion, XX. 748.
- Society of Edinburgh, VIII. 397.
- ROYER-COLLARD (P. Paul), XIX. 456.
- ROYLE (John Forbes), botanist, XIX. 457
- his work on the fibrous plants of India, IX. 657—on Indian hemp, XI. 313
- ROYSTON, XIX. 457.
- ROYTON, village in Lancashire, XIX. 457
- Rozier (Piatre de) See Piatre
- RSIEV-WLADIMIROV, in Russia, XIX. 457, 223
- RUBBER (India), XIX. 457. See Caoutchouc.
- Rubble walls, V. 738
- Rubellin, mineral, XV. 73.
- Rubellite, mineral, XV. 89.
- RUBENS (Sir Peter Paul), XIX. 457; XVII. 56—character of his pictures, 74; III. 710—his pictures at Antwerp, 287—anecdote of Van Dyck, his pupil, and him, XXI. 520.
- Rubicon, Italian river, XVII. 242—crossed by Caesar, XIX. 325
- RUBINSKY, in Russia, XIX. 460.
- RUBAC, XIX. 460
- Rubraquis (Wm de), III. 753; X. 469.
- RUBY, XIX. 460; X. 447—crystallisation of, VII. 563—oriental, XV. 87; XVII. 623—spinel, XV. 87—Balas, ib.—Almadine, ib.—Ely-rubies, IX. 544—dichroism in, XVI. 666
- Ruby-blendes, XV. 121.
- Ruby-type, XXI. 401, 402, 403.
- Rucellari, VIII. 147.
- Rucker (John A.), on the number of collisions at sea, VII. 131.
- Ruckert, German poet, XVIII. 119.
- Rudbeck (Olaus), his discovery of the distinction between the lacteals and lymphatics, II. 761.
- Rudberg (Prof.), on the coefficient of expansion of gases, I. 937 and n. 4—on optics, XVI. 546, 659.
- RUDBERG, XIX. 460—its action on a ship, XX. 14, 17, 159—useless in balloons, II. 173.
- RUDIMAN (Thomas), XIX. 460; VIII. 408; XVIII. 589—on grammar, X. 763 n. 770 n. 2 et seq—his edition of George Buchanan's works, V. 720, 787—Chalmers' Life of, VI. 402

RUD—RUP

- RUDING (Rogers), XIX. 461—on ancient British coinage, VII. 69, 70 et seq—on the constitution of the Mint, 74—his Annals of the Coinage, XV. n. 2
- Rudolph of Hapsburg, XX. 884, IV. 302
- Rudolph on the villi of the ileum, III. 61—on intestinal worms, XXI. 974, 975 et seq.
- RUDOLSTADT, XIX. 461, 732
- Rudyerd (John), XIII. 465
- Rue (A. de la), his work on insects, IX. 18
- (CHARLES DE LA), XIX. 461—on Anglo-Norman poetry, VIII. 794
- (Warren de la), his electric battery, XXI. 613.
- order of plants, V. 188
- plant, XI. 745
- RUELIN, town in France, XIX. 462.
- Ruff, bird, XVI. 804
- Ruffini (Paolo), on equations, IX. 306.
- RUFFO (Fabrizio), cardinal, XIX. 462
- Ruffus, or Rufus, of Ephesus, his anatomical knowledge, II. 752—his skill in surgery, XX. 813.
- RUFINUS, XIX. 462.
- Rugby school, XIX. 462—Dr Arnold's superintendence of, III. 672.
- in Warwickshire, XIX. 462—savings-bank at, 665
- RUGELEY, or Rudgeley, in Staffordshire, XIX. 463
- RUGER, island, XIX. 463
- RUGENWALDE, town of Prussia, XIX. 463
- Ruglen See Rutherford
- Ruhmkorff (M.), his induction coil, XXI. 649—his mode of igniting gunpowder, 637.
- RUHNKEN (David), XIX. 463; XVII. 524.
- Ruins in Syria, XX. 908, 910
- Rukchu, in Ladak, XIII. 149.
- Ruland (Dr Anton), on the Palatine Library, XIII. 411, n. 1.
- Rule, XIII. 253
- Rulettes, in engraving, XIV. 734.
- Ruhlebe (M.), on the partition of Poland, IV. 391
- Rullion Green, battle of, V. 428
- RULSK, town in Russia, XIX. 464.
- RUM, XIX. 464, IX. 760—manufacture of, VIII. 51; from molasses, XV. 311.
- Island, XIX. 464
- Rumbling Brig, VI. 749, VIII. 260.
- Rumbold (St Thomas), his gains in India, IX. 492—charges against, V. 500.
- RUMFORD (Count), XIX. 464. See Thompson (Sir Benjamin).
- (Madame), I. 941, n. 2
- P'tze, I. 941.
- RUMILI, or Rumelia, XIX. 464—coast and ports of Rumelia, IV. 742.
- Ruminantia, XIV. 202, XVII. 632—bones, III. 76 et seq.—muscles, 91—organs of smell, 94—eyes, 97—ears, 98—tongue, 100—nervous system, 103—oesophagus, 108—stomach, ib.—intestines, 110—denudation of, 106, XVI. 406; XVII. 169, 172—fat from, XVI. 403—fossil, XVII. 169—of America, II. 713—Africa, 217.
- Rumker's catalogue of stars, IV. 95.
- Rump Parliament, V. 411; XIII. 165.
- Rumsey. See Romsey.
- RUNGIMAN (Alexander), painter, XIX. 464.
- RUNCOON, town in Cheshire, XIX. 464.
- Runeberg (J. Ludvig), Finnish poet, XIX. 701.
- RUNES, XIX. 464, 689.
- RUNGROCK, XIX. 464.
- Runic alphabet, II. 615—mythology, VIII. 388 See Dances, Gotlia.
- RUNSWERT SINCH, XIX. 465; V. 667, 669 XI. 609
- Runn, salt morass in Cutch, VII. 507; XI. 445.
- Runner, in plants, V. 79
- Running, muscles used in, III. 42.
- Runnymede, VIII. 677.
- Ruolz (M. de), his mode of gliding by electric battery, XXI. 637.
- RUPES, XIX. 465; XV. 442, 445—lac of rupes, XI. 494, n.—craze of rupes, 494, n.
- RUPERT (Prince Robert), XIX. 465—his military operations in England, 403 et

RUP—RUS

- seg*—invention of mezzotinto engraving improperly ascribed to, XIV. 733, XX. 270.
- Rupert's drops, XIX. 465; III. 218—electrical flash at the bursting of, VIII. 564—their power of depolarisation, I. 912—(Prince), metal, XVIII. 516—Land, X. 346—river, X. 346
- Rupicola, genus of birds, XVI. 757
- Ruppell (Dr Edward), on Abyssinia, II. 55, 57
- RUPPIN (New), town in Prussia, XIX. 465
- Rupture. See Hernia
- Runic, XIX. 469, 474
- Rusa, genus of mammalia, XIV. 218
- Ruselus, VII. 316.
- RUSH (Benjamin), physician, XIX. 466, XX. 819—common, its fitness for making paper, XVII. 248—rush-bearing, ancient custom in Derbyshire, VII. 756—flowering, order of plants, V. 214—order of plants, V. 213—town in Ireland, XIX. 466.
- Rushton and Eckerley's iron-works, XII. 553
- Rusworth (John), XIX. 467
- Ruskin (Mr), on Milton, XV. 23.
- Rusnaks, in Hungary, XII. 11.
- Russel (Dr), on serpents, XIX. 46, 62, 64 *et seq.*
- Russell (Admiral), V. 445.—(Dr A.), on the plague, XVII. 749.—(Dr Patrick), on the plague, XVII. 748 *et seq.*—(John), his account of Beethoven, IV. 590.—(John Scott), on waves, I. 888; XI. 218—on the motions of vessels and waves, XII. 76—on the tidal wave of estuaries, XVI. 64—on the parabolic profile for breakwaters, XI. 220—experiments on the Forth and Clyde Canal, XX. 136, 137—on the influence of a vessel's shape on her speed, 662—Great Eastern steam-ship built by, 665—yacht Titania built by, 139.—(Lord John), his measures for obtaining parliamentary reform, V. 632, 635, 637, 657, 660—Reform Bills introduced by, 661—his motion regarding the Irish Church, 664; for a national system of education, 666—prime minister, 670; resignation, 672—his plan of relief to the West Indies, 671—his Life of Lord William Russell, XIX. 467—on the free circulation of books, XIII. 380—his Memoirs of Moore, XV. 533.—(Mr), his improvement on locks, XIII. 534.—(Prof.), his air-pump, XVIII. 41.—(Robert), on the climate and agriculture of Scotland, XIX. 811, 795, 796.—(WILLIAM), lord, XIX. 467; V. 433.—(WILLIAM), historian, XIX. 468.
- Russia, XIX. 469; IX. 402—Russian arc of meridian, I. 854—Imperial Academy of Sciences, II. 65—Academy of Arts, 67—American colonies, 707—alphabets, 614—geographical discoveries, XVIII. 170; in North America, II. 465; in Asia, III. 763—settlements and commerce in the Aleutian Isles, II. 464, 465—army, III. 647—Asiatic commerce, 755—policy of, towards Austria, IV. 221; influence with Austria, 320—baths, 506—bibles, 702—Bible Society, 704—commerce and fleet on the Black Sea, 744, 745, 746—armed neutrality, V. 494; VII. 742—designs against France, in 1791, V. 540—trade with Bukhara, 759—commercial intercourse with China, VI. 591—war with the Circassians, 842—Cossacks, VII. 423; VIII. 100—consumption of cotton, VII. 453, 460—Czar, 618—law of copyright in, 359—trade with England, VIII. 782, 783—language, IX. 391; XIX. 214—fairs in, IX. 469—war with Turkey, X. 144—wars with France, 118, 145, 153; V. 585—Napoleon's invasion of, X. 154; V. 795—relations with France in 1806, X.

RUS—RYE

- 142—French trade with, 259—intrigues of, in the East, 209—Georgians given up to, 568—fur-trade, 347—hemp, XI. 312, 313—crown of, 335—Greek Church in, 34—Jews in, XII. 783—Jesuits expelled from, 756—rate of interest, 432—libraries, XIII. 425—variations of the needle in, XIV. 54, 55—magnetic observations in, 18, 60—domestic manufactures, 282—high price of iron in, 284—Permian rocks of, XV. 205—Phocene, 215—mines, 231, 236, 239—metallic produce of, 233, 243; XVIII. 462—coins of, XV. 412, 441; XVI. 389—sacerdotal power of the Emperor of, XIV. 459—height of mountains, XVII. 643, 644—rivers, 646, 647—war with Turkey, France, and Britain, 198, XXI. 875, with the Poles, XVII. 146 *et seq.*—with the Prussians, 652—increase of population, 342—postal system, XVIII. 424—navy, XX. 138—animal magnetism in, 445—invaded by Gustavus Adolphus, 848—wars with Sweden, 853 *et seq.*; V. 530—masonry, 711—stoves, XX. 739, 740—proportion of suicides in, 800—consumption of tea in, XXI. 91—wars with Turkey, 370, 371, 373, V. 538—universities, 492—weights and measures, 813—wines, 886—maps of, XIX. Plates
- Russia, Asiatic, XIX. 647
- Russian Company, XII. 818; XIX. 473.—Lapland, XIII. 342.—Sable, X. 347
- Russians, their skulls, III. 20—military character, 649—then relations with Japan, XII. 699
- Rust, disease in grasses, V. 172
- Rustorum, town in Turkey, XIX. 553, VII. 653.
- Rustic, sculptor XIX. 861.
- Rustro, in heraldry, XI. 330.
- Rutaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 188.
- Rutella, genus of insects, IX. 123.
- Rutti, book of, XIX. 553—(St), General, XII. 491.
- Ruthenium, metal, VI. 499
- Rutherford (Dr John), his register thermometer, I. 763; XXI. 221—on the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter, X. 532.—(SAMUEL), divine, XIX. 553.
- Rutherford (Andrew, Lord Advocate), his modification of the law of entail, VIII. 810—his Registration Bills, XVIII. 840
- RUTHENIUM, XIX. 554
- RUTHIN, town in Wales, XIX. 554.
- Ruthven, raid of, XIX. 788.
- Ruthven's water-jet propeller for ships, XX. 661.
- Rutile, mineral, XV. 110—in Perthshire, XVII. 456
- RUTILIUS LUPUS, Roman rhetorician, XIX. 554.
- NUMATIUS (Claudius), Latin poet, XIX. 554.
- RUTLANDSHIRE, XIX. 554; VIII. 754.
- RUTLANDSHIRE, in Asia, XIX. 555.
- Rutter (Mr), his galvanoscope, VIII. 572.
- Rutting season of animals, III. 182; XIV. 204—in sheep, II. 348.
- RUTUR, XIX. 556.
- Runscher on cochineal, VIII. 283.
- RUYSEN (Frederic), XIX. 555; XX. 818—anatomical discoveries of, II. 762, 806—on birds, XVI. 726.
- Ruyschian membrane in various animals, III. 96.
- RUYSDAEL (Jacob), painter, XIX. 556.
- RUYTER (M. Adrian), Dutch admiral, XIX. 550; V. 422, 423, 426; XI. 570.
- Rycolite, mineral, XV. 70.
- Rycaut (Sir Paul). See Ricaut
- RYE, in Isle of Wight, XIX. 556; XXI. 862.
- Ryder's forging machine, XII. 564.
- Rye, grain, XIX. 556—culture of, II. 212—as food, IX. 759—northern limit of, XVII. 600—erect of, IX. 324.—town in Sussex, XIX. 556.
- Ryegrass, II. 223—sowing the seed of, 331.—(Italian), culture of, II. 227—for milch cows, VII. 622.

RYE—SAC

- Rye-house plot, V. 433; XIX. 468.
- Ryerson (Dr), on education in Canada, VI. 157; XV. 821.
- Ryland on John Bunyan, V. 764.
- Ryland's sheep, XI. 340.
- RYMER (Thomas), XIX. 557—his dramatic criticisms, VIII. 163, 164.
- RYOTS, XIX. 557, XI. 518, 519—of Cutch, VII. 589—of Bengal, IV. 650
- RYSBROOK (Michael), sculptor, XIX. 557—(Peter), painter, XIX. 557.
- Ryssonotus, genus of insects, IX. 123
- Ryswick, peace of, IV. 303, V. 446
- Rydina, genus of mammalia, dentation of, XVI. 443
- Ryzana, in zoology, XIV. 167.
- RZESZOW, Austrian town, XIX. 557.
- S
- S, letter of the alphabet, XIX. 558—in abbreviations, II. 20.
- Saabs, race of Hottentots, IX. 353
- SAAD-EN-DEEN (M. Effendi), historian, XIX. 558
- SAADI (Moshir Eddin), Persian poet, XIX. 558
- SAALFELD, German town, XIX. 558
- Saane, Swiss river, XX. 888, X. 304.
- SAARNHOEK, Prussian town, XIX. 558.
- SAARLOUIS, Prussian town, XIX. 559.
- Saars (M.), on a species of medusa, XXI. 997.
- SAATZ, Bohemian town, XIX. 559.
- SAAYEDRA FAKARDO (Diego de), XIX. 559—(Alvarez de), his visit to Papua, IV. 262
- Saba, III. 361.
- SABARA, town in Brazil, XIX. 559.
- SABATIER (André Hyacinthe), XIX. 559—French surgeon, his system of anatomy, II. 767
- Sabatino, lake, temperature of, VI. 777.
- SABATHY, XIX. 559, I. 467 n. 3, 502 n.—its observance in England in the reign of James I., V. 384—play acting on, XXI. 169.
- Sabbathier (M.), his account of the Babylonians, IV. 346.
- Sabbatice (Abbe), X. 43.
- Sabbadini (G.), XXI. 237
- SABRONETTA, town in Italy, XIX. 559
- Sabella, genus of annelids, XI. 291, 294.
- SABELLIUS, XIX. 553—on the Trinity, XXI. 194.
- Sabine (General), his observations on the pendulum, I. 851, 853; IX. 673, 674—his magnetic observations, I. 995; XIX. 18—his magnetic charts, XVII. 617—river and lake, XXI. 160, 161.
- SABINY, XIX. 553, 295
- SABINUS (George), Latin poet, XIX. 554
- Sable, in zoology, XIV. 154—its fur, X. 347.—in heraldry, XI. 324.—Island, XVI. 314.
- SABLÉ, town in France, XIX. 561.
- SABLES D'OLONNE (L.), town in France, XIX. 564.
- Sabooa, ruins of a temple at, XVI. 549.
- SABZAWAR, town in Persia, XIX. 564.
- Sacallia, in Boinea, V. 47.
- Saccardo, his work on the silkworm, IX. 22.
- SACCATO, in Central Africa, XIX. 564; VI. 752. See Sakatu and Sokoto.
- Saccharine principles of plants, II. 370; IX. 755; of animals, 766.
- Saccharite, mineral, XV. 71.
- Saccharometer, V. 319.
- SACCHERTZ (Franco), Italian novelist, XIX. 565.
- SACCIS (Andrea), painter, XIX. 565.
- SACCHINI (A. M. Gasparo), musician, XIX. 565.
- Sacrobanchiata, order of mollusks, XV. 830.
- Sacrobanchus, genus of fishes, XII. 263.
- Sacerdotal stage of Greek medicine, XIV.

SAC—SAG

- 451; of Roman, 453; of modern, 457—sacerdotal influence in the eighteenth century, 462
- SACHVERRELL (Dr Henry), XIX. 566—Atterbury's exertions in his favour, IV. 189.
- Sachot (Father), IX. 487.
- SACHS (Hans), XIX. 566
- SACK, wine, XIX. 566, XXI. 884
- SACKVILLE (Charles), XIX. 567.—(Lord), V. 498.—(Lord George), V. 464.—(THOMAS), Lord Buckhurst, XIX. 566—poetry of, XVIII. 121.
- Sacral vertebrae, III. 76.
- SACRAMENT, XIX. 567; XXI. 219—under the law, I. 489, under the gospel, ib.—Luther's controversy with the Zwinglians regarding the sacraments, XIII. 736—Popish sacraments, XVIII. 346. See Baptism, Eucharist, Lord's Supper.
- SACRAMENTO, river, XIX. 567, VI. 96—city, XIX. 567—county, VI. 99.
- SACRED, XIX. 567—philology, XVII. 518, 522
- SACRIFICI, XIX. 567—in earliest times, I. 454—error of introducing into the gospel dispensation, 510—priests appointed for, ib.—Egyptians, VIII. 430—Roman, IX. 510, 513—sacrifices of the North American Indians, II. 681—in the Christian Church, derived from Judaism and Paganism, I. 510.—(HUMAN), XIV. 361—in Ashantee, III. 727—in Dahomey, VII. 620—by the Druids, VIII. 184—in India, XI. 470.
- SACRILAGE, XIX. 568—French law of, X. 191.
- SACRO-BOSCO (Johannes de), XIX. 568.
- Sacrum, human, III. 6.
- SACY (A. I. Silvestre de), XIX. 568—on hieroglyphics, XI. 378.—(L. ISAAC LE MAITRE), XIX. 568; XIV. 100—his French Bible, IV. 701.
- Saddle, A. I. 675, 685—seat in the, 675 *et seq.*
- Saddle-backs, in coal beds, VII. 117.
- Saddle-gulls in horses, XXI. 578.
- Saddlery, exports of, from Britain, XIII. 371.
- SADUCCEES, XIX. 568; VI. 288; XVII. 606.
- Saül, Persian poet, XVII. 429.
- SADLER (Michael Thomas), XIX. 569.—(Sir Ralph), XIX. 570, 773.—(Wm.), astronomer, death of, II. 179.
- SADLER (James), cardinal, XIX. 570.
- SADLER Pusha, VIII. 495.
- Safe locks, XIII. 642.
- Safety-lamp, Sir H. Davy's, I. 669; VII. 124, 671—G. Stephenson's, I. 883.
- Safety-locks for guns, XI. 99.
- Safety-valve, XII. 179. See Valve.
- SAFER, town in Morocco, XIX. 570.
- Safflower, V. 197—as a dyestuff, VIII. 288—oil from its seeds, XVI. 495—quantity imported, VIII. 755.
- SAFFRON, XIX. 570; V. 212—as a dyestuff, VIII. 297—culture of, in France, X. 248.—meadow, V. 213.
- SAFFRON-WALDEN, in Essex, XIX. 570.
- Saga, XVI. 316; XIX. 690—folk's saga, 691.
- Sagamen, XIX. 689, 690.
- SAGAN, Prussian town, XIX. 571.
- Sagarelli (Gerhard), III. 365.
- SAGI (Abraham Isaac), XIX. 571—novels of, 286, 287.—(M. Le), on gravitation, I. 136, n. 2.—plant, V. 202; XI. 745.
- Sagging of ships, XX. 180.
- SAGITTARIUM, island, XIX. 572.
- Sagittal suture, III. 24.
- SAGITTA, XIX. 572; IV. 80, 83.
- SAGO, XIX. 572; V. 314—quantity imported, VIII. 736—tree, II. 680; XX. 894—false sago, V. 210.
- Sagouins, monkeys, XIV. 148.
- Sagra, genus of insects, IX. 147.
- Sagrides, family of insects, IX. 147.
- Sagrinus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 143.
- SAGUIN, XIX. 572; XVII. 224.

SAG—SAL

- SAGUNTUM, XIX. 572—siege of, by Hannibal, XI. 208, XV. 697—taken, VI. 293, XX. 457.
- SAHARA, XIX. 573; II. 212, 216, XVII. 614—countries of, II. 225—oasis in, X. 385.
- Sahidic version of the Bible, IV. 700, XIX. 839.
- Sahlberg (C. L.), his work on insects, IX. 13.
- Sahlite, mineral, XV. 81.
- Sai, river in Oude, XVII. 15.
- SALDA, or Said, town in Syria, XIX. 573.
- See Sidon.
- Sagey (M.), on the earth's ellipticity, IX. 575.
- SAGON, town of Anam, XIX. 573.
- SAILING, XIX. 573—various methods of, XVI. 7 *et seq.*—on a wind, XX. 125. See Seamanship.
- Sailors, utility of training to, VIII. 25—number employed in British vessels, 739—desertion of, during war, XIII. 288—diseases of, XIV. 442—impressment of, IX. 776; XII. 365; XVI. 106—discipline of, XX. 28. See Navy.
- Sailors' homes, XVI. 119.
- SAILS OF SHIPS, XIX. 573—of windmills, XIV. 417—inapplicable to balloons, II. 179—to set, make, &c., sail, XIX. 573—combination of steam with, XX. 21.
- Saimuri, in zoology, XIV. 143.
- Sainton, culture of, II. 329—wild, in Gloucestershire, X. 679.
- Sainovies (John), on the Turanian languages, XVII. 535.
- SAINT, XIX. 573, I. 489—invocation of saints, 514—Popish doctrine of the intercession of, XVIII. 337—modern Egyptian, VIII. 447. See Canonisation.
- Saint's Mountain. See Pir Panjal.
- SAINT-ARNAUD (Leroy de), marshal, XIX. 573, 501, 504. See Arnaud (St), marshal.
- Saint-Croix (Godin de), a French poisoner, III. 330.
- Saint-Cyran on annuities, III. 221.
- SAINT-SIMON (C. Henri), Comte de, XIX. 573; VII. 210—his system, ib. 211.
- (Louis de Rouvroy), Duc de, XIX. 575.
- St Andrews, XIX. 575. See Andrews, St.
- St Antonio, or St. Antonio, island, XIX. 575; XXI. 544.
- St. CATHERINE'S, in West Canada, XIX. 575.
- St. Clair, lake, VI. 187. See Clair (St).
- St. GEORGE, island, XIX. 575; IV. 336.
- St. Hilaire (Geoffroy). See Hilaire.
- St. HYACINTHE, in East Canada, XIX. 575.
- St. Iago, or San Thiago, island, XIX. 575; XXI. 543.
- St. Jago de la Vega, XII. 630.
- St. John (Henry). See Bollingbroke.
- river, XVI. 162, 163.
- St. JOHN'S, New Brunswick, XIX. 575; XVI. 164.
- Newfoundland, XIX. 575; XVI. 171.
- St. Just, X. 38 *et seq.*
- St. MICHAEL'S, island, XIX. 575; IV. 336.
- St. NICHOLAS, or S. Nicolao, island, XIX. 575; XXI. 544.
- Sainte (La Haye), V. 620.
- SAINTES, French town, XIX. 575.
- (Les), islands, XI. 72.
- SAINTONGE, in France, XIX. 575; X. 277.
- SAIS, in Egypt, XIX. 575; VIII. 497.
- Sakatu, II. 229. See Sokoto.
- Saki, monkeys, XIV. 144.
- Sakkar, town in Oudh, XX. 305.
- Sakkarah, pyramids of, VIII. 501.
- Sal, one of the Cape Verde islands, XXI. 544.
- Sal-ammoniac, II. 719; XV. 99—from distillation of coal, XII. 655, n.; X. 433.
- Sala, silver mine in Sweden, XX. 882.
- Salada (Rio), XVII. 777.
- SALADIN, or Salah-ed-Deen, XIX. 576; II. 22; VIII. 450, 481; XVI. 841—his partial conquest of Arabia, III. 863—his friendship for Bohaddin, IV. 811—his war with the Crusaders, VII. 525, XVII. 196—Jerusalem taken by, XII. 736.

SAL—SAL

- Salads, IX. 761—culture of, XI. 743.
- SALAHIEH, town in Egypt, XIX. 576.
- SALAMANCA, in Spain, XIX. 576—battle of, V. 611; XXI. 825, 712, 713—university of, 492.
- in Mexico, XIV. 724.
- Salamanders, XIX. 58—vertebrae of, III. 86—case of one which lived two months without the head, 176—fossil, XVII. 153.
- Salamandridae, XIX. 82.
- SALAMIS, XIX. 578—defeat of Xerxes at, IV. 200; XX. 500.
- Salang, island, XIII. 20.
- Salano, island, XIII. 20.
- Salanz, genus of fishes, XII. 247.
- Salar ferrox, fish, XII. 242—angling for, III. 158.
- Salarian road, XIX. 228.
- Salarias, genus of fishes, XII. 309.
- Salas (La), V. 53.
- Salatis, Egyptian king, VIII. 457.
- SALATYR Islands, XIX. 577.
- Salcey forest, XVI. 287.
- Saldana (Rio), sulphate of alumina from, II. 638.
- Saldanha Bay, X. 711.
- Duke of, XVIII. 391, 392.
- SALÉ (George), orientalist, XIX. 577—his version of the Koran, II. 456, XV. 303.
- (General Sir Robert), V. 668; XI. 509.
- SALEM, in India, XIX. 577.
- in Massachusetts, XIX. 577; XIV. 341.
- SALEM, town in Sicily, XIX. 577.
- Salenia, fossil echinoidae, XVII. 99, 100.
- SALEP, XIX. 577, V. 211.
- SALERNO, town of Naples, XIX. 577; XX. 241—bay of, 240—medical school of, 816.
- Sales, account of, in book-keeping, V. 21.
- (St. François de), bishop, XIX. 578.
- SALFORD, XIX. 578; XIV. 256 *et seq.*—free library at, XIII. 406.
- Sahant, in heraldry, XI. 332.
- SALIC or Salique law, XIX. 578—reformed by Clovis, X. 3—in Spain, XX. 471, 477, 478.
- Salicaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 207.
- Salicaria, genus of birds, XVI. 766.
- Saliceto (Gubelmus de), XX. 816.
- Salicin, V. 207.
- SALIERI (Antonio), musician, XIX. 578.
- SALII, priests of Mars, XIX. 579.
- Salinas on melody, XV. 715.
- Saline stones, XV. 91—ores, XI. 99—plants, V. 221.
- Salini, or Salina, island, XIII. 502; XX. 246.
- SALINS, town in France, XIX. 578—salt-works of, X. 251.
- SALISBURY, XIX. 579—cathedral, III. 448, 481, spire of the cathedral, 410; XX. 735; arches of, 733—diminished mortality in, owing to sanitary improvements, XIX. 604—railways at, XXI. 879.
- Countess of, XIII. 117.
- Crag, Edinburgh, VIII. 393—green-stone of, XV. 190.
- Plain, XX. 709—trigonometrical base on, XXI. 331, 334—remeasured in 1849, 332.
- Saliva, III. 50; XVII. 659.
- Salivahana, era of, VI. 676.
- Salivary gland, III. 49.
- Salkeld (Lieutenant), his conduct at the siege of Delhi, XVI. 305.
- (Mr. Sergeant), on divorce, VIII. 62.
- SALLER, in Morocco, XIX. 580.
- Sallenders in horses, XXI. 578.
- Sallin on poisons, XIV. 424.
- SALUSTIUS (C. Crispus), Roman historian, XIX. 580—gardens of, 869.
- circus of, VI. 734.
- SALMASTUS (Claudius), XIX. 580—on baptism, IV. 423—his controversy with Milton, XV. 26.
- Salminus, genus of fishes, XII. 246.
- Salmo, genus of fishes, XII. 237. See Salmon.
- alpinus, XII. 241—angling for, III. 168.

SAL—SAL

- Salmo eriox, XII. 240, 241—its abundance in the Tweed, IX. 616.
- salvelinus, XII. 241—angling for, III. 168.
- umbla, XII. 241.
- Salmon, XII. 238; IX. 589—size of adult, 597; XII. 239—varieties of, IX. 596—angling for, III. 151—as an article of food, IX. 763—salted, 607 and n., kippers, 768, preserved in ice, 767—effect of river water on the flavour of the flesh, 608 and n. 2—modes of capturing, 617—migrations of, XVII. 635—spinal cord of the, 669—in the Baltic, IV. 404. See Parr, Smolt, Grulse.
- FISHERIES, XIX. 581—laws relating to, IX. 599, 614—deterioration of, 607—of the Tay, 603 *et seq.*; XVII. 455—Tweed, IX. 606, 607; IV. 680—Forth, IX. 794—Wye, XI. 350—England, VIII. 727—Caithness, VI. 63—Scotland, XIX. 804—of Ireland, IX. 618; their produce, 623. See Fisheries.
- paste, III. 156, n. 1.
- Salmon-roe, as a bait, III. 156.
- Salmon-trout, XII. 240—its flesh, IX. 763.
- Salmonidae, family of fishes, XII. 237, 245—their geographical distribution, 330, 331—unknown in the Himalayan rivers, XI. 444.
- SALO, town in Lombardy, XIX. 581.
- SALON, town in France, XIX. 581.
- town in Oude, XVII. 17.
- SALONICA, XIX. 581—shipping of, XXI. 385.
- SALOP, XIX. 582. See Shropshire.
- Salopian ware, XVIII. 437.
- Salpa, genus of mollusks, XV. 335.
- Salpi, lake, XX. 240.
- Salpidae, family of mollusks, XV. 334.
- Salpingus, genus of insects, IX. 133.
- SALSETTE, island in India, XIX. 582; V. 1, 4; XI. 491.
- Salsify, XI. 740.
- Salso, river in Sicily, XX. 245.
- SALT, XIX. 582; XVII. 623; VI. 485; II. 94—in mineralogy, XV. 96—frigorific power of, VII. 102, 104—crystallisation of, 545, 548—efflorescence of, in various countries, 550—antiseptic virtue of, III. 277—its use in preserving articles of food, IX. 767; VI. 485—its alimentary properties, VIII. 21—a preventive of dry-rot, 211—its effects in dyeing scarlet, 290—its use as a manure, II. 305, 413; and in the manufacture of chloride of lime, IV. 761—mountain of, at Cudonia, VI. 236—consumption of, in Britain, VIII. 727—produce of, in England and Ireland, XV. 247—its effects on vegetation, IX. 415—of the Sahara, II. 226—saltiness of the ocean, XVII. 572, of the Dead Sea, III. 762—lake-salt of Russia, XIX. 543.
- (Mr), on hieroglyphics, II. 608.
- LAKES, City of the Great, XIX. 588; II. 675—Mormon settlement at, XV. 691.
- springs, of Cheshire, VI. 528—Droitwich, VIII. 179—Durham, 266—Pennsylvania, XVII. 386—Wurttemberg, XXI. 958—Staffordshire, XX. 530.
- Salt-desert in Persia, XVII. 420—in Khorasan, XIII. 78—Peru, XVII. 472.
- Salt-duty, VIII. 727—in France, X. 251, XXI. 72—India, XI. 528.
- Salt-lakes, XVII. 591.
- Salt-manufacture, VII. 551—of Bavaria, IV. 517—Bengal, 650—Droitwich, VIII. 179—Durham, VI. 266—Assam, III. 764—France, X. 251—Switzerland, XX. 889—on the shores of Solway Firth, VII. 581, n. 1.
- Salt-mines, XV. 246—of Añana, II. 439—of Austria, IV. 313—Brazil, V. 299—Berchtesgaden, IV. 660—Cheshire, VI. 528; XVI. 246, 816—England, VIII. 727—Europe, IX. 387—of Bochnia and Wieliczka, in Poland, XVIII. 159—Persia, XVII. 422—Prussia, XVIII. 669—Punjab, 688—Russia, XIX. 517, 543, 548, 550—Wurttemberg, XXI. 958.
- SALZA, province of La Plata, XIX. 588; XVII. 778.

SAL—SAM

- Saltane mills, description of the steam-machinery of, XX. 603.
- SALTASH, town in Cornwall, XIX. 588—iron bridge at, XII. 601.
- Saltator, genus of birds, XVI. 751.
- Saltatoria, family of insects, IX. 157.
- SALTOCOATS, in Ayrshire, XIX. 588.
- Salter (Mr), on impressions on rocks, XVII. 131, 132.
- (S. J. A.), on the structure of the teeth, XVI. 410.
- (T. F.), on trolling for pike, III. 159, 160.
- Salterns, or salt-gardens, XIX. 586.
- Salters and colliers formerly slaves in Scotland, XX. 320.
- Salticus, genus of arachnides, III. 384.
- Salter, in heraldry, XI. 329.
- SALTILLO, in Mexico, XIX. 589; XIV. 709.
- Salting of food, IX. 767.
- SALITRE, or nitre, XIX. 589, XV. 98—cooling with, VII. 101—an ingredient in gunpowder, XI. 151, 152—from the dung of bats, in Java, XII. 704—coloured rings in, XVI. 651, 653; I. 913, 914—as a manure, II. 305—used in preserving flesh, IX. 767—specific gravity of, XII. 89—quantity imported, VIII. 735.
- Salts of iron, process in photography, XVII. 550.
- in chemistry, VI. 499.
- Saluen, river, V. 778.
- SALUZZO, in Piedmont, XIX. 589.
- Salvador (St), XIX. 589. See San Salvador.
- Island, IV. 366.
- Salvadoraceae, nat. order of plants, V. 199.
- SALVAGE, XIX. 589.
- SALVANDY (N. A.), comte de, XIX. 589.
- Salvation, doctrine concerning, XXI. 215—means of, 219.
- Salvator's (St), College, St. Andrews, XXI. 474—its union with St. Leonard's, ib.
- Salvatore de Renzi on the population and mortality of Naples, XV. 624.
- Salvatore on meteoritics, XIV. 633.
- Salviani (Tippolito), ichthyologist, XII. 204; XIV. 124.
- Salving of sheep, II. 349, 351.
- SALWERN, or Saluen, Indian river, XIX. 589, XXI. 151.
- SALZBURG (Duchy of), XIX. 589—city, 590.
- Salzes, mud volcanoes, III. 293.
- SAMAKOV, or Samakoff, in Bulgaria, XIX. 590—iron ores of, XII. 541.
- Samana, XI. 254.
- Samanian dynasty, in Persia, XVII. 427.
- SAMAR, island, XIX. 590.
- SAMARA, XIX. 590—in botany, V. 138.
- SAMARANG, in Java, XIX. 591.
- SAMARANG, XIX. 591—cultivation of astronomy at, III. 795.
- SAMARIA, XIX. 591; XVII. 182—kings of, 193.
- Samaritan alphabet, II. Plate—language, XIII. 209—Pentateuch, IV. 695; XII. 692; XIX. 899; XVII. 519.
- SAMARTANS, XIX. 591.
- SAMARRAI, Turkish town, XIX. 591.
- Samarskite, mineral, XV. 109.
- Samaveda. See Vedas.
- SAMBAS, town in Borneo, XIX. 592; V. 47.
- SAMBOR, in Austria, XIX. 592.
- Sambucus (John), XII. 19.
- Samen Mountains, in Abyssinia, II. 55.
- Samneh, temples at, XVI. 849.
- Samnite wars, XIX. 304.
- SAMNIUM, XIX. 692.
- Samoa Islands. See Navigators' Islands.
- Samojedic languages, XIII. 217.
- Samolus, plant highly esteemed by the Druids, VIII. 188.
- SAMOS, island, XIX. 592—reduced by the Athenians, IV. 202—coins of, XVI. 376—wine of, XXI. 836.
- SAMOTHRACE, island, XIX. 592.
- Samouelle (George), his works on insects, IX. 16.
- SAMOYEDS, XIX. 593; IX. 345.
- Samphire islands, XIII. 75.
- Samphrey, Shetland island, XX. 113.
- SAMSOON, in Turkey, XIX. 593.

SAM—SAN

- SAMUEL, XIX. 593.
 — Books of, XIX. 593
 — Bulgarian king, VII. 313
 Samuelson (M.), his digging machine, II. 367
 Samund Sigfusson, XIX. 689—edda of, II. Samydecere, nat. order of plants, V. 205
 SAN FELIPE, in Venezuela, XIX. 593
 — FELIPE DE ACONGAGUA, in Chili, XIX. 598
 — FRANCISCO, in California, XIX. 598.
 — JOSE, in Costa Rica, XIX. 622.
 — Juan de Dios, IV. 810.
 — Juan (Fort), Nelson's expedition against, XVI. 132, 243
 — Juan, in La Plata, XVII. 779
 — Juan, in the Mosquito Territory, XV. 664.
 — Juan river, II. 711; XV. 663, XVI. 243.
 — LASSURGUI, in Sardinia, XIX. 622
 — MARINO, XIX. 622 See Marino, San.
 — Martin See Martin (General San).
 — MARTINO, sculptor, XIX. 864
 — MICHELE (Michele), architect, XIX. 622, III. 452
 — MIGUEL, in Central America, XIX. 623
 — Paolo Fuori, roof of, XIX. 390
 — PAULO, in Brazil, XIX. 622—Jesus's college at, V. 281—gold country near, 292—climate, 293—population of the province, 295
 — SALVADOR, in Central America, XIX. 623
 — SEBASTIAN, XIX. 624—taken by the British under Wellington, V. 613; XXI. 826
 — SEVERO, town of Naples, XIX. 624.
 — VICENTE, town in Spain, XIX. 628.
 San-Benito, XII. 390
 SAN-JUAN-DE-LA-FRONTIERA, XIX. 622
 SAN-LOUIS, in La Plata, XIX. 622; XVII. 779.
 — POROSI, in Mexico, XIX. 622; XIV. 718, 726
 SAN-LUCAR, in Spain, XIX. 622.
 SANA, town in Arabia, XIX. 694; III. 355.
 Sanadine, mineral, XV. 70
 SANABARO (Noel Ehenno), Jesuit, XIX. 594
 SANCHEZ (Francisco), classical scholar, XIX. 694
 — (Francisco), physician, XIX. 594.
 Sancho, King of Portugal, XVIII. 381.
 SANCHONATHON, XIX. 604—Bishop Cumberland's translation of his works, VII. 580.
 SANONFORT (William), archbishop, XIX. 596
 Sanctification, in theology, XXI. 218.
 SANCORUS, Italian physician, XIX. 596
 —his invention of the thermometer, I. 766; IV. 456—his experiments on the heat of the moon's rays, VII. 766—on artificial congelation, 104.
 Sanctuary of Holyrood, VIII. 395.
 Sand, in geology, XV. 155—fixing of blowing sands, II. 364; VIII. 645—used in blasting, IV. 766; in glass-making, X. 662—use of, in mortar, XX. 713
 — (George), novelist. See Dudevant.
 Sand-baths, X. 358.
 Sand-eel, IX. 764—mode of catching it in Lapland, XIII. 442.
 Sand-pipers, birds, XVI. 803, 805.
 Sandal, XX. 208.
 Sandal-wood, its use in dyeing, VIII. 308
 —in India, XI. 454.
 —order of plants, V. 204.
 —island, XVII. 240.
 SANDBACH, in Cheshire, XIX. 596.
 SANDBY (Paul), painter, XIX. 596.
 Sanderack, XXI. 562.
 SANDEMANIANS, XIX. 596; X. 676.
 Sanderling, bird, XVI. 804.
 Sanders, a brown dyestuff, VIII. 308.
 SANDERSON (Robert), bishop, XIX. 596.
 Sandley, one of the Orkney Islands, XVI. 718, 719.
 Sandford (Sir D.), on Pindar's poems, XVIII. 102.
 Sandi, town in Oude, XVII. 18.
 Sandili, Kafarian chief, XIII. 35.

SAN—SAN

- Sandius (Christopher), his Bibliotheca Antitmtanorum, III. 278
 Sandiver, X. 382
 SANDOVAL (F. Prudencio de), bishop and historian, XIX. 597.
 SANDRAET (Joachim von), artist, XIX. 597
 Sandstone, XV. 141, 155—varieties of, 142—ripple marks on, 159—of the Permian period, 205—as a building stone, XX. 711—strength of, 717.
 —red and mottled, XV. 206—white, 1b—old red (see Devonian).
 SANDUSKY, town in United States, XIX. 597; XVI. 489.
 —river, XVI. 489.
 SANDWICH, in Kent, XIX. 597.
 —ISLANDS, XIX. 598, XVIII. 270—Cook's discovery of, VII. 340—bread-fruit of, V. 301—ides at, XVII. 581—height of mountains, 645—volcanoes, XXI. 604.
 — (Lord), V. 487
 Sandworts, plants, III. 521.
 SANDYS (George), poet, XIX. 598
 — (Sir Edwin), V. 381
 Sang (Edward), on the teeth of wheels, XIV. 395—his plutometer, 415.
 SANGA, in Japan, XIX. 599.
 Sangala, taken by Alexander the Great, XIII. 770
 SANGALLO, fam. of architects, XIX. 599, 600
 SANGERHAUSEN, in Prussia, XIX. 600.
 SANGORA, in Siam, XIX. 600
 Sangro, river, XII. 638; XX. 238
 Sangrification, XVII. 661
 Sangrune, in heraldry, XI. 324.
 Sangunolaria, genus of mollusks, XV. 350
 Sanguisorbide, tribe of plants, V. 191
 Sanguisuga, genus of annelides, XI. 305.
 SANIPIEDRI, XIX. 600; XII. 768.
 SANITARY SCIENCE, XIX. 602—effect of registration on, XVIII. 837—sanitary police, 196—circumstances affecting the health of individuals and communities, XIV. 440, 443—sanitary condition of the woollen and worsted districts, XXI. 920—sanitary properties of tea, XX. 83
 —ventilation, as a sanitary agent, XXI. 539.
 Sanjurj, sultan, XVII. 437.
 SANJASARO (Jacopo), Italian poet, XIX. 622.
 SANGUITAR, in Dumfriesshire, XIX. 623—Crawick Mill near, VIII. 278
 — (Lord), execution of, VI. 626.
 Sans Souci, XVIII. 429.
 SANSEBASTIO, in Western Africa, XIX. 624
 SANSKRIT, XIX. 624—alphabet, II. 618—literature, V. 270—language, I. 204; XIII. 199, 206, 207, 228; XVII. 519—study of, 629—grammars of, 527, 529—mode of writing it, II. 611—its affinity to Greek, VI. 365; to the Gothic, X. 726—its prevalence in the languages of the Indian archipelago, III. 748
 Sansevera fibre, XXI. 782.
 Sanson (Mile.), magnetic experiments on, XX. 426.
 — (NICOLAS), geographer, XIX. 624.
 SANOVINO (Jacopo Tatti), XIX. 625—his merits as an architect, III. 452—his sculptures, XIX. 863.
 SANTA ANNA, town in San Salvador, XIX. 625.
 —Australasian island, XVIII. 727
 —CATHARINA, in Brazil, XIX. 625.
 —Cruz, XIX. 625; V. 163, 164, 166;
 IV. 752—Nelson's attack on, XVI. 134;
 —Cruz DE LA SIERRA, in Bolivia, XIX. 625; IV. 821—population of, 828.
 —Fé de Bogota. See Bogota.
 —Fé, in La Plata, XIX. 625; XVII. 779.
 —Fé in New Mexico, XIX. 625; XIV. 730.
 —MARTA, in New Granada, XIX. 625; X. 797—mountain chain, 795, 796.
 —MAURA, one of the Ionian Isles, XIX. 626; XII. 452; XIII. 348.
 —Anna, president of Mexico, XIV. 712, 713, 714.
 —Cruz, president of the Bolivian republic, IV. 837; XVII. 468, 469.
 Santalaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 205.

SAN—SAR

- Santals, Indian race, XI. 467.
 Santana (General Pedro), XI. 258.
 SANTANDER, in Spain, XIX. 626.
 — (General), IV. 818, 819.
 — (M. de la Serna), on the origin of printing, IV. 707, XVIII. 526—on early printed books, IV. 708
 SANTAREM, town in Portugal, XIX. 626
 SANTIUL (J. Baptiste de), XIX. 626
 SANTIAGO, island, XIX. 626
 —DE CHILI, XIX. 627, VI. 542, 544, 547—academies and schools of, 546
 —DE COMPOSTELLA, XIX. 627
 —DE CUBA, XIX. 628, VII. 567—copper mines of, 566
 —DEL ESTERO, in La Plata, XIX. 628; XVII. 779.
 —in New Granada, X. 797
 Santillana (Maques de). See Mendoza (Inigo Lopez de)
 Santini (Prof.), on the planet Jupiter, IV. 91
 SANTON V., town of Spain, XIX. 628.
 SANTORIN, island, XIX. 628—wine of, XI. 16
 Santorini, his anatomical discoveries, II. 764—fimbriates of, III. 50
 SANTOS, town of Brazil, XIX. 628
 SAO SEBASTIAO, town in Brazil, XIX. 630
 SAONE, river in France, XIX. 628
 —PIUTE, in France, XIX. 628
 —ET LOIRE, in France, XIX. 629
 Saoud, a Wahaby chief, III. 365.
 Sap of plants, circulation of, V. 110; XXI. 268—Coulomb on the circulation of, VII. 464—in trees, XXI. 267, 268.
 Sap-vessels of plants, V. 111
 Sap-wood, V. 61, XXI. 267, 270—in fir timber, 275—should be removed from the timbers of ships, 280.
 Sapajous, in zoology, XIV. 141, 143—brain of, III. 176.
 Sapeida, genus of insects, IX. 146
 Sapindaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 186.
 Sapodilla order of plants, V. 190.
 Saponite, mineral, XV. 84.
 Sapor, or Shapur, king of Persia, XVII. 435—his embassy to Constantinople, VII. 306—his war with the Emperor Constantius, 307; with Julian, XIII. 17
 Sapotaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 190.
 SAPPHIR AND MINERS, XIX. 630, IX. 823, 824; III. 666.
 SAPPHIRE, XIX. 630; XV. 87; XVII. 623
 —in Burmah, V. 779—crystallisation of, VII. 608—specific gravity of, XII. 88—lenses of, XIV. 767—dichroism in, XVI. 666.
 —d'eaux, XV. 88.
 Supphirine, XV. 87
 SAPPHO, XIX. 630—character of the poetry of, XVIII. 102.
 Supromyza, genus of insects, IX. 251.
 Surala-nut, XVI. 395.
 Suprya, genus of insects, IX. 195.
 Sutygites, family of insects, IX. 195.
 SARABAND, Spanish dance, XIX. 630.
 Sarabat, river, XI. 353.
 Saracenic architecture, III. 447—in Spain, 449.
 Saracens, Arabians, or Moors, XV. 305—destruction of their power in Spain, II. 24—their wars with the Roman emperors, VII. 313 et seq.—their invasion of Europe checked by the Crusades, 536—their invasion of France, X. 6; of Italy, XII. 643—their sway in Palestine, XVII. 196—literature, science, and art among, XV. 306—agriculture under, II. 251—their conquest of Spain, and history of their kingdoms there, XX. 460, 465
 —its condition under them, 466—their revolt there in the sixteenth century, 469. See Arabians, Moors.
 SARAGOSSA, or Zaragoza, in Spain, XIX. 630; III. 393—university of, XXI. 492.
 SARAIK, in Russia, XIX. 631.
 SARANSE, in Russia, XIX. 631.
 SARAPUL, in Russia, XIX. 631.
 SARATOGA SPRINGS, XIX. 631—Burgoyne's disaster at, V. 483.
 SARATOV, in Russia, XIX. 631, 632.
 SARAWAK, in Borneo, XIX. 632; V. 45, 49
 —Sir James Brooke's account of, 49.

SAR—SAT

- SARAWAN, in Beloochistan, XIX. 632.
 Sarcocarp, in botany, V. 135
 Sarcocoll, gum-resin, V. 205.
 Sarcocolla, mineral, XV. 75
 Sarcophaga, genus of insects, IX. 249
 SARCOPTAGUS, XIX. 632—of Cecilia Metella, III. 473
 Sarcoramphus, genus of birds, XVI. 739
 SARDANAPALUS, XIX. 632, III. 778; XVI. 272, 275.
 Sardani, pass of, XVII. 420
 Sardinella, genus of fishes, XII. 237.
 Sardines, XII. 236, IX. 763—French fishery of, X. 264
 SARDINIA (Kingdom of), XIX. 632; XII. 653—army, III. 655—monarchy, XV. 414—newspapers, XVI. 203—railway statistics, XVIII. 787—French trade with, X. 259—coins, XV. 442, 444—height of mountains in, XVII. 612—postal system, XVIII. 424—navy, XX. 138—attack of refugees on, 887—weights and measures, XXI. 813—universities, 492—map of, XII. Plate.
 —(island), XIX. 632—physical aspect of, 634—divisions, provinces, population, 610—early history, 642—reduced by the Romans, V. 288—language, XIII. 213—map of, XII. Plate
 SARINIS, or Sarides, in Asia Minor, XIX. 645.
 SARDONIA LAUGHTIN, XIX. 645.
 SARDONYX, XIX. 645; VI. 67.
 SARAPRA, in Russia, XIX. 645.
 Sargus, genus of insects, IX. 237.
 —genus of fishes, XII. 286, 287—fossil, 244.
 SARI, or Sarce, Persian town, XIX. 645.
 Sarine, Swiss river, bridges over, X. 303.
 Sarkolemma, II. 822
 Sarkolite, mineral, XV. 73.
 SARLAT, in France, XIX. 646.
 SARMAZIA, XIX. 646.
 Sarmanian languages, XIII. 215.
 Sarmanians, IX. 388—Constantius' war with the, VII. 302, 306.
 SARNO, town of Naples, XIX. 646.
 —river, XIX. 238
 Saropoda, genus of insects, IX. 100.
 SAROS-PATAK, town in Hungary, XIX. 646
 Sarraceniaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 182.
 SARREHREIMERS, town in France, XIX. 646.
 Sarrotherodon, genus of fishes, XII. 265.
 SARZAPARILLA, XIX. 616; V. 199; III. 128.
 —order of plants, V. 210.
 SARTRE, in France, XIX. 646.
 SARTI (Giuseppe), musician, XIX. 647.
 Sartine (M. de), X. 38.
 SARTO (Andrea d'A. V.), painter, XIX. 647; XVII. 66
 SARUM (Old), XIX. 648.
 SARUN, in India, XIX. 648.
 SARZAT, town in France, XIX. 648.
 Sashes, in jewelry, V. 752—glazing of, 756.
 Sashatchewan, river, XVII. 605.
 Sassanian dynasty, in Persia, XVII. 436—Sassanian coins, XVI. 830.
 SASSARI, town in Sardinia, XIX. 648, 649.
 SASSERAM, town in India, XIX. 648.
 SASSOLITE, mineral, XV. 98.
 SATALIAN, Turkish town, XIX. 648.
 Satan, prominence given to him by the Roman Catholics, III. 312. See Devil.
 Satastes, voyage of, X. 461.
 Satellites of Jupiter, I. 607, 786; IV. 70, 73, 75, 108—of Saturn, 72, 74, 75, 92; I. 860—of Uranus, 1b; IV. 72, 75—of Neptune, I. 860—orbis of the satellites, IV. 73. See the different planets.
 Satin-bird, XVI. 748.
 Satin-spur, XV. 93.
 Satire, Roman, XVIII. 105.
 Sathima, the most eminent, compared, VIII. 205.
 Satisfaction, for injuries, doctrine of, XIII. 277—Popish doctrine of, XVIII. 328.
 SATORALIA-USHLEY, town in Hungary, XIX. 648.
 SATYRA, in India, XIX. 648, 649.
 SATURDAY, XIX. 649—origin of the word, VI. 78; I. 458, a.

SAT—SAV

SATURN, planet, XIX. 649; IV. 71, 92—inequalities of, I. 815; III. 812—periods of revolution, I. 816—ring of, IV. 71—inner ring, 92—satellites of, 72, 74, 75; I. 860—variation in its orbit, IV. 107—physical condition of its surface, 92—discovery of the eighth satellite, 10—Herschel's observations on, I. 840

Saturnalia, XIX. 649.

Saturnia, genus of insects, IX. 212.

Saturninus, Gnostic, X. 688

—— Roman tribune, XIX. 319.

SATURNUS, XIX. 649

Satyrilias, XIV. 692

SATYRS, XIX. 649; IV. 348

Satyrus, genus of insects, IX. 208.

Sauces, adulteration of, IX. 770.

Sauchy Burn, defeat of James III at, XIX. 763.

Sauer-kraut, X. 566

SAUGOR, in India, XIX. 649—Sepoy insurrection at, XVI. 810.

SAUL, XIX. 650; XII. 766.

—— XVII. 344 See Paul.

Saul-wood of India, XXI. 277.

Sauley (Mr F. de), his work on the insects of the Dead Sea, IX. 24.

SAUMAREZ (James, Baron de), admiral, XIX. 650—his naval engagement off the coast of Spain, V. 583

SAUMUR, town in France, XIX. 650.

SAUNDERSON (Dr Nicholas), mathematician, XIX. 650, I. 713, n. 4; IV. 774, 780

SAURAT, village in France, XIX. 651

Saurays, fish, XII. 244

Sauria, or Saurian reptiles, XIX. 21; XVII. 631—number known, XIX. 51, n.—their bones, III. 86 *et seq*—vocal organs, 102—ontology of, XVI. 433—fossil, XVII. 140 See Lizards.

Saurichthys, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 335

Saurida, genus of fishes, XII. 248.

SAURIN (Jacques), preacher, XIX. 651.

—— (Joseph), geometriean, XIX. 652—on the calculus, IX. 676.

Saurocephalus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 346.

Saurodon, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 346

Sauridae, family of fossil fishes, XII. 335, 349; XVII. 126

Sauropterus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 335; XVII. 126.

Sauropterygia, fossil reptiles, XVII. 143.

Sauropus, fossil reptiles, XVII. 133.

Sauron, battle of, XXI. 826.

Saurostomus, fossil fishes, XII. 336, XVII. 126.

Saururaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 207.

Saurus, genus of fishes, XII. 244, 248.

Saury-pike, fish, XII. 264.

Sausage poison, IX. 761.

SAUSSURE (H. Benedict de), XIX. 652—his investigation of plants, II. 378—his account of two albinos, 447—his ascent of Mont Blanc, 627; and observations on its height, IV. 467—on the carbonic acid of the atmosphere, 182—on the temperature of the air at different altitudes, VI. 780; and of the earth at different depths, 767—on the temperature of the Swiss lakes, 777—his cyanometer, VII. 606—electrical effects of thunder clouds experienced by, 39—on electricity, VIII. 681, 666, 571, 678—his electrometer, 619—on evaporation, IX. 407—on the descent of glaciers, X. 637, 638—his hygrometer, XII. 186.

—— (H. F.), his works on insects, IX. 24.

Saussurite, mineral, XII. 669; XV. 71.

Sauve-garde, reptiles, XIX. 28

SAUVÉUR (Joseph), mathematician, XIX. 653.

SAVAGE (Mr) his printing ink, XVIII. 645

—— (Richard), poet, XIX. 653—his intimacy with Dr Johnson, XII. 798, his Life by, 10, 802—poetry of, XVIII. 124—Pope's generosity to, 334, n.

Savages, if left to themselves incapable of civilization, I. 449, 450; VIII. 91; XIII. 186—their supposed antidotes to snake poison, XVIII. 134.

SAV—SAX

SAVAN, island, XIX. 654; XVIII. 277

SAVAN DROOG, Indian bull-frog, XIX. 654; V. 541; XI. 498

SAVANNAH, in Georgia, XIX. 654; X. 565

—— river, VI. 247, X. 565.

Savannahs, XVII. 609—in Guiana, XI. 81

Savart (Felix), I. 892—on the propagation of sound, 10—on musical notes, 10—on the vibration of solids, 10—his experiments in hydraulics, XII. 151.

Savary (General), X. 130

—— (M.), on electro-magnetism, VIII. 632; XXI. 638.

—— (Nicolas), traveller, XIX. 654

—— (Servington), his double image micrometer, XIV. 747.

SAVE, river, XIX. 654; XII. 10

SAVERNE, town in France, XIX. 654

Savart (Capt. Thomas), his steam-engine, X. 574, 577; I. 770.

Savi (Prof.), on the cohabitation of the ant and grasshopper, III. 264—on the myriapoda, XI. 747, 748—on birds, XVI. 781, 760, 777, n. 4, 781

SAVIGLIANO, Italian city, XIX. 654.

Savigny on the Capitulares, VI. 220—on the Roman law, 748.

—— (M.), on the organs of the mouth in insects, IX. 30—on the arachnides, III. 371, 386—on the mollusca, XI. 331—on the annelides, 293 *et seq*

SAVILLE (George), Marquis of Halifax, XIX. 655; V. 439 *et seq*

—— (Sir Henry), XIX. 655.

Saville (Sir George), V. 490

—— (Henry), his disapprobation of the use of tea, XXI. 89.

SAVINGS BANKS, XIX. 656—in Belgium, IV. 624—Ireland, XII. 528—Lombardy, XIII. 647—London, 605—New York, XVI. 229—Paris, XVII. 283.

SAVONA, Italian city, XIX. 674, 640

SAVONAROLA (Girolamo), XIX. 674; XIV. 459

Savory, plant, V. 202.

Savor (duchy of), XIX. 675—climate, 633—cultivation, 634—glaciers of, X. 683.

—— cabbage, XI. 737.

—— House of, XIX. 641.

Savria (Marquis of), V. 465

SAW, XIX. 676—circular saw for farms, II. 268—manufacture of surgical saws, VII. 601—circular, for cutting iron, XII. 561, 574

Saw-dust, as manure, II. 406—as a deodorizer, and preserver of animal substances, XIX. 621.

Saw-fish, XII. 223. See Pustis.

Saw-flies, IX. 183.

SAW-MILL, XIX. 678—at Chatham, VIII. 81—in Holland, XI. 583.

Saw-wood, yellow dyestuff, VIII. 297.

SAWYER WARREN, in India, XIX. 678.

Sawyer's work, V. 754

Sax, of Brussels, his wind instruments, XV. 742.

SAXE (Maurice, Count of), marshal, XIX. 679; V. 469.

SAXE-ALTEMBURG, XIX. 680.

SAXE-COBURG-GOTHA, XIX. 681.

SAXE-MEININGEN, XIX. 682

SAXE-WEIMAR-EISENACH, XIX. 682.

Saxicava, genus of mollusks, XV. 350—fossil, XVII. 108.

Saxicola, genus of birds, XVI. 755

Saxifragaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 194—region of the, 227; XVII. 627.

SAXO, or Saxo Grammaticus, XIX. 683, 692.

Saxon architecture in England, III. 480—bibles, IV. 702—heptarchy, VIII. 656—language, XIII. 211—laws of frankpledge, XVIII. 191—roads, XIX. 390.

—— Reen, town in Transylvania, XX. 912

Saxon-blue, dyeing of, VIII. 803.

Saxon-green, dyeing of, VIII. 809, 810.

Saxons, VIII. 792—their conquest of England, V. 874, 381—settlement in Scotland, XIX. 743—coinage of the, VII. 70—Charlemagne's wars with, X. 7, 8, 9—naval affairs under the, XX. 119

SAXONY, XIX. 684—army of, III. 651—

SAX—SCA

metallic produce of, XV. 248—silver mines of, 235—tin mines, 240—agriculture in, XVIII. 665, 666—the Reformation established in, 822—postal system, 424—ravaged by Tilly, XX. 849—war with Charles XII of Sweden, 854—weights and measures, XXI. 813—universities, 492—wool, 905, 906.

SAXONY, Prussian province, XIX. 687

Saxton's magneto-electric machine, XXI. 646.

Sax (Jean Baptiste), political economist, XIX. 687—on the value of money, XV. 420—on political economy, XVIII. 254, 259, n. 2

—— (Thomas), his work on American insects, IX. 17

Say's stereometer, XII. 87

Saynte, mineral, XV. 116.

Scab and Scab-mange, in cattle and sheep, XXI. 578

Scabfold, bricklayer's, V. 738.

SCALA NOVA, Turkish town, XIX. 688.

Scalambra, cape, XX. 245.

Scalaria, genus of mollusks, XV. 383

Scalding, death from, XIV. 431.

Scalds, poets, XIX. 689.

Scale, mathematical instrument, XIX. 688—on music, 10; XV. 706—in botany, V. 113, 124—scales of force, velocity, acceleration, time, &c., VIII. 352—scales of fishes, XII. 216, 217, 332, 333; XVII. 123, 124, 127—dialling scales, VII. 782.

—— of the Trigonometrical Survey, XXI. 332 *et seq*

Scale-stones, their use in sculpture, XIX. 868.

Scalene triangle, X. 507.

SCALIGER (Julius Caesar), XIX. 688.

—— (Joseph Justus), XIX. 688; V. 254, n. 4; XVII. 523—derives the Greek letters from the Phœnician, II. 612—collection of anecdotes of, 787—his vanity and dogmatism, 738—Julian period proposed by, VI. 81—his altercation with Scapulus, XIX. 735—on the squaring of the circle, XX. 521.

Scalites, fossil mollusks, XVII. 110.

Scalloway, in Shetland, XX. 113

Scalops, genus of mammalia, XIV. 151—teeth of, XVI. 450.

Scalp, muscles of the, III. 39.

Scalpel, XX. 821.

Scapellum, fossils, XVII. 101.

Scaly-head, XIV. 192

SCAMANDER, river, XIX. 688, XXI. 356, 357, 358

Scammony, plant, V. 201

Scamozzi, architect, III. 452.

Scampitro, fish, XII. 293.

SCANDERBEG, XIX. 688; II. 736; XXI. 368.

SCANDEROON, XIX. 688; II. 469.

SCANDINAVIA, XIX. 688; XVI. 316; VII. 750—mythology of, XV. 767—romances of, XIX. 264—reptiles of, 15—languages, XIII. 211—Cambrian and Cambro-Silurian rocks of, XV. 196, 197—mountain system of, XVII. 695—heights of mountains, 642, 643—sulphide in, XX. 799.

SCANDINAVIAN LITERATURE, XIX. 689—historical writers, XI. 549

—— machine-press, XVIII. 502

Scandinavians, XIX. 688—in the Hæbrides, XII. 279—origin of jury trial among the, XII. 22—discovery of America by the, XVIII. 163, n. 2.

Scanfa, plain of, XX. 861.

Scanno, lake, XX. 239.

Scansones, order of birds, XVI. 774.

Scantlings of timber, XX. 780.

Scape, in botany, V. 113.

Scapement. See Escapement.

Scaphander, genus of mollusks, XV. 372.

Scaphidites, tribe of insects, IX. 114

Scaphidium, genus of insects, IX. 114.

Scaphites, extinct mollusks, XV. 394; XVII. 118.

Scaphoid bone, III. 36.

Scaphura, genus of insects, IX. 158.

Scapolite, XV. 72.

SCA—SCH

Scapula, III. 81—in the mammalia, 81—in birds, 86—in reptiles, 88

—— (Jomr), XIX. 702—his conduct to Henry Stephanus, XX. 680.

—— (Ostorus), V. 377.

Scabioides, family of insects, IX. 118

Scabiobus, genus of insects, IX. 122 and n. 2—Egyptian, 119, XI. 388—sacred to Ptah and Rae, VIII. 439.

Scarba, whirlpool of Coryvreckan near, VII. 422.

SCARBOROUGH, XIX. 702

—— in Tobago, XXI. 297.

Scarbrote, mineral, XV. 84.

Scarf-skin, II. 834

Scarving, in carpentry, V. 746; VI. 261, 263

Scarties, genus of insects, IX. 85.

Scartides, family of insects, IX. 85, 87

SCARLATI (Alessandro), musician, XIX. 703.

—— (Domenico), musician, XIX. 703

Scarlet, mode of dyeing wool, VIII. 288; silk, 292, cotton, 295

—— FEVER, XIX. 704

SCARPA (Antonio), XIX. 704—his anatomical investigations, II. 767—on the structure of bone, 826—on the nerves, 806, 814—on the nerves of the nose, III. 43—his surgical improvements, XX. 819.

SCARPANTO, island, XIX. 705.

Scarping, in ship-building, XVI. 97

SCARSON (Paul), XIX. 705, XIV. 100

Scaurus, fish, XII. 266, 267—bones and teeth of, XVI. 410, 420, 421, 422, 426

Scatharus, genus of fishes, XII. 287.

Scatophaga, genus of insects, IX. 251.

Scatophagus, genus of fishes, XII. 301, 302—fossil, 344

Scatopsa, genus of insects, IX. 229.

Scattery, island, VI. 754, 755.

Scaurus, genus of insects, IX. 129.

Scarston, battle of, VIII. 662.

Scattæ, Anglo-Saxon coin, VII. 70.

Sceaux, in France, XX. 34.

Scelodonsaurus, fossil reptiles, XVII. 150.

Scenery, introduced upon the stage by Æschylus, VIII. 134.*

Scenopini, family of insects, IX. 244.

Scenopinus, genus of insects, IX. 244.

Scelopaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 206

SCRIPTURISM, XIX. 706—Bishop Earle's description of a sceptic, I. 51—Illum's, 209, 210; XII. 5, 6; XIV. 612—Glanvil on, X. 642—of Sextus Empiricus, XX. 67.

SCETHES, XIX. 711.

SCHADOW (J. Gottfried), sculptor, XIX. 711.

Schaeffer (J. C.), his works on insects, IX. 6.

Schafarik (Paul Joseph), on Slavonic philology, XVII. 529

SCHAFFHAUSEN, XIX. 711; XX. 882—falls of, XVII. 605.

SCHALKEN (Godfrey), painter, XIX. 712.

Schamyl, VI. 342, X. 507.

SCHLASSBURG, Austrian city, XIX. 712.

Schaum (H.), his works on insects, IX. 22.

SCHAUMBURG-LIPPE, XIX. 712; XIII. 603.

Schaw (Sir John), his improvement of Greenock, XI. 45.

Schaw's Hospital, XI. 178.

Schazki, Russian town, XX. 94.

SCHERKE (Charles William), XIX. 712—his experiments on heat, I. 762; XI. 262—on the composition of the atmosphere, IV. 180—his chemical discoveries, 758—on the effects of light on metallic solutions, XIII. 459.

Scheele's green, VI. 495; VIII. 319.

Scheelclite, mineral, XV. 106.

Scheellie, mineral, XV. 105.

SCHERMAKER (Peter), Flemish sculptor, XIX. 713.

Scheerwite, mineral, XV. 125.

SCHNEFFER (Ary), painter, XIX. 713; III. 719.

—— (JEAN), antiquary, XIX. 713.

Schehallion, Scotch mountain, XVII. 454—geology of, 456—height of, 643 and n. 2—Maskelyne's observations on the attraction of, I. 824; III. 807; XIV. 325.

SCHNEID (Eberard), philologist, XIX. 714.

SCH—SCH

- Scheika, in Arabia, III. 350, 351—among the Druses, VIII 199
- SCHNEIDER (Christoph), XIX. 714—on the solar spots, III 801; IV. 25, 26, 28, XIV 742—on optics, XVI 531.
- SCHNEIDER, river, XIX. 714, IV. 611, XI 581, XVII. 647—navigation of, X. 77.
- SCHNEIDTADT, town in France, XIX. 714
- Schellenberg (J. R.), his works on insects, IX. 11.
- SCHNELLING (F. W. Joseph von), XIX. 714, XI 282—his system of philosophy, I. 200, 201; XIV 607—on ancient mysteries, XV. 734—his pantheism, XVII 237—Jacobi on, XII 668.
- Schemacha. See Shamaka.
- Schemes of the Scotch Established Church, XVIII 493.
- SCHENK, in Hungary, XIX. 716
- Schenck's process of flax-retting, II. 332, IX. 655, 656.
- SCHENCKADY, town in New York, XIX. 716.
- Scherer (General), X. 111.
- SCHERZO, XIX. 716
- Scheubelius, his improvements in algebra, II 485
- SCHUFFELIN (Hans Leonard), painter, XIX. 716
- Schultz's calculating engine, I. 881.
- SCHIEVENINGEN, in Holland, XIX. 716.
- Schiebs See Schelks.
- SCHIEDAM, in Holland, XIX. 716—distilleries of gin at, VIII. 51.
- Schiel's pivot, XIV. 406
- Schiffermüller, his work on insects, IX. 7
- Schilbus, genus of fishes, XII 261.
- SCHILLER (J. C. Frederick von), XIX. 716—his plays, VIII. 167—poetry, XVIII. 119—his ballad of the Fight with the Dragon, 108—novels, XIX. 293.
- Schillerspar, XV. 79
- SCHINKEL (Karl Friedrich), architect, XIX. 721.
- SCHINZENACH, in Switzerland, XIX. 722.
- SCHIO, in Austrian Italy, XIX. 722.
- Schlöthe (J. C.), his work on insects, IX. 23.
- Schirach on bees, IV. 571.
- SCHISM, XIX. 722.
- Schisopyge, genus of fishes, XII. 257.
- Schisothorax, genus of fishes, XII. 257.
- Schist, XV. 154. See Slate.
- Schizandraceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 181.
- Schizaster, fossil echinoderm, XVII. 100
- SCHLAN, town in Bohemia, XIX. 722.
- SCHLAWE, town in Prussia, XIX. 722.
- SCHLEGEL (A. Wilhelm von), XIX. 722—on the study of Sanscrit, XVII. 529—his acquaintance with M. de Staël, X. 526.
- (F. C. Wilhelm von), XIX. 722—writings of, I. 214, n. 2—on the tragedies of Euripides, VIII. 138; IX. 879—on French comedy, 156—on the German drama, 167—on the Indians, XVII. 527—on poetry, XVIII. 103, 104 *et seq.*
- his work on serpents, XIX. 16, n. 2—partial translation of, by Professor Traill, *ib.*—on ophiidians, 40 and n. 1—on serpents, 42, 47 *et seq.*—his arrangement of serpents, 71—on the serpents of Amboyna, II. 661.
- Schleiden (J. M.), on the cytoblast, II. 783; V. 67—on the cells of plants, 68—on humus, II. 377—on plants, V. 73 *et seq.*
- on the structure and physiology of plants, V. 67 *et seq.*
- SCHLIERMACKER (F. D. E.), theologist, XIX. 725; XVII. 525—on our dependence on the Deity, XIV. 620, n. 2; 621, n. 2—on theology, XXI. 181, 189 *et seq.*
- SCHLETZ, XIX. 727.
- Schleroderm, family of fossil fishes, XII. 338.
- SCHLESWIG, in Denmark, XIX. 727.
- or Sleswick (duchy of), XIX. 727, VII. 745, 746.
- Schligmann on birds, XVI. 729.
- Schlüzer (A. Ludwig von), historian, XIX. 727.
- SCHLUSSEBURG, in Russia, XIX. 727.
- SCHMAKALDEN, XIX. 727.

SCH—SCH

- Schmidt-Gobel (H. M.), his work on insects, IX. 23.
- Schmitz, on the figure of the earth, IX. 563.
- (H. D.), his weighing-table, XXI. 798
- (Dr Leonhard), his edition of Niebuhr's Lectures, XVI. 260—his translation of Zumpt's Latin Grammar, XXI. 1010
- SCHMOLLN, XIX. 727.
- SCHMOLNITZ, in Hungary, XIX. 727.
- SCHNEEBERG, in Saxony, XIX. 727
- SCHNEIDMÜHL, Prussian town, XIX. 728
- Schneider (G. T.), his work on insects, IX. 22
- (JOHANN GOTTLÖB), XVI. 728—his Greek Lexicon, XVII. 526.
- Schneiderian membrane, III. 42
- Schnitzler (M.), on the forests of Russia, XIX. 519
- SCHNORR VON KARLSFELD (Johus), painter, XIX. 728
- SCHNURER (C. Friedrich), XIX. 729.
- Schoffer on birds, XVI. 729.
- Schoen (Martin), engraver, VIII. 800.
- Schoenbrunn, palace of, XXI. 585
- Schoenher (C. J.), his works on insects, IX. 12
- SCHÖFFER (Peter), early printer, XIX. 728, XVIII. 528, 529, XXI. 400.
- Scholars at Oxford, XXI. 456.
- Scholarships, in universities, XXI. 472, 490.
- Scholastic Ethics, I. 323 *et seq.*
- SCHOLIAST, XIX. 728—scholastics, VIII. 90.
- Scholium, X. 508.
- SCHOLZ (J. M. August), philologist, XIX. 728—on the text of the New Testament, 836.
- Schomburg, clipper sailing-ship, XX. 164, 192
- (F. A.), Duke of, XIX. 728—his Irish campaigns, V. 442, XII. 489.
- town in Austria, XIX. 729.
- (Uldaric), a blind scholar, IV. 779
- Schomburgk, his discovery of the Victoria regia, XI. 82
- Schonbein's method of making gun-cotton, XI. 94
- SCHÖNEBECK, town in Prussia, XIX. 729.
- Schoner (Andrew), his work on dialling, VII. 776.
- (John), on dialling, VII. 775.
- SCHÖNHAGEN, town in Saxony, XIX. 729.
- SCHÖNLINDE, town in Bohemia, XIX. 729.
- Schoolmasters, diseases of, XIV. 442—their salaries, XIX. 801, 802
- Schoolmen, their perversion of Aristotle's philosophy, III. 551.
- SCHOOLS, XIX. 729; XXI. 444—infant and adult, IV. 618—parochial, XVIII. 491—of the Free Church, 495—principal English, VIII. 745—collegiate and grammar in England, *ib.*—number in England, 746—supported by religious bodies in England, *ib.*—day, Sunday, and evening, for adults, in England, 747; in Britain, XV. 824—receiving grants from Government, *ib.*; XIX. 802—normal schools, XV. 827; in Glasgow, X. 653; in Scotland, XIX. 802—as affecting health, XIV. 444—Bell's schools, XV. 822—in Ireland, XII. 533, 534—Belgium, IV. 617—Bengal, 652—Scotland, XIX. 802, 803. See the different countries; also National Education, Universities.
- medical, in the United Kingdom, XIV. 463—of Edinburgh, XXI. 484—in United States, 493.
- mining, XV. 247; XXI. 323.
- of Art, in Leeds, XIII. 314.
- of design. See Design, schools of.
- of law and theology, in United States, XXI. 494.
- of Music, XIX. 729. See Conservatory, Mattel, Martini.
- Sunday. See Sunday Schools.
- trade, XXI. 321.
- SCHÖÖTER (Francis), mathematician, XIX. 729—on amicable numbers, II. 716.

SCH—SCI

- Schori, XI. 89.
- Schorlamite, mineral, XV. 110.
- SCHOTT (Andrew), Jesuit, XIX. 727
- (Gasper), on aeronautics, II. 167—on the coldness of the moon's rays, VII. 766
- (Dr William), XVII. 535—Klaproth's exposure of his pretended translation of Confucius, XIII. 105—on the text of the New Testament, XIX. 836
- Schouten, his visit to Papua, IV. 265, and New Britain, 264.
- Schouw (Prof.), on the distribution of plants, V. 223—on the flora of Britain. 231—his phytogeographic regions, 227, XVII. 627.
- Schouwens, island in Zealand, XXI. 968
- Schrank (F. de P.), his work on insects, IX. 7
- Schreger on the lymphatics, II. 805.
- Schreibers (C.), his works on insects, IX. 13.
- SCHREVELIUS (Cornelius), Dutch lexicographer, XIX. 730.
- Schioeter on the moon's atmosphere, IV. 44—on Mercury, 65; Venus, *ib.*, Ceres, 68; Pallas, *ib.*, Jupiter, 69, 71.
- Schroterite, mineral, XV. 83.
- Schubert on the fertility of Palestine, XVII. 190
- Schubler (Prof.), on the physical characters of soils, II. 297—on atmospheric electricity, VIII. 578.
- Schusky, XIX. 475.
- SCHUVA, town in Russia, XIX. 730
- Schulenburg, or Schulleberg (Count), XII. 456 and n. 2—his campaign against the Swedes, XX. 853—skilful retreat, 854—defeated by Renschild, *ib.*
- SCHULTZ (Albert), XIX. 730.
- (HENRI ALBERT), XIX. 730
- SCHULTZ (E. C. Friedrich), German poet, XIX. 730
- Schulz (Dr David), his edition of the New Testament, XIX. 837.
- Schulze on logic, XIII. 581, n.
- SCHUMACHER (II. Christian), astronomer, XIX. 730—his astronomical publications, III. 814.
- SCHUYLKILL, river, XVII. 595, 598, 610.
- Canal, XVII. 397.
- SCHWARACH, town in Bavaria, XIX. 730.
- Schwann (Dr), on the cytoblast in animal tissues, II. 783—on the development of animals and plants, XVI. 408—on the teeth, 409.
- SCHWANTHALER (L. Michael), sculptor, XIX. 730
- Schwartz (Barthold), XI. 150; III. 581, n. 636.
- Schwartz (M. G.), on the Coptic language, XVII. 534.
- SCHWARZ (C. Friedrich), missionary, XIX. 731.
- SCHWARZBURG, in Germany, XIX. 732.
- SCHWAZ, town in Austria, XIX. 732.
- SCHWEDT, town in Prussia, XIX. 732.
- Schwegler on the Pelagid, XVII. 370, 371—on Niebuhr's theory respecting the sources of early Roman history, XIX. 309, n.
- SCHWEDNITZ, town in Prussia, XIX. 732
- Schweigger's electrical multiplier, I. 97; VII. 616; XXI. 641
- SCHWEINFURTH, town in Bavaria, XIX. 733.
- Schweitzer (Dr), his analysis of sea water, XIX. 585.
- SCHWELM, town in Prussia, XIX. 733.
- Schwenkfeld on ornithology, XVI. 725.
- Schweran, instrument, VIII. 270.
- Schwerd (F. M.), on optics, XVI. 613.
- SCHWERIN, German town, XIX. 733.
- Prussian town, XIX. 733.
- Field-Marshal, XVIII. 652, 653.
- Schwynneym, early printer, XVIII. 632.
- SCHWIBEN, town in Prussia, XIX. 733.
- SCHWYZ, Swiss canton, XIX. 733—town, *ib.*—statistics of, XX. 882.
- SCIACCA, town in Sicily, XIX. 733.
- Sciadephorus, genus of mollusks, XV. 400.
- Sciades, genus of fishes, XII. 262.
- Sciama, genus of fishes, XII. 265.
- Sciandide, family of fishes, XII. 284, 285.
- Sciara, genus of insects, IX. 229.

SCI—SCO

- Sciatica, XIX. 142.
- Sciara, town in Sicily, XIX. 734
- SCIENCE, XIX. 734—classification of the sciences by Bacon, d'Alcambert, and Locke, I. 1-8—dissertations on mathematical and physical, 649, 676, 799—experimental, introduced into England, IV. 452—mixture of, with poetry, XVIII. 108—science and art, XIX. 107, I. 805—in Egypt, VIII. 442, 447—medical, XIV. 449—application of, to ship-building, XX. 140—academies of, II. 62—in the United States, XXI. 424.
- Scioidel, family of fossil fishes, XII. 344.
- SCILLY ISLANDS, XIX. 734—Sir Cloudesley Shovel wrecked on the, V. 449; XX. 227
- Scincidae, family of reptiles, XIX. 38.
- Scincus, genus of reptiles, XIX. 38.
- SCINDIA, XIX. 734. See Sindh
- Scindia, Indian chief, XXI. 819.
- Scink, reptile, XIX. 28, 38.
- Sciro, island, XIX. 734—massacre of, in 1823, XI. 28—ancient coins of, XVI. 376—wine of, XXI. 886
- Sciomyza, genus of insects, IX. 254
- Scion, in grafting, V. 168; XI. 703
- SCORPIUS (Gaspas), XIX. 735
- Scioto, river, XVI. 489
- SCIPIO, Roman family, XIX. 735.
- (AFRICANUS MAJOR), XIX. 735, 311, 314—assisted by Masinissa, XIV. 334—his war with the Carthaginians, VI. 298—his operations against Hannibal, XI. 209.
- (EMILIANUS AFRICANUS MINOR), XIX. 737, 307, 318—his operations against the Carthaginians, VI. 301—Carthage destroyed by, 303; XIX. 314—Numantia taken by, XVI. 350; XX. 458.
- Scirrhus of the stomach in the horse, XXI. 568
- Scissurella, fossil mollusks, XVII. 111.
- Scitamineæ, nat. order of plants, V. 211.
- Scitidae, family of mammalia, XVII. 632.
- Scitius, genus of mammalia, XIV. 178.
- SLAVONIA, XIX. 737. See Slavonia.
- Slavonian Bible, IV. 701, 702; XIX. 840.
- Slavonians, IV. 318. See Slavonians.
- Slavonic language, XXI. 214, IX. 301—contact of the Arian and Semitic families to be found in, XVII. 535.
- philology, XVII. 529.
- Scleranthaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 204.
- Sclerodermis, fishes, XII. 312
- Scleroderma, fossil fishes, XII. 351.
- Sclerogentidæ, family of fishes, XII. 261.
- Sclerognathus, genus of fishes, XII. 258.
- Sclerotic membrane, III. 43, 95; XIII. 401.
- Scolds, punishment of, VI. 322.
- Scotex, entozoa, XXI. 979.
- Scoteroso, mineral, XV. 71.
- Scotzite, mineral, XV. 75—pyro-electricity of, VII. 500.
- Scolla, genus of insects, IX. 195.
- Scolletes, family of insects, IX. 195.
- Scoliodon, sub-genus of fishes, XII. 323.
- Scollostoma, fossil mollusks, XVII. 110
- Scoloker (Anthony), printer, XXI. 401.
- Scolopax, genus of birds, XVI. 802.
- Scolopendra, genus of myriapoda, XV. 749.
- Scelopoides, genus of fishes, XII. 278.
- Scolytus, genus of insects, IX. 142.
- Scomber, genus of fishes, XII. 295.
- Scomberesocidae, family of fishes, XII. 264.
- Scomberesox, genus of fishes, XII. 264.
- Scomberidae, family of fishes, XII. 292, 296, 293, 331—fossil, 345.
- SCONE, village in Perthshire, XIX. 737.
- Scorpa, sculptor, XIX. 737, 857.
- Scorpeidae, family of fishes, XII. 248.
- Scorpis, genus of fishes, XII. 248.
- Scopia. See Uskup.
- Scopoli on birds, XVI. 729—his work on insects, IX. 5.
- Scops, genus of birds, XVI. 746.
- Scopus, genus of birds, XVI. 800.
- SCORUS, in music, XIX. 738. See Partition.
- SCORSEBY (William, J. D.), XIX. 738—on the magnetic effects of electricity, VII. 600—on the temperature of the

SCO—SCO

Arctic regions, VI 770—on the height of waves, XI 216—his artificial magnets, XIV 71—his magnetometer, 82—on the walrus, 173—on Greenland, XI 40, 41—on medusæ, XXI 997.

Scoropæ Sound, XI 41.

Scorodite, mineral, XV 102.

Scorpenæ, genus of fishes, XII 280, 283.

Scorpion, genus of arachnides, III 385.

Scorpion's Heart, star, III 267.

Scorpions, III 384, VIII 433; XVII 637—fossil, 103.

Scorpiis, genus of fishes, XII 302.

Scorzonera, XI 740.

Scot (Alexander), IX 322 n 2.

—(Dr), of Corstorphine, on domestic poultry, XVI 789.

—(REGINALD), XIX 740—on the heathenism of the Church of Rome, III 311, n 2.

—and lot, XV 683.

Scotch elm, XVII 758.

—Guards, XI 74.

—pine, XVII 756—timber of, XXI 275.

—snuff, XXI 295, 297.

Scoters, birds, XVI 816.

Scoti, VI 74.

Scotia, in architecture, III 512.

—Ireland originally so named, VII 733.

Scotchironicon, IX 777, 778.

Scotinuss, genus of insects, IX 130.

Scotists, See Duns (John).

SCOTLAND, XIX 741—history of, ib—statistics of, 790—reasons why no great writer appeared there in the age of Locke, I 105—metaphysical and moral philosophers of, 220 *et seq.*, 284, 427 (see Hume, Reid, Stewart, &c.)—mathematical and physical science in, 807 *et seq.* (see Leslie, Watt, Robison, Black, &c.)—agriculture, II 254, 258, 261, 263 *et seq.*, VIII 725—Agricultural Chemical Association, II 265, 374—agricultural societies, 265; VIII 388—Antoninus' wall, III 281, V 379—archbishops formerly in, 423—archery, 425, 428—bagpipe, IV 365—Covenanters, 371, V 395, 428 *et seq.*, VII 469—bankruptcy system, IV 417—rearing of bees recommended, 587—introduction of bleaching, 758—ale-brewing, V 326, 334—royal burghs, 64—ancient population of, 375—union of the crowns of England and, 381, XXI 418—attempt of James VI. to establish Episcopacy, V 389—similar attempt by Charles I., 394—civil war with him, 395—his visit in 1641, 393—Solemn League and Covenant, 404; VII 469—invaded by Cromwell, V 414—tyrannized over by Charles II., 428, 432—submission to William the Third, 440—battle of Killikrankie, 441—massacre of Glencoe, 443—colony on the Isthmus of Darien, 444 (see Darien)—union with England, 449—attempt to dissolve the union, 452—rebellions in 1715 and 1745, 453, 460—subsequent measures for tranquillizing the Highlands, 462—application of the Catholics for relief, 490—Act for the restoration of forfeited estates, 514—complaint of grievances by the royal burghs in 1791, 541—Act for the relief of the Catholics, 549—prosecution of Muir and Palmer in 1793, 550—Acts of Parliament in 1810, respecting ministers' stipends and the Court of Session, 608—resistance to the abolition of small notes, 644—Reform Bill, 661, 668—disruption of the Established Church, 669—Buchanan's History of, 719—castles, VI 327—Chalmers' Caledonia, 402—assassination common in the sixteenth century, 626—Lord High Constable, VII 299—corn-laws, 378—coronach, 412—cotton-manufacture, 445 *et seq.*; X 850, XIV 286—Lord Hailes' Annals of, VII 634—Defoe's mission to, 696—deaf and dumb, 680, 687—distillation, VIII 47, 48, 51, 52—law of divorce, 67, 72—early drama, 144

SCO—SCO

—George IV.'s visit to, 393—emigration from the Highlands, 651—Edward the First's attempts to subjugate, 661—extent of, 715—language, 797—Episcopacy, IX 182—fisheries, 603 *et seq.*, 635—vitified forts, 790—glass-making, X 659—Presbyterianism, XI 492, XVIII 489—horses, XI 682—crown of, 335—royal arms of, 323—form of marriage in, XII 51—form of infetment in, 379—jury trial, 23, 24—insurance-offices, 407—highways, 433; XXI 43—irrigation, XII 619—iron manufacture, 574—leases, XIII 304—leprosy formerly in, 340—libraries, 400—law of libel, 358—free-masonry, XIV 338—proportion of insane, 536—geology, XV 137 *et seq.*—banks and banking, 483—education, 825—militia, 8—money, 435, 440, XVI 388—monarchy, XV 414—municipal system, 685—inland navigation, XVI 55, 58—newspapers, 184 *et seq.*, 192—notaries in, 336—school of painting, XVII 80—parliament, 290—representative peers, 293—franchise, 294—mountains, 595, heights of, 643—police, XVIII 202—early printing, 538—legislation, 840—marriages, births, and deaths, 841—pauons, 570—convicts, 585—railway statistics, 786, 787 *et seq.*—post-office, 403 *et seq.*—Reformation, 830—regalia, ib—Robertson's History of, XIX 230—savings-banks, 659—slavery, X 321—Stewart's History of, 783—increase of spirit duties in, XXI 73—quantity of spirits charged with consumption duties, 74—Trigonometrical survey of, 332 *et seq.*—unvestities, 472—measures, III 584; XXI 806—weights, 806—wool, 907—map of, XIX 146. See Britain, Highlands, and the names of counties and towns; also the Chronological Table, VI 683 *et seq.*

Scotobius, genus of insects, IX 129.

Scots, VI 74—their wars with the Romans, 380—in Ireland, XIX 742—form a settlement in Kenture, 743—their invasions of Ireland, XII 470, 473—Scotch settlers in Ulster, 479. See Scotland.

Scott (C. H.), his work on the Danes and Swedes, X 865.

—(DAVID), painter, XIX 812—his picture of Vasco da Gama, X 393—(General), Mexico taken by, XIV 714.

—(JOHN, BARON ELDON), chancellor, XIX 813.

—(J. Corse), on the dentition of the elephant, III 106, XVI 474, 475.

—(MICHAEL), wizard, XIX 817.

—(THOMAS), divine, XIX 818.

—(Sir WALTER), XIX 818—on the spectre that appeared to Brutus, III 210, n 3—on apparitions, 318, 320, 321—his connection with Mr Constable, VII 299—sum of money received for his works, 356—his article on the drama, in this work, VIII 137, n—his monument in Edinburgh, 406—on licensing plays, IX 530, n 1—his intimacy with Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd, XI 557—letter from Hogg to, 558, n—his mind pre-eminently of a historical cast, 546, 548—Lockhart's Life of, XIII 548—Leyden's assistance to, 354—his attention to the minute peculiarities of nature, XVIII 94—poetry of, 125—as a novelist, XIX 280—on the character of Swift's Examiner, XVI 189—on Joanna Bailie, IV 369—on the works of Fielding, IX 539, 540, 541, Richardson, XIX 272; Sterne, 274; Mackenzie, 275; Walpole, 276; Charlotte Smith, 270, Matutin, 277; Le Sage, 288—imitators of, 281—an occasional contributor to the Edinburgh Review, 820—his intercourse with Southey, XX 455—his notices of Swift, 874, 875—his biography of Swift, 878—his notice of Professor Wilson, XXI 876—Wilkie's picture of him and his family, 867.

—(WILLIAM, LORD STOWELL), XIX 825—on collisions at sea, VII 181—on

SCO—SCY

the law of divorce, VIII 71—on the marriage laws, XII 51 *et seq.*

Scotus (Marianus), his story of Pope Joan, XII 714.

—See Duns Scotus.

—See Ergena.

SCOTGAL (Henry), XIX 826.

Scoulai's grubber, II 272.

Scouring of wool, IV 769; VIII 275; XXI 921—silk, IV 770, VIII 276—cotton, 277.

—of harbours, XI 223—of rivers, XVI 73.

Scrafton (Luke), on the practice of burying money in India, XVIII 471.

Scran's hive, III 295.

Scraper, engraver's, VIII 803.

Screamer, bird, XVI 807.

Screeds, in plastering, V 743.

Screw, XIX 827, XIV 397—screw-like motion, 389—differential screw, 401—propeller, introduction of, XX 137, 639—definition of, 657—pitch of the screw, ib., 659—slip of, ib., 657—action of, ib.—different forms, 658, 659—paddle-wheels so far superseded by, 640—its merits compared with those of the paddle-wheels, 661—screw-engines, 642 *et seq.*—horse-power of, nominal and indicated, 644—spare gear for, 667—steam-ships, in loyal navy, XVI 95, XX 137, 670.

Screw-pics, XX 753.

Screw-pine, V 77—order of plants, 214.

Scrubbling of wool, XXI 922.

SCRIBES, XIX 827.

Scrubbing, in joinery, V 751.

SCRIMZEON, or Scrimgeour (Henry), XIX 827.

SCRIPTURE (Holy), XIX 828. See Bible, Old and New Testament, Vol I Dissertation III, Pentateuch, Moses, Joshua, Paul, Peter, &c.

Scrobiculana, genus of mollusks, XV 360.

Scrobodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 388.

SCROFULA, XIX 842, IX 421.

Scroll, in architecture, III 513—in joinery, XII 814—in heraldry, XI 338.

Scrope (William), on deer-stalking, XX 212.

Scrophulariaceæ, nat order of plants, V 202.

Scrotum, its anatomy, III 69.

SCUDLER (Georges de), XIX 842.

—(MADRYNE de), XIX 842.

Sendo, coin, XV 443.

Sculptor, a blind one, IV 781.

SCULPTURE, XIX 843—Chinese, VI 532—Egyptian, XVII 47—Danish, XIX 696—Swedish, 702—casting in, VI 323; of bronze statues, V 676—foundry of statues, IX 843—Elgin marbles, VIII 632—in the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, XX 892—value of photography to, XVII 553. See Statues.

Scutetus on surgery, XX 818.

Scuppernong grape, XXI 888.

Scupperns of a ship, XIX 869.

Scurf, in cattle and sheep, XXI 578.

SCURRY, XIX 869—chemical theory of, VIII 214—cured by the use of citric acid, XVI 106—Capt Cook's success in curing, VII 341.

SCUTARI, XIX 869; VII 301—hospital at, during the Russian war, 506 and n—barracks at, XXI 371.

—town in Albania, XIX 869.

Scutcher, VII 443.

Scutching of flax, XIII 404—silk, XX 286.

Scutella, fossil echinoides, XVII 99, 100.

Scutellera, genus of insects, IX 161.

Scutellina, fossil echinoides, XVII 100.

Scutibranchiata, order of mollusks, XV 380.

Scutigera, genus of myriapoda, XV 749.

SCUTTLERS in a ship, XIX 869.

Seydmænus, genus of insects, IX 113.

Seylax of Caryades, X 467.

SCYLIA, town of Naples, XIX 869; XX 241.

SCY—SEA

SCYLIA and CHARYBDIS, XIX 869; XX 241, 244.

Scyllina, genus of mollusks, XV 371.

Scyllarus, genus of crustacea, VII 541.

Scyllidae, family of fishes, XII 321, 323.

Scylliodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 342.

Scyllis, ancient sculptor, XIX 853.

Scyllium, genus of fishes, XII 323.

Scymnidae, family of fishes, XII 325.

Scymnus, genus of fishes, XII 325.

—of Chio, X 467.

Scyphia, fossil sponges, XVII 92, 93.

Seyrus, genus of fishes, XII 297.

Scyros, island, XIX 869.

Seyrtis, genus of insects, IX 107.

Scytalophis, genus of fishes, XII 233.

SCYTHIA, XIX 869—reaping with the, II 313—Hainault scythe, ib.

SCYTHIA, XIX 869.

Scythian bow, V 251.

Scythians, II 776; IX 388—their invasions of the Eastern empire, VII 317.

Scythops, genus of birds, VII 778.

Scytodes, genus of arachnides, III 380.

Sea, X 438—influence of the sun's rays on, VI 777—temperature at different depths, ib.; XIV 644; XVII 577—freezing of, VII 100—currents in, 593; VI 772, XVII 577; XVIII 176—embankments against, VIII 643—seas of Europe, IX 385—right of all nations to the use of, XIII 284—high and narrow seas, 285—luminousness or phosphorescence of, 458; XVII 574—its influence on climate and health, XIV 444—water of, XV 38; XVII 572, XIX 585—its effects on rocks, XV 139—extent, mean depth, entire content and mass of, XVII 572—specific gravity of the water of, ib.; XII 89—colour of, XVII 574—depth and form of the bottom, 574—subdivisions of, 576—proximity of volcanoes to the sea, XXI 604; cause of this, 606, ancient volcanoes remote from the, ib. See Ocean, Baltic, Mediterranean, &c., Tides, Waves, &c.

Sea-ah—contains no muriatic acid, IX 415.

Sea-apprentices, XIV 349.

Sea-bear, XIV 173.

Sea-breeze, III 737; XIV 649.

Sea-cat, fish, XII 300.

Sea-fox, fish, XII 322.

Sea-hare, XV 372.

Sea-horse, mammal, XIV 109.

—fish, XII 314.

Sea-ice, XVII 583, 584; XVIII 176.

Sea-jellies, zoophytes, XXI 995.

Sea-kale, culture of, XI 742.

Sea-lights, See Lighthouses.

Sea-lion, XIV 172.

Sea-lochs, See Florida.

Sea-pens, polypes, XXI 1003.

Sea-pink, V 203; XI 748.

Sea-scurry, XVI 105.

Sea-serpents, XVII 634; XIX 65.

Sea-unicorn, XIV 229.

Sea-urelius. See Echinodermata.

Sea-walls, VIII 645.

Sea-weed, order of plants, V 217—as manure, II 809, 406—analysis of, 406. See Algae, Fuca.

Sea-wolf, fish, XII 309.

Sea-worthiness, in insurance, XII 420.

Seal, on ancient diplomas, VIII 42—arms on seals, XI 322.

—in zoology, XIV 171—dentition of, XVI 462, 463—skins and fur of, X 248—oil from, XVI 463—in the Caspian, Black Sea, and Aral, VI 911.

—Islands, XIII 531.

Sealing-wax, XXI 779.

SEAMANSHIP, XX 1—ballast, IV 397. See Navigation, Navy, Sailing.

Seamen. See Sailors.

Search, right of, XVI 159; XIII 238.

Seasoning of timber, VIII 209; XX 163, 168, 170. See Timber.

Seasons, cause of the, IV 11—variation in length, 17—temperature of, supposed to be influenced by the solar spots, 30, 88

SEA—SEE

—Egyptian, VIII 449—in Hindustan, XI 450.
 Seat, in riding, XI 675, 677—seats, in landscape gardening, VIII 773.
 Seaton (Sir Christopher), VIII 239.
 Seb, Egyptian deity, VIII 437.
 Seba (Albert), his *Thesaurus*, containing figures of insects and birds, IX 4; XVI 726.
 Sebaceous glands, II 833, 834.
 Sebak, Egyptian deity, VIII 437.
 Sebastes, genus of fishes, XII 220, 228.
 SEBASTIAN (Dom), XX 29; XVIII 383, 384.
 SEBASTIANO, Venetian painter, XX 29.
 SEBASTOPOL, or Sevastopol, XX 29; II 435; IV 743, VII 505—harbour of, IV 744—siege of, IX 815, 826, 837; XIX 504, XXI 375—bombardments of, ib., XIX 508, 509—capture of, 510.
 Seben, Egyptian deity, VIII 439.
 SEBENICO, town in Dalmatia, XX 29.
 Sebesten, order of plants, V 201.
 Sebhä, town in Fezzan, IX 528.
 Sebiz (Melchior), on medical jurisprudence, XIV 423.
 Sebonde See Raymond of Sebonde.
 Seboon, river, XV 694.
 SE-CHUEN, province of China, XX 29.
 Secale cornutum, a poison, XIV 439. See Ergot of Rye.
 SECANT, XX 29; XXI 338.
 Secchi (Prof.), his experiments on the sun's heat, IV 88—on the moon's surface, 89—his micrometer, XIV 753.
 SECEDEERS, XX 29; XVIII 493, 498.
 SECKENDORF (Veit Ludwig von), XX 30.
 SECKER (Thomas), archbishop of Canterbury, XX 30.
 Second-sight, III 318.
 Secondaries in astronomy, IV 2.
 Secondary epoch, in geology, XV 195, 205—rocks, XVII 588—corals belonging to, 97—in Spain, XX 485.
 —qualities of body, XIV 570.
 Seconds, in the graduation of the quadrant, XXI 339.
 Secretary, bird, XVI 745; II 218.
 Secretary-at-war, British, III 663.
 Secretion, XVII 664—secreting cells, 650—anatomy of the organs of, in man, III 67—in brutes, 112—of plants, V 72, 73, 75; influence of leaves on, 106.
 Secretiveness, XVII 562, 673.
 Sect, XX 30—sects of Mohammedans, XV 305—places of worship of the different sects in Scotland, XIX 801.
 Section, in architecture, III 612—in geometry, (see Conic Sections, &c.)—mode of tracing vertical sections, in physical geography, IV 408.
 Sectional method of teaching, XV 828.
 SECTOR, XX 30—astronomical or equatorial, ib.—zenith, ib.—Ramsden's, XXI 335; Airey's, ib.—of a circle, X 513.
 Sectoral barometer, IV 453.
 Secular equations, table of, IV 121.
 SECONDERABAD, town in India, XX 30.
 SECONDUS (Joannes Nicolaus), Dutch poet, XX 31.
 Securifera, family of insects, IX 183.
 SECUTORES, gladiators, XX 31.
 SEDAN, town in France, XX 31.
 Sedan-chairs, first introduction of, into England, II 632.
 SEDBERGH, town in Yorkshire, XX 31.
 Sedge, order of plants, V 215.
 SEDGFIELD, town in Durham, XX 31.
 Sedgemore, battle of, V 436; XX 411.
 Sedgmoor, measurement of a trigonometrical base on, XXI 831.
 Sedgwick (Prof.), on English boulders, VII 728—on joints in rocks, XV 164—on cleavage, 170—on the Silurian rocks of Wales, 197—on the rocks of the Permian period, 205—on the geology of Westmoreland, XXI 841.
 SEDITION, XX 31.
 SEDLEY (Sir Charles), XX 22.
 Sedullus, XII 465, 466.
 Seebeck (Dr A.), on optics, VIII 843, 848.
 —(Dr Thomas), I. 918—thermo-electricity discovered by, ib., 976; VIII

SEE—SEL

532; XXI 649—on the polarising structure in heated glass, I 912—on the prismatic spectrum, 954; XIII 452, XVI 593—on chromatics, VI 643, 657—on magnetism, XIV 10, 27, 80—on optics, XVI 540, 543, 549 *et seq.*—on polarisation in fluids, I 910—on electro-magnetism, XXI 638—his electrical discoveries, 649 *et seq.*
 Seed-lac, XIII 141.
 Seed-oil, XVI 494.
 Seed-pearl, XVII 356, 357.
 Seed-vessel, V 136.
 Seedlings, XVII 769.
 Seeds of plants, V 139—transformations in, 142—modes in which they are scattered, 162—physiology of, 161—vitality of, 163—of agricultural crops, II 336—seed-wheat, 306—propagation by, IX 693, 702, XVII 767—of the pine and fir tribe, 767—leguminous, 769—cottony and other soft seeds, ib.—value of the imports of, VIII 735—animalcules said to spring from, III 200, 204, 211.
 Seedytoe, XXI 562.
 SEELAND, XX 32. See Zealand.
 Seeman (Berthold), on the colouring of tea, XXI 87.
 SÉES, town in France, XX 32.
 SEETZEN (Ulrich Jasper), traveller, XX 32.
 Segar, garter king of arms, XI 322.
 SEGESTA, city of Sicily, XX 32, 39, 243.
 Segestan. See Scistan.
 Segestes, X 575.
 Segestria, genus of arachnides, III 879.
 SEGMENT of a circle, XX 33; X 513.
 Segner (Prof.), original principle propounded by, I 720—on capillary attraction, 731; XII 97—on cohesion, VII 57, 61—his table of the forms of the curve, 62.
 SEGNI (Benardo), historian, XX 33.
 SEGO, town in Bampur, XX 33; II 228.
 SEGORBE, town in Spain, XX 33.
 SEGOVIA, Spanish province, XX 33.
 —city, XX 33—aqueduct at, III 336—canal of, XX 491.
 Segraflansa, II 739.
 SEGUIDILLA, XX 33.
 Seguler (M.), X 175.
 Seguin (M.), on bathing, IV 500—his theory of tanning, XIII 304—on stratification in electric discharges, XXI 630.
 Segur (M.), X 157.
 SEIPHENNERDORF, town in Saxony, XX 33, XI 314.
 SEIGNIOR, or Signior, XX 33.
 SEIGNIORAGE, XX 33; VII 75; XV 423, 424—table of, under different British sovereigns, VII 76—Hume on, XX 341, n. 3.
 SEIGNORY, XX 33.
 Seimens, XXI 373.
 SEINE, French river, XX 33; X 240; XVII 280, 647—fishes found in, XX 36.—department of France, XX 34.
 SEINE-ET-MARNE, in France, XX 34; X 242.
 SEINE-ET-OISE, in France, XX 35; X 242.
 SEINE-INFÉRIEURE, in France, XX 35; X 241.
 Selr (Mount), XII 357.
 Selaschthia, IV 195.
 SELIS, XX 36; XII 370.
 Seismograph, electric, XXI 644.
 SEISTAN, in Asia, XX 38.
 SEJANT, in heraldry, XX 36; XI 333.
 SEJANUS (Lucius Julius), XX 36; XIX 334; XXI 244, 246.
 Sejour on the moon's atmosphere, IV 44.
 Selache, genus of fishes, XII 822, 823, 324—teeth of, XVI 422.
 Selaginaceæ, nat. order of plants, V 202.
 Selago, plant esteemed by the Druids, VIII 188.
 SELBY, town in Yorkshire, XX 37.
 —(Mr), on birds, XVI 723, 743, 777, 792, 802.
 SELDEN (John), XX 37—his *Table-Talk*, II 740—his work on the *Parian Chronicle*, III 720—on King James's Bible,

SEL—SEM

IV 708—on the Chancellor's equity, VI 411—promoted the publication of Walton's Polyglot Bible, XXI 695.
 Sele, river, XII 633, XX 238.
 Selen copper lead, mineral, XV 117.
 Selen-sulphur, XV 123.
 Selenic acid, VI 478, XV 64.
 Selenious acid, VI 478.
 Selenite, mineral, XV 95.
 Selenum, VI 478; XV 64—native, 123.
 Selenography, IV 89—selenographic charts, VI 426.
 SELEUCIA, ancient cities so named, XX 38.
 —PIERIA, XX 38—coins of, XVI 379.
 —TRACHEOTIS, XX 38.
 SELEUCIA-ON-THE-TIGRIS, XX 39.
 Seleuciani, heretics, XI 352.
 SELEUCIDÆ, era of, XX 39; VI 671—dynasty of, XX 910, 911, 904.
 Seleucus, in Syria, XX 904—coins of, XVI 379.
 SELEUCUS I, XX 39.
 —Nicator, XX 38, 39, 910; XVII 434—Antioch founded by, III 273.
 Self-esteem, XVII 562.
 Self-knowledge, its importance taught by Socrates, XX 396.
 Self-love, I 360—analysis of, 382—significations assigned to, by Hartley, 445—Aristotle on, III 564.
 Selfish system in morals, XV 551.
 Self's pump, XII 175.
 Selgovæ, Caledonian tribe, VI 74; XIX 742.
 SELIM I and II, emperors of Turkey, XX 39, 911; III 363; XXI 369.
 —III, reign of, XXI 370—deposed, 372—strangled, 373.
 SELIMNO, town in Turkey, XX 39.
 SELINUS, in Sicily, XX 39—taken by the Carthaginians, VI 281—coins of, XVI 368—sculptures of, XIX 853.
 SELJOUK, Turkish tribe, XX 39; III 744.
 SELKIRK (Alexander), XX 39; VII 697; XIII 13.
 —Scotch burgh, XX 40.
 SELKIRKSHIRE, XX 41—agricultural statistics of, XIX 796, 797, 798—population, 799.
 Sella (Joseph), his photographic process, XVII 799.
 SELLEARIA, town of Laconia, XX 42—battle of, 502.
 Selligues (M.), his achromatic object-glasses, XIV 777.
 SELVA, town in Spain, XX 42.
 Semaphore, at Portsmouth, XVIII 378—on railways, 777, 778.
 Sembli, genus of insects, IX 170.
 Sennampas, Egyptian king, VIII 454.
 Semen, animalcules in, XXI 975—seminal tubes, ducts, and vesicles, III 69—fluid, XVII 683.
 SEMENDRIA, town in Turkey, XX 42.
 Semennood, in Egypt, VIII 497.
 SEMI-ARABIAN, XX 42.
 SEMICIRCLE, XX 42; X 513.
 SEMICOLON, XX 42; XVIII 658.
 SEMIDIAMETER, XX 42; X 513.
 Semionotis, genus of fossil fishes, XII 334.
 Semiphorus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 344; XVII 127.
 SEMIPALATINSK, in Asiatic Russia, XX 42; IX 550.
 SEMI-PELAGIANS, XX 42; XVIII 477. See Pelagius.
 SEMIRAMIS, queen of Assyria, XX 42; III 778; XV 704—Babylon said to have been founded by, IV 340.
 Semitic languages, XIII 209, 210, 225; classification of, XVII 636—philology extended to, 633—sub-semantic languages, XIII 226.
 —nations, XI 541; IX 351.
 SEMITON, XX 43. See Musc.
 SEMLER (Johann Salomon), theologian, XX 43; XIX 828; XXI 183.
 SEMLIN, town in Austria, XX 43.
 Sennopithecus, genus of mammalia, XIV 140.
 Sempach, battle of, XX 884.
 Sempromius, Roman consul, VI 295.

SEN—SEP

SENAC (Jean Baptiste), physician, XX 43.
 Senan (St), VI 754.
 Senarmont (General), III 636.
 —(M. de), on the conduction of heat, I 952—on optics, XVI 550, 654, 667.
 Senarmontite, mineral, XV 113.
 SENATE, XX 43—of Belgium, IV 612—Roman, XIX 296, 297, 313, 317, 323—of the United States, XXI 423—senatus and senatus academicus in universities, 462, 471, 486, 481.
 Senators, XX 43, 44—badges and privileges of Roman, 44.
 Senechos on gunnery, XI 110, 135, 145.
 Senebier, on the gaseous exhalations of plants, V 105—on the effects of light, XIII 459, 460.
 SENECÆ (L. Annaeus), the philosopher, XX 45, XIX 337—on comets, I 568—tragedies of, VIII 141—on optics, XVI 521—on the surmullet, XII 279.
 —(M. Annaeus), rhetorician, XX 44.
 Senefelder (Alvis), inventor of lithography, XIII 610.
 SENEGAL, river, XX 48, II 214; XVII 647.
 —French colony, XX 49, II 226—Adamson's observations there, 130.
 SENEGAMBIA, in Africa, XX 49; II 228.
 Senelops, genus of urachnides, III 381.
 SENFSCHAL, XX 51.
 Senior (Nassau W.), on a provision for the poor, XVIII 296, n 1.
 SENLUS, town in France, XX 51.
 SENNA, a drug, XX 51—plants yielding, V 161.
 —African town, XV 670, XX 405.
 —Persian town, XX 307.
 SENNAAR, in Africa, XX 51; II 224, 225—Bruce's residence at, V 600.
 Sennacherib, III 778.
 Sennelier (M.), on Rousseau, XIX 440, 450.
 SENNERTUS (Daniel), physician, XX 52.
 SENS, French town, XX 52.
 Sensation, XIV 563, 567, XVII 670, 671; XIX 111, 112—Locke on the ideas that result from, I 110, 111, 112—peculiar to animals, III 170—acute sensibility of ants, 262—in the bee, IV 374—Condillac on, VII 236—Plato's views of, XVII 801. See Senses.
 —(organs of), in man, III 3, 42—in brutes, 94—crustacea, VII 538.
 SENSATIONALISM, or Sensualism, XX 52.
 Sense (common), I 403—held on the principles of, XIX 2.
 —(moral), I 364; XIV 580; XV 544. See Conscience.
 Senses, XIV 563, 566, XVII 677—those of man and other animals compared, III 176, 178—their acuteness in the Arabs, 348; and in the blind, IV 773, 777—Aristotle on the, III 649—disorders from irritation of the nerves of the, XVII 700—of ants, III 262, in insects, IX 44; fishes, XII 218—alleged transference of the senses in mesmeric sleep, XX 424, 429, 432; rests on no satisfactory evidence, 442, 446. See Sensation, Hearing, Smell, Taste, Touch, Sight.
 Sensibility, XVII 670, 671.
 Sensitive plants, V 108.
 Sense-motory electricity, XVII 671.
 Sensorium, commune, XVII 658, 677. See Brain.
 Sentiments, in phrenology, XVII 582.
 Sentinum, battle of, XIX 305.
 Sepals, leaves of the calyx, in plants, V 117, 122.
 Separate system, in prison discipline, XVII 573, 582.
 Sepedon, genus of insects, IX 255.
 Sepsis, Egyptian king, VIII 455.
 Sepia, genus of mollusks, XV 398, 395, 397—fossil, XVII 114.
 —colour, drawing in, VIII 173.
 Sepiada, family of mollusks, XV 398—fossil, XVII 113.
 Sepioida, genus of mollusks, XV 400.
 Sepioteuthis, genus of mollusks, XV 400.
 SERRON, or Serry, in Hindustan, XX 52.

SEP—SER

SEPOYS, XX. 52—insurrection of, in 1857, XVI. 301, measures for suppressing, 312, in the Punjab, XVIII. 693
 Sepp (Chr.), his work on insects, IX. 5
 Seppings (Sir R.), his improvement of the block under ships in graving-dock, VIII. 76—his improvements in ship-building, XVI. 96, 97, 98—on diagonal trussing, XX. 181, 182, 190.
 Seps, genus of reptiles, XX. 38
 Sepsis, genus of insects, IX. 251.
 Septa, in botany, V. 181.
 — See Ceuta.
 Septaria, cement made from, XX. 714.
 SEPTEMBER, XX. 52—gaidening calendar for, XI. 760
 Septennial law, in France, X. 186.
 — parliaments, act for, V. 455—attempt to repeal it, 458.
 SEPTUAGESIMA, XX. 52
 SEPTUAGINT, XX. 52; XIX. 889; IV. 698, XI. 552; XII. 768; XVII. 519
 SEPULCHRE, regular canons of St. XX. 56
 — (KNIGHTS OF THE HOLY), XX. 56.
 — See Burial, Tomb.
 SEPULVEDA (Juan Ginez de), XX. 56.
 SEQUANT, XX. 58.
 SEQUESTRATION, XX. 56; IV. 418.
 SEQUIN, coin, XX. 56; XV. 441, 442
 SERAGLIO, XX. 56—at Constantinople, VII. 301.
 SERAINGE, town in Belgium, XX. 56
 SERAMPOR, town in India, XX. 56—translation of the Scriptures printed at, VI. 237.
 Serapeum, VIII. 502; XIV. 493
 Seraphim, VI. 527
 Serapion, ancient physician, XIV. 452; XX. 815.
 SERAPIS, XX. 57; VIII. 502—image of, at Alexandria, II. 469—temple of, VII. 310.
 — fossil mollusks, XVII. 109.
 Seraphia, genus of insects, IX. 134.
 Seraasi on the organ, XVI. 711.
 Serbonis (Lake of), VIII. 429.
 Serena (La). See Cocumbo.
 Srenidae, family of fishes, XII. 318
 Srenoids, fishes, XII. 318
 SERES, Turkish town, XX. 57.
 — Asiatic people, III. 752; XX. 57, 286.
 Sereth, river, XV. 312
 Seris, Russian, XIX. 523.
 Seris. See Kerman.
 SERGEANT-AT-LAW, XX. 57—at arms, ib.—common, ib.—in the army, ib.; III. 665.
 SERGEL (John Tobias von), sculptor, XX. 57.
 SERGIFE (del Rey), province of Brazil, XX. 57; V. 295
 Sergius, monophysite, XV. 501.
 Seriatoporidae, zoophytes, XXI. 1005.
 SERIOIA, in Asia, XX. 57, 286
 — genus of insects, IX. 125.
 Sencaria, genus of insects, IX. 214
 Sericomyia, genus of insects, IX. 240
 Sericostoma, genus of insects, IX. 180.
 SERIES, XX. 57—infinite, in algebra, II. 529—reversion of, 532—in fluxions, IX. 726.
 SERINAGUR, town in India, XX. 57, 308
 SERINGAPATAM, XX. 57—Lord Cornwallis's expedition against, V. 541; XI. 498, 499—stormed by the British, V. 567; XI. 499, 502; XXI. 618—monolithic obelisk at, XVII. 619.
 SERINO, town of Naples, XX. 58.
 Seriola, genus of fishes, XII. 297.
 Seriolella, genus of fishes, XII. 298.
 Serlio, notice of his architectural publications, III. 451.
 SERMIDE, town in Italy, XX. 58.
 Sermon, distinguished from a homily, XI. 606.
 SEROHEE, town in India, XX. 58.
 SERON, town in Spain, XX. 58.
 Serous membrane, II. 838—in the fetus, 839.
 SERPA, town in Portugal, XX. 58.
 SERPENT, musical instrument, XX. 58; Δ.V. 711.

SER—SES

Serpentarius and Serpens, two constellations, IV. 80
 Serpentiniform apodals, sub-order of fishes, XII. 229.
 SERPENTINE VERSES, XX. 58.
 — mineral, XV. 79—rock, 135, at Portsoy, IV. 413
 SERPENTS, XX. 58; XIX. 39 *et seq.*—their power of abstinence, II. 52; III. 180—their bones, 87 *et seq.*; XIX. 42, 43—ears, III. 99—teeth and poison fangs, 113; XVI. 431, 432, XIX. 44—effects of their poison, 45, XVIII. 130—theory of its action, XIX. 46—tongue, 47—alimentary canal, ib.—digestion and deglutition, ib.—circulation, 48—respiration, ib.—brain, ib.—general envelope, ib.—colours, 49—production, 50—geographical distribution, ib.; XVII. 634—burrowing, 55—fresh-water, 58—terrestrial, 55—non-venomous, ib.—true, 42—tree, 57—venomous, 63, 67—sea, 65—worm-like, 55—poisonous bites of, XIV. 440—fossil, XVII. 153, 640—of Europe, XIX. 51—America, 54, II. 714—Africa, XIX. 52—Asia, 53—India, XI. 456—Borneo, XIX. 53, 54, 60, 86. See different countries under the head zoology.
 — (Isle of), XIX. 512, IV. 742, XXI. 376
 Serpents (The), deception of Eve, XXI. 197.
 SERPUCHOV, town in Russia, XX. 58.
 Serpula, genus of annelides, XI. 294—fossil, XVII. 101.
 Serpularia, fossil mollusks, XVII. 110
 Serpulates, fossils, XVII. 101
 SERRA CAPIROLA, Neapolitan town, XX. 58.
 — do Frío, diamond mines of, VIII. 2.
 SERRANUS (Joannes), XX. 58
 — genus of fishes, XII. 274, 276—fossil, 343
 Serrasalmus, genus of fishes, XII. 247.
 SERRAVALLE, Italian town, XX. 59.
 Serre (M.), on harmony, XV. 701, 702.
 Serres (Marcel de), on the araneides, III. 373—on insects, IX. 43—his works on insects, 13.
 Serricornes, family of insects, IX. 104.
 Serripes, genus of mollusks, XV. 349
 Serripalpidæ, family of insects, IX. 132.
 Serripalpus, genus of insects, IX. 132.
 SERRORIUS (Quintus), XX. 59; XIX. 322, XX. 458.
 Serulanada, zoophytes, XVI. 1006
 Serum of the blood, II. 780, 781, 782; XVII. 604.
 SERVAN (St.), town in France, XX. 59.
 SERVANDONI (G. Geronimo), architect, XX. 59.
 SERVANT, XX. 59—servants in factories, XIV. 348; printworks, 349—domestic, ib.—master and, 345; XV. 569—liveried, XIII. 625.
 SERVETUS (Michael), XX. 59—circulation of the blood partially discovered by, II. 780 and *n.*—his execution approved of by Melancthon, VII. 482—Calvin's conduct to, VI. 110.
 SERVIA, XX. 61—alphabet of, II. 614—language, XIII. 214, IX. 392.
 Service, choral, XX. 63.
 Service-tree, XI. 716.
 Servitors, in the University of Oxford, XXI. 456.
 SERVITUDE, Penal, XX. 63; XVIII. 580.
 SERVUS TULLIUS, XX. 63; XIX. 297, 307.
 Sesamoid bones, II. 829.
 Sesamum, or Sessamum oil, XVI. 495—cultivation of, in Bengal, IV. 649.
 Sesserinus, genus of fishes, XII. 298.
 Sesertesen I., II., III., Egyptian kings, VIII. 456.
 Sesiæ, genus of insects, IX. 210.
 Sesiades, family of insects, IX. 210.
 Sesiöchia, Egyptian king, VIII. 454.
 SISOSTRIS, XX. 63; VIII. 456; XI. 288—architectural remains attributed to, III. 436—army and military exploits of, 620—different names of, ib. *n.* 3—date of his reign, ib. *n.* 6—great ship said to have been built by, VII. 714.

SES—SEY

SESSA, Neapolitan town, XX. 63
 SESSION (Court of), XX. 63; XIX. 758, 810; VIII. 595—trial of civil cases by jury introduced into, XIII. 24—kirk-session, XVIII. 493.
 SESTRATIUS, Roman coin, XX. 63, VII. 69; XV. 433, XVI. 383
 SESTINI (Domenico), numismatist, XX. 63
 Set, meaning of the phrase *taken a set*, XX. 749
 — or Seth, Egyptian deity, VIII. 438.
 Seth, son of Adam, III. 267
 Sethee, kings of Egypt, VIII. 461, 462.
 Setheum, temple of, VIII. 509.
 Seti, Egyptian deity, VIII. 436
 Seton, in surgery, XX. 826, XXI. 559, *n.*—improved kind of, XX. 827.
 Setter-dogs, XX. 218.
 SETTLE (Elkanah), poet, XX. 63
 — town in Yorkshire, XX. 63
 Settlement law, XVIII. 299
 SETUBAL, town in Portugal, XX. 64
 SEVAJEE, XX. 64—founder of the Mah-ratta state, XI. 478.
 SEVASTOPOL, XX. 64. See Sebastopol
 Seven, veneration paid to the number, III. 191, XIX. 560.
 — Years' War, XVIII. 652; XIX. 482.
 SEVENOAKS, town in Kent, XX. 64.
 SEVER (St.), town in France, XX. 64.
 Severinus (M. A.), XX. 818
 SEVERN, river, XX. 64, 228; VIII. 716, X. 670; XV. 518; XVII. 647—bore on, XVI. 65—physical characters of, 88—navigation of, X. 680—Severn and Thames Canal, 681; XX. 64
 SEVERUS, Roman emperor, XX. 65, XIX. 346—Byzantium destroyed by, VI. 43—his visit to Egypt, VIII. 472; Christians there persecuted by, ib.—his expedition against the Caledonians, XIX. 741—his death at York, 742—wall of, V. 379; XIX. 343, *n.*
 — (Cassius), apparition said to have been seen by, III. 810
 SEVIGNÉ (Marie de Rabutin Chantal, Marquis de), XX. 65—her letters, XVIII. 327.
 SEVILLE, XX. 65—persecution of the Jews at, XII. 780—oranges of, XVI. 700—Columbian library at, XIII. 410—university of, XXI. 492.
 SEVRES (Deux), in France, XX. 66
 — town in France, XX. 67—porcelain manufactory of, X. 255; XVIII. 437, 438
 — museum of, XXI. 322.
 Sewel on the Quakers, XVIII. 714.
 Sewerage, or Sewage, XIX. 618—application of, to land, II. 297—meadows near Edinburgh irrigated with, 326—of London, XIII. 678.
 Sewers, building of, V. 784—of towns, III. 495, 497; VIII. 128; XIV. 444; XIX. 618—of Rome. See Cloacæ.
 SEWESTAN, in Afghanistan, XX. 67.
 Sewin, bull-trout, XII. 240.
 Sex, III. 170—both sexes in the same individual, 171 (see Hermaphrodite)—neuter sex, in ants, 261—in bees, IV. 570, 571—in reference to annuites, III. 227—mortality less in the female sex than in the male, 230—its influence on insanity, XIV. 536—proportion of their numbers, XV. 622; in Russia, XIX. 621—separation of the sexes, in fox-hounds, XI. 770.
 SEXAGESIMA Sunday, XX. 67
 SEXAGESIMALS, XX. 67; III. 577.
 SEXTANT, XX. 67; XIII. 687; XVI. 28, 29, 30—causes of error in the use of, 32—its importance in seamanship, XX. 26 See Quadrant, Mural Circle.
 SEKTUS EMPERICUS, XX. 67—his scepticism, XIX. 707—estimate of his views, 709.
 Sexual organs, in man, III. 69—in brutes, 113—plants, V. 125, 126 *et seq.*, 152.
 Seybert (Dr.), on the population of the United States, XV. 608, *n.*, XVIII. 339.
 SEYCHELLES, islands, XX. 68; XIV. 864.
 Seymour (Jane), wife of Henry VIII., VII. 482; VIII. 701, 704.

SEY—SHA

Seymour (Sir Hamilton), his Russian diplomacy, VIII. 40.
 Seymour's mode of training peach trees, XI. 710
 — rope-machine, XIX. 406.
 SEYNE, French town, XX. 68
 SÉZANNE, French town, XX. 68
 SEZZA, or Sesse, town in the Papal States, XX. 68
 SFAX, town in Tunis, XX. 68
 SFORZA (Ludovico), XX. 68; XII. 651; XX. 885
 'SGRAVESANDE, XX. 68 See Gravesande.
 SGICCI (Tommaso), improvisations of, XVIII. 112
 Shad, fish, XII. 236; IX. 704.
 Shadbolt (George), his microscopic photographs, XIV. 801, XVII. 552—his photographic process, 548.
 Shaddai, name of God, XXI. 189.
 Shaddock, V. 186.
 Shade, in drawing, VIII. 178.
 Shaddof, Egyptian machine for raising water, VIII. 427
 Shadow, line described on a plane by, VII. 789—blue shadows, XVI. 691.
 SHADWELL (Thomas), dramatist, XX. 68; VIII. 163
 Shaft, in architecture, III. 512—of coal-pits, VII. 120—of mines, XV. 223—of steam-engines, XX. 655
 SHAFTESBURY (Earls of), XX. 69. See Cooper.
 — town in Dorsetshire, XX. 69.
 SHAH ADDULAZIM, Persian village, XX. 69.
 SHAHABAD, in India, XX. 69—town, XVII. 18
 SHAHJAHANPORE, in India, XX. 69—tragedy enacted at, in the sepoy insurrection, XVI. 309.
 Shakers, American Communists, VII. 208.
 SHAKESPEARE (William), XX. 70— anecdote of, at the Globe Tavern, II. 592—portions of his plays taken from Bandello's tales, IV. 411—examples of comparison from, VII. 219, 220—his disregard of the unities, VIII. 153—defence of his comic scenes in tragedy, 154—his merits as a dramatist, 157—seems to have been indifferent to fame, 159—his plays revived by Garrick, 166—Dr Farmer on his learning, IX. 483—his imagination, XVIII. 92—his poetry, 95, 122—alleged to have adopted some of Greene's plays, XI. 37—his tendency to hyperbole, XII. 191—his jug, XVIII. 433—Sir Walter Scott compared with, XIX. 280—editions of, by Capell, VI. 206; Johnson, XII. 709; Pope, XVIII. 381; Rowe, XIX. 451; Malone, XIV. 113; Steevens, XX. 673; Theobald, XXI. 180—his share in the authorship of the Two Noble Kinsmen, XX. 495—birth and burial-place of, 747—creator of the English drama, XXI. 165—treatment of his plays in the seventeenth century, 171—Voltaire's estimate of, 667.
 — Tunnel, near Dover, XVIII. 761.
 Shale, XV. 83, 142, 169—bituminous, 83; II. 638.
 Shalott, culture of, XI. 741.
 Shalmesner, III. 778, XXI. 405.
 SHAMAKA, or Tchamakha, in Asiatic Russia, XX. 90; XIX. 651.
 Shame, almost unknown among the American savages, II. 693.
 Shamo, X. 690—desert of, XVII. 614.
 SHAN-SI, province in China, XX. 92.
 SHAN-TUNG, province in China, XX. 92.
 SHANGHAI, XX. 91—opened to British commerce in 1842, VI. 597—exports and imports of, 591—silver exported from England to, XVIII. 472.
 SHANNON, Irish river, XX. 91; VI. 753; X. 339; XII. 505—navigation of, XIX. 422—source of, XIII. 827, 487—salmon fisheries, IX. 619.
 Shap-fells, XXI. 842—abbey, 844—wells, ib.
 SHAPINSHAT, one of the Orkney islands, XX. 92; XVI. 719.

SHA—SHE

Shapoor. See Sapor.
 Shápúr, ancient monuments at, XVII 433
 Sharks, XII 321 *et seq.*—odontology of, XVI 422—distribution of, XVII 635—
 shark-fishing in Iceland, XII 203; in
 Ireland, IX 634—in the Indian seas,
 XI 456—Port-Jackson shark, XVII
 117—fossil, XII 341; XVII 117, 118
 See Squalidae
 Sharon, in Palestine, XVII 182.
 SHARP (Abraham), XX. 92, I. 689 and
 n. 2
 — (GRANVILLE), XX. 93—his opposi-
 tion to the slave trade, 321—settlement
 for negroes at Sierra Leone suggested
 by, 272.
 — (JAMES), archbishop of St An-
 drews, XX. 93—his hostility to the
 Covenanters, V. 428—Mitchell's attempt
 to assassinate him, 429—murder of, 430.
 — (JOHN), archbishop of York, XX.
 93
 — (WILLIAM), engraver, XX. 94—a
 follower of Joanna Southcott, 454.
 — on surgery, XX. 819.
 SHARPE (Daniel), geologist, XX. 94—on
 the geology of the neighbourhood of
 Lasben, XIII 507, 508—on the effect
 of cleavage on fossils, XV. 179—on
 foliation, 180.
 — and Roberts, their self-acting mule,
 VII. 445.
 — (Dr), on the causes of alterations
 in language, VIII 798, n. 5
 — (Samuel), his anecdotes of the
 poet Rogers, XIX. 246, n.
 — (William), his work on Rogers'
 Recollections, XIX. 248.
 Sharpey (Dr), his system of anatomy, II
 770—detection of the imposture of a
 clairvoyant by, XX. 439—on echino-
 derms, XXI. 983, 992, 993
 Shary, river, V. 51; XVI 270 See
 Tschadda
 SHASTER, XX. 94, I. 491.
 SHATZK, town in Russia, XX. 94.
 Shavings of wood, electricity of, VIII 564
 SHAW (Dr Thomas), XX. 94—ignis fatuus
 observed by, XIII 457.
 — (Dr), on the harvest bug, III 389
 — on the hamster, XIV. 183—his Gen-
 eral Zoology, XVI 730—on tortoise-shell,
 XIX. 20—on the gecko, 30—on the ca-
 melion, 37.
 — (John), on the spawning beds of
 salmon and trout, IX 589, n. 3—his ex-
 periments proving that parr are young
 salmon, 591, 592.
 Shawir, VIII 479.
 SHAWLS, XX. 94—Cashmere, VI. 309;
 XIV. 211; XXI. 274, 900—French, X.
 253—Persian, XVII 424—manufacture
 of, at Paisley, 89—Manchester, XIV.
 254.
 Sheaf, in heraldry. See Garbe.
 Sheale (Richard), XIX. 268.
 Shearing of sheep, II. 352.
 — in woolen manufacture, XXI 923
 Shearman (C. J.), on the sanitary state of
 Sheffield, XX. 98.
 Shears, for cutting iron, XII 561.
 Sheath-bill, bird, XVI 808.
 Sheathing of ships, V. 519; VII. 351, 672,
 542; XVI 96; XX. 118, 174, 195.
 Sheave, XIV. 401—in block-making, IV.
 786.
 Sheba, X. 460, n.; III 355—ruins of, 356.
 Shebeck, Egyptian kings, VIII 464
 SHEER (Sir Martin Archer), XX. 94.
 Sheep, II. 845; XIV. 212; XVII 632—
 of America, II. 713—Arabia, III 347
 —New South Wales, V. 280—Derby-
 shire, VII. 755—Dorsetshire, VIII 111,
 112; II. 346—Durham, VIII 287—
 county of Down, 123—England, 723
 —Lincolnshire, XIII 491; II. 845—
 France, X. 248—Germany, 518—Ire-
 land, XII 200—Ireland, 518—Hunting-
 donshire, 49—Leicestershire, XIII 390;
 II. 345—Romney Marsh, XIII 68; II.
 846—Iale of Man, XIV. 244—Scotland,
 XIX 798—Spain, XX. 489—Palestine,
 XVII 181—Papal States, 242—Sweden,

SHE—SHE

XX. 861—Bakewell's improvements on,
 II 345, XIII 320, Elman's, II 346—
 Chevots, ib. 347—Cotswold, 346—
 black-faced, 347; VIII 724—cross-
 breeds, II 347—general management
 of, 347, 350—salving, or bathing, 348—
 feeding, 349—shearing, 352—South
 Downs, XX. 839—legislation against
 excessive sheep husbandry, XXI 909—
 gadfly of, IX. 245—teeth of, XVI 466,
 times of appearance of the permanent
 teeth, 468—fat of, 493—flesh, as food,
 IX. 762—foot-rot in, XXI 563—leg-evil,
 ib.—sheep-bot, 569. See Veterinary
 Science, Wool.
 Sheep-skin leather, XIII 805.
 Sheep's head, fish, XII 288
 Sheer, in a ship's deck, XX. 180, sheer-
 plan, 185.
 SHEERNESSE, town in Kent, XX. 95—dock-
 yard at, VIII 82—Artesian well at, III.
 681—population, XIII 67.
 Sheet-glass, X. 664.
 Sheet-lead, V. 755
 Sheet-lightning, VIII 587.
 SHEFFIELD, XX. 95—hardware manufac-
 tures at, VII. 600, 601, VIII. 729—con-
 sumption of ivory, XII. 664
 — (JOHN), Duke of Buckingham, XX.
 98, XVIII 324 and n.—his Rehearsal,
 VIII. 202—monument to Dryden erected
 by, 203
 Shegkuis, blind author, IV. 779.
 SHEHR, town in Arabia, XX. 99.
 — Zaur, town in Kurdistan, XX. 409
 SHERIF (Richard Lalor), XX. 99—on com-
 binations in Ireland for Catholic em-
 mancipation, V. 653—on the inactivity of
 ministers at that crisis, ib.—his co-
 operation with O'Connell in obtaining
 Catholic emancipation, XII. 501—his
 report on reforming the mint, VII. 82.
 — on Persia, XVII. 427, 428.
 SHERKE, XX. 100, VII. 66.
 SHERBURN (Earl of), XX. 100—his admin-
 istration, V. 502, 505, IX. 852, XVII.
 730, 731.
 — in Nova Scotia, XVI 345.
 SHERIDON (Gilbert), archbishop of Canter-
 bury, XX. 100
 — on the lymphatics, II. 766, 803.
 Sheldonian theatre at Oxford, XVII. 35.
 Shell-pieces, in ship-building, XX. 186
 Shell, in gunnery, XI. 142—improved
 method of throwing, XX. 28—shell
 moulding, VI. 185. See Gunnery, Ar-
 tillery.
 Shell-fish, III. 191; VII. 537—as food,
 IX. 765—supply of, to the London
 market, IX. 649.
 Shell-gold, X. 703.
 Shell-lac, the best insulator in electricity,
 VIII 540. See Lac.
 Shell-mari and shell-sand, as manure, II.
 303, XIII 681.
 Shell-traps, IX. 831.
 Shelley, fish, XII. 243.
 — (MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT GODWIN),
 XX. 104—her memoirs of Shelley, 102
 —character of her Frankenstein, XIX.
 278
 — (PENEZ BYSSIE), XX. 100, 840—
 his poetry, XVIII 125—his intimacy
 with Byron, VI. 39.
 Shells, calcareous coverings of the mol-
 lusca, XV. 319 *et seq.*—fossil, XVII.
 103 *et seq.*; XV. 202 *et seq.*—M.
 Cumming's collection of, 328, 329—
 of chelonian reptiles, III. 87—bright
 colours of tropical, XVII. 636—faint
 colours of deep sea, ib.—fossil, disbel-
 of their marine origin by Voltaire, XXI.
 668.
 Shelliufs, African people, XV. 594.
 Shelvock (Captain George), on California,
 VI. 97.
 Shem, descendants of, VIII 46.
 SHENNY, town in Nubia, XX. 104.
 SHEN-SI, Chinese province, XX. 104.
 SHENSTONS (William), XX. 104—judicious
 reflections of, I. 119, n. 2—poetry of,
 XVIII 124.
 Shepherd, II. 843, 851 *et seq.*

SHE—SHI

Shepherd invasion of Egypt, VIII 455—
 origin of the shepherds, 456—shepherd
 kings, 457—their departure from Egypt,
 460
 — (Mr), on the improvements of the
 Danube, XVI 63.
 Shepherd's electrical clocks, VII. 27.
 Sheppey (Isle of), XIII 64, 66—fossil
 crustacea of, XVII 102.
 SHEPTON-MALLEY, town in Somerset, XX.
 105.
 Sheild (William), VIII 29
 SHERBET, XX. 105
 SHERBORNE, town in Dorsetshire, XX. 105
 SHERBURN, in Yorkshire, XX. 105
 SHERBURNE (Sir Edward), XX. 105
 Shere, in coinage, VII. 72, 75, XV. 425
 Sherbon, in Java, VI. 527.
 SHERIDAN (Frances), XX. 106
 — (Mr), his process of distillation,
 VIII 50.
 — (RICHARD BRINSLEY), XX. 106—his
 speech against Mr Hastings, V. 523—on
 the French Revolution, 535—on the
 French war, 551—on the expedition to
 Holland, 573—on the peace of Amiens,
 586, 589—part taken by, in the trial of
 Warren Hastings, XI. 239—comedies of,
 VIII 166—his share in Drury Lane
 Theatre, XXI 174
 — (Dr Thomas), XX. 110.
 — (THOMAS), XX. 111.
 Sherif, Arabian title, III. 350
 SHERIFF-ED-DEEN-YEZDI (Moolah Ali), his-
 torian, XX. 112.
 SHERIFF, XX. 112, VII. 467; VIII 774—
 of London, XIII 677—sheriff-courts, in
 Scotland, XIX. 811—sheriff-substitute,
 ib.
 — (Mr), on the culture of the willow,
 IV. 488.
 — (Patrick), on farming in East
 Lothian, II. 368.
 Sherifmuir, battle of, V. 453; VIII. 251.
 SHERLOCK (William), divine, XX. 112
 — (Dr Thomas), bishop, XX. 112
 Sherry wine, XXI. 884, 951—alcohol in,
 880, 890
 SHERWIN (John Keyse), engraver, XX.
 112
 — mathematical tables of, XIII 555.
 Sherwood Forest, XVI 340.
 Sheshouk, or Sheshak, Egyptian king,
 VIII 463.
 SHETLAND, islands, XX. 112—cattle, II.
 343—aurora borealis IV. 242—duns in,
 VIII 244—cod and ling fisheries, IX.
 646—herring fisheries, 640, 642—agri-
 cultural statistics, XIX. 796, 797, 798—
 population, 799.
 — (South), XVIII. 181.
 Shiah, Mohammedan sect, XVII 428.
 SHIELD (William), musical composer, XX.
 114; XV. 716.
 — XX. 115; V. 722; III 632.
 — in heraldry, XX. 116; XI. 321,
 323, 324.
 — of the Thames Tunnel, I. 879.
 Shielrake, bird, XVI 817.
 SHIELDS (North and South), XX. 115.
 Shielducks, birds, XVI 817.
 SHIFFNAL, town in Shropshire, XX. 115.
 Shift, in ship-building, XX. 184
 Shiltes, Mohammedan sect, XV. 306.
 SHIKARPOOR, town in India, XX. 116, 305
 —cultivation near, 304.
 Shildag (Loch), fishery, XIX. 427; IX.
 640, 642.
 Shillbear's (The Rev. Mr) sustaining bat-
 tery, XXI 616.
 SHILLING, XX. 116; VII. 71, 76; XV. 443.
 SHILOR, XX. 116; XXI 207.
 Shin, river, XX. 841—smelts from, return-
 ing as grise, IX. 596—salmon of, 598.
 — (Loch), XIX. 784; XX. 841.
 Shin-bone, III. 35, 37.
 SHIN-KING, Chinese province, XX. 116.
 Shingle-drift, in geology, XVII 585.
 SHIP-BUILDING, XX. 116; I. 796—its re-
 lation to hydrostatics, I. 724—forms of
 ships best adapted for speed, 888, 889—
 block-machinery, 879; IV. 783—copper-
 sheathing (see Sheathing)—captain,

SHI—SHO

VI. 224—building of masts, 262—caulk-
 ing, 343—trade in colonial-built ships,
 150—iron ship-building, at Glasgow, X.
 650—improved by the Crusades, VII.
 533—Seppings' improvements in, XVI.
 96—artificially prepared timber not
 suitable for, XXI 279—in Brazil, V.
 299—Maine, XIV 98—New York, XVI.
 220, 226—Holland, XI. 583—Liver-
 pool, XIII 519—Sunderland, XX. 808—
 United States, XXI 426 See Dock-
 yards, Dry Rot, Resistance of Fluids,
 Navy, Steam-navigation, Timber.
 Ship-cannals, XVI 55—through Nicaragua,
 245, 246, 247—one proposed between
 Suez and Pelusium, XX. 789.
 Ship-money, V. 394.
 Ship-worms, XV. 353—fossil, XVII 108.
 See Tedeo.
 Shippen (Dr), on surgery, XX. 819.
 Shipping of England, VIII 737, 742—be-
 longing to different ports of Britain,
 738, Scotland, 739, Iceland, ib.; colo-
 nies of the United Kingdom, 740—
 British registered vessels employed in
 the home-trade, 742; in the foreign
 trade, ib.; in the trade of the United
 Kingdom, British and foreign, 741—of
 France, X. 262, 266—Ireland, XII. 522—
 Scotland, XIX. 806—Holland, XI. 686—
 London, XIII. 662—Liverpool, 618—
 New York, XVI. 226, 227. See the
 Geographical articles generally.
 Ships, magnetism of, I. 990—forms of, for
 speed, 889—Davy's protectors for, 971
 —Chinese, VI. 583—collision of, at sea,
 VII. 130—lightning-conductors for,
 VIII. 609—insurance of, XII. 419—
 wrecks of, on the British coast, XIII.
 446—guard ship, XI. 74—iron ships,
 XVI 100—iron and wooden ships com-
 pared, XX. 182—French and Eng-
 lish compared, 131—designing of, 140—
 ships of Tarshush, XXI 26—cheaply
 built often last longest, 280—tonnage,
 303—ventilation of, 542. See Navy.
 Ship-building, Shipping, Anchor, Rig-
 ging, &c.
 Shipwreck, means of escape from, XIII.
 439, 441—plundering of shipwrecked
 vessels in Denmark, VII. 740—"wreckers"
 of the Bahamas, for rescuing vessels
 from, IV. 367—shipwreck chart of the
 British Islands, XIII. 446—of British
 merchant vessels, XX. 28.
 Shipwrights, Company of, XX. 127—edu-
 cation of, at Portsmouth, VIII 83.
 SHIRAZ, city of Persia, XX. 206—vines of,
 XVII. 421—climate, 422—manufactures,
 424—tobacco, XXI 204.
 SHIRAZ, XX. 206—England divided into
 shires by Alfred, II. 481—officers be-
 longing to, VIII 720. See County.
 SHIRLEY (James), dramatist, XX. 206;
 XXI. 171.
 — (Sir Anthony), XVII 439—Jamaica
 invaded by, XII 672.
 Shirt of need, XIII. 113.
 SHIRVAX, in Asiatic Russia, XX. 207; VI.
 340, 842—ecclesiastical statistics, XIX.
 628.
 SHISHKOFF (A. Semenowitsch), XX. 207.
 SHITOMIR, Russian town, XX. 208; XII.
 786.
 Shiva, V. 724.
 SHO, in Abyssinia, XX. 208; II. 56.
 Shock, electrical, VIII 601.
 Shoddy trade, XXI 918, 919.
 Shode ore, in mining, XV. 222.
 Shoo, XX. 208.
 Shoebury-ness, experiments in gunnery at,
 XI. 123, 145.
 Shoeing of horses, XI. 672; XXI. 560.
 Shoemakers, diseases of, XIV. 442—num-
 ber in London, XIII. 600; in Scotland,
 XIX. 804.
 Shoengas, painter, XVII 74.
 SHOLAPUR, in India, XX. 208.
 SHOOTING, XX. 209.
 — stars, XIV. 684.
 Shopmen, diseases of, XIV. 442.
 Shops, signs of, III. 323, 324—in London,
 XIII. 663; in Liverpool, 521.

SHO—SIC

- Shore (Jane), XX. 227.
 — (Sir J.), his conduct in Oude, XVII. 22 and n 2.
 Shoreham (New), in Sussex, XX. 227—corruption in, V. 472.
 Shoring, in carpentry, V. 749.
 Shorr (James), optician, XX. 227—his reflectors, II. 88, XXI. 127.
 — (Dr Thomas), his works on bills of mortality, XV. 601, 603.
 Short-horned breed of cattle, II. 340.
 Short-sightedness, XVI. 695.
 Shortland writing, XX. 227. See Stenography.
 Shortreides' tables of logarithms, XIII. 555.
 Shot, XX. 213—case-shot, VI. 308; XI. 142. See Gunnery.
 Shousas, Bornuense tribe, V. 53.
 Shoulder, bones of the, III. 31—joint, 34—muscles, 33—shoulder blade in the mammalia, 81; birds, 86; reptiles, 88.
 Shovel (Sir Cloudesley), XX. 227; XV. 797—ship—wrecked on the Scilly islands, V. 449.
 Shoveller, bird, XVI. 817.
 Shrapnel shells, XI. 142—fuse for, III. 702.
 Shrew, in zoology, XIV. 150, XXI. 548.
 Shrewsbury, XX. 227, 230—battle of, VIII. 687—railways connected with, XX. 229.
 Shrike, bird, XVI. 743.
 Shrimp, VII. 541; IX. 765—Symington, VII. 543—brine-shrimp of Trona lakes, IX. 532.
 Shropshire, XX. 228.
 Shrouds of a ship, XX. 231.
 Sarove-Tuesdar, XX. 231.
 Shrubs, XI. 743, V. 78—for hedges, XVII. 760—evergreen, 1b—deciduous ornamental, 761—nursery culture of, 766.
 Shubnecadia, river, XVI. 343.
 Shuckard (W. E.), his works on insects, IX. 20.
 Shuckburgh (Sir George), on barometrical measurements, IV. 465, 466; I. 730—on the weight of air, XVIII. 24.
 Shuja (Shah), II. 208.
 Shumla, in Turkey, XX. 231.
 Shumshabad, town in India, XX. 231.
 Shunting, in railway language, XVIII. 788, 784.
 Shussea, town in Asiatic Russia, XX. 231.
 Shushter, town in Persia, XX. 231.
 Shutters of windows, V. 762.
 Shuttle, weaver's, XX. 231, 509; XXI. 783, 788, 789—fly-shuttle, VII. 441; XX. 609.
 Shuttleworth (Sir J. Kay), on education, XVII. 477, 479.
 Siak, in Sumatra, XX. 231.
 Sials, genus of insects, IX. 179.
 Siam, XX. 231; I. 735—language of, XIII. 189, 206—Burman invasion of, V. 763—missions established in, XV. 271—coins of, XVI. 391—silk, XX. 277—trade with Singapore, 307—weights and measures, XXI. 813.
 — gulf of, XX. 232.
 Slang, Chinese river, XI. 314.
 Sibbald (Sir Robert), his MSS in Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, XIII. 401—on the occurrence of Silurus glanis in Scotland, XII. 259.
 Siberia, XX. 234; XIX. 513, 520, 549; III. 734, 735—climate, 737; XX. 610—languages of, XIII. 189, 217—Hansen's magnetic observations in, I. 991; XIV. 60—mines of, XV. 289, 240—annexed to Russia, XIX. 473—criminals sent to, 525—fossil ivory, XII. 664—Kerghes country of, XIX. 591—population, 1b, 522—temperature, XVII. 617.
 Siberian beef, XX. 796.
 Sibylline Books, or Verses, II. 648; XX. 235—magistrates appointed for keeping, VIII. 270.
 Silesia, XX. 234—Cumsean silyl, II. 643; VII. 576—cave of the silyl, XX. 238.
 Silex (Amber), XX. 235—on the educa-

SIC—SIE

- tion of the deaf and dumb, VII. 676, 681.
 Sichardus (Joannes), his edition of the Theodosian Code, VI. 743.
 Sicilian diver, wonderful feats of a, VIII. 56.
 — vespers, XII. 649; XX. 253.
 Sicilies, Kingdom of the Two, XX. 235—Joseph Bonaparte, king of, X. 141; Murat, V. 615, XII. 653, XV. 689—statistical details, IX. 397, 398; XII. 634—navy, XX. 38—French trade with, X. 259; British, VIII. 733—sulphur, XVII. 624; XV. 123—universities, XXI. 492. See Naples, Italy, Sicily.
 Sicily, island of, XX. 243—agriculture, 248—roads, 250—provinces, 255—population, 256—pointed architecture of, III. 443—Athenian war with, IV. 205—Carthaginian invasions of, VI. 231 *et seq.*—introduction of silk into, VIII. 276—language, XIII. 213—libraries, 416—coins, XVI. 364, XV. 442, 445—pleistocene deposits of, 217—papyrus of, XVII. 246—sulphur, 624; XV. 123—height of mountains, XVII. 642, 643—Greek colonies in, XIX. 305, 309—Roman wars, 309 *et seq.*—Plato's visits to, XVII. 788, 789, 790—earthquakes, 616—weights and measures, XXI. 813—wines of, 886—map of, XII. Plata. See *Ætna*.
 Sickle, reaping with, II. 313.
 Sickle (Dr), XI. 346.
 Siculiana, town in Sicily, XX. 284, 245.
 Sicyases, genus of fishes, XII. 307.
 Sicydium, genus of fishes, XII. 306.
 Sicyogaster, genus of fishes, XII. 307.
 Sicyon, ancient Greek city, XX. 264—school of sculpture at, XIX. 853, 854.
 Siddons (Mrs), actress, XX. 264; XXI. 175.
 Sidera, genus of fishes, XII. 231.
 Sideral month, IV. 38—day, 23; XVI. 35—time, 38—astronomy, I. 638.
 Siderite, mineral, XV. 69, 93.
 Sideroscope, Leballiff's, XIV. 89.
 Sidesaddle, plant, V. 93, 182.
 Sidi-Peruch, battle of, X. 137.
 Sidings, in railways, XVIII. 774.
 Sidlaw Hills, XVII. 457; XX. 791; IX. 781.
 Sidney, or Sydney (Algernon), XX. 265; XVII. 390, 391—notice of his execution in the London Gazette, XVI. 152.
 — (Sir Henry), in Ireland, XII. 477; XX. 266.
 — (Sir Philip), XX. 266—his censure of old plays, VIII. 145, 147—his patronage of Spenser, XX. 506.
 Sidon, XX. 268, 905; XIX. 573—commerce of, VII. 184—gardens and orchards of, XX. 902—pachalic of, 905.
 Sidra, gulf of, XXI. 353.
 Siebold (Dr), on Japan, XII. 689, 694—on the tea-plant in Japan, XXI. 83.
 — (M. von), on animalcules, III. 209—on serpents, XIX. 66.
 Siedlce, in Polish Russia, XX. 270.
 Siege, IX. 823; XXI. 719—artillery used in, III. 691, 692—principles on which conducted, 691.
 Sierges, town in Prussia, XX. 270.
 — (Ludwig von), inventor of mezzotinto, XX. 270.
 Siemens (C. W.), his regenerative steam-engine, XX. 624.
 — (Messrs), their differential governors, XIV. 410.
 — (Werner), on the electro-static capacities of telegraphic conductors, XXI. 98 and n—on electric telegraphs, 108.
 Siera, town in Tuscany, XX. 270—fall of meteorolites near, XIV. 631—Academy of Sciences at, II. 64.
 Sierra and Serra, XX. 271, 496.
 — Leone, XX. 274; II. 227; XI. 89.
 — Morena, in Spain, XX. 487—geology of, 484.
 — Nevada, in Spain, XX. 487—geology of, 484—in California, VI. 96; XVII. 593, 594.
 — of Peru, XVII. 470.

SIE—SIL

- Siete Partidas, Spanish code, XX. 467.
 Siou-tseun, instigator of the rebellion in China, VI. 598.
 Sieveight on the pyro-electricity of tourmaline, VIII. 558.
 Smevsk, in Russia, XX. 272.
 Smevts (Emmanuel Joseph), count, XX. 273; X. 50, 57 *et seq.*, 112—his opinion of Napoleon, XV. 792.
 Sigalphus, genus of insects, IX. 188.
 Sigaretus, genus of mollusks, XV. 384.
 Sigebert, X. 4 *et seq.*
 Sigeth, siege of, XXI. 369.
 Sight, sense of, XIV. 565. See Vision, Eyes.
 — (Second), III. 313, n. 1; VII. 154.
 Signaria, fossil plant, V. 235.
 Sigmund, XX. 273—kings of Poland so named, XVIII. 142, 144—king of Sweden, XX. 847—of Hungary, XII. 12—elector of Brandenburg, XVIII. 648.
 Signa, village in Tuscany, XX. 273.
 Signals, naval, XX. 274; XVI. 103, 109, XX. 24, 25—to find the longitude by, XIII. 688.
 — railway, XVIII. 777.
 — of electric telegraph, XXI. 94, 100.
 Signature, XX. 274; V. 12, IV. 708, n. 3.
 Signet, XX. 274.
 — writers to the. See Writers to the Signet.
 Signorelli (Luca), painter, XX. 274—his paintings at Orvieto, XVII. 63.
 Signs, or written characters, remarks on, I. 66, 67—of the zodiac, IV. 12—in arithmetic, III. 583, n., geometry, X. 503—signs or marks used by booksellers, V. 30—of shops and taverns, III. 323, 324. See Characters.
 Sironio (Carolo), historian and antiquary, XX. 274.
 Sihon, river, XII. 711.
 Sikes' hydrometer, XII. 87.
 Sikhs, XI. 464; XVIII. 691—rise of their power, 692—war with the, V. 669, 671; XI. 509.
 Sikkim, in India, XX. 274—mean temperature of, XI. 442—height of mountains, XVII. 643.
 Sikoko, Japanese island, XII. 688.
 Sila (La), XX. 237.
 Silbermann (Gustave), his works on insects, IX. 18.
 — (M.), on the heat of the combustion of coal, XIX. 630.
 Silent system of prison discipline, XVIII. 571.
 Silesia, in Prussia, XX. 274—agriculture in, XVIII. 663, 666, 667, 668—Silesian wars, III. 637, X. 301; XVIII. 662—Silesian white beet-root, XX. 796.
 — (Austrian), XX. 275; IV. 310, 309.
 Silhet, in India, XX. 275.
 Silica, chemical character of, VI. 481; XV. 64—in plants, II. 388, V. 96—in sea-water, XVII. 572—earthy silica, XV. 69—aqueous deposits of, 144—silicified plants, XVII. 641.
 Silicic acid, VI. 482.
 Silicon, in chemistry, VI. 481—oxides of, in the earth's crust, XVII. 619.
 Silicula, in botany, V. 137.
 Silqua, in botany, V. 136.
 Silia, genus of insects, IX. 110.
 Silistria, XX. 275; VII. 634—taken by the Russians, XIX. 496—siege of, in 1854, XV. 313; XIX. 501.
 Silus Iulius (Caius), poet, XX. 275.
 Silu, XX. 276—of Bengal, IV. 649—China, VI. 588, 597—Cochin-China, VII. 48—Granada, X. 794—Greece, XI. 16, 32—Hindustan, 433—Italy, XII. 640—Japan, 693—Lombardy, XIII. 638—the Two Sicilies, XX. 249—Tuscany, XXI. 394—imports of, from India, XI. 462—of the spider, III. 374, 375—ancient Asiatic trade in, 734—origin of, VIII. 278—imports of, into the United Kingdom, 787—reduction of the duty on foreign, XIV. 288—silk stockings, XX. 706—porcellan silk, XXI. 783.

SIL—SIM

- Silk-cotton tree, IV. 840—order of plants, V. 184.
 SILK-MANUFACTURE, XX. 279—bleaching of, IV. 769—dyes better than cotton or linen, VIII. 274—scouring of, 276—dyeing of, 1b—aluming, 277—method of dyeing it red, 291; yellow, 298, orange, 299, 313, blue, 303, black, 305, green, 310; violet or purple, 312, 314—mixtures of black, &c., 314—calendering, VI. 92—of Asia, III. 757—Derbyshire, VII. 755—England, VIII. 730, XXI. 288; XXI. 792—France, X. 254; XXI. 793—Belgium, IV. 625—Italy, XII. 640—Ireland, 521—Germany, X. 590—London, XIII. 663—Lyons, 751—Manchester, XIV. 254—Pavia, XVII. 421, 425—Scotland, XIX. 805—Spain, 490—Switzerland, XX. 890.
 Silk-worm, XX. 286, IX. 205, 213—trade in, in Lombardy, XIII. 653—species in Jamaica, XII. 681.
 Sill of windows, III. 512; V. 759.
 Silago, genus of fishes, XII. 273.
 Silley, wine, XXI. 883.
 Silimante, mineral, XV. 86.
 Silloch, fish, XII. 269.
 Siloam, pool of, XI. 736, 745.
 Silpha, genus of insects, IX. 114.
 Silphales, family of insects, IX. 113.
 Silundia, genus of fishes, XII. 262.
 Silures, V. 377, XI. 350.
 Silurian period, in geology, XV. 197; XVII. 687—fishes of, XII. 351; XVII. 640—fossils of invertebrata in, 96, 97 *et seq.*—formation, in Russia, XIX. 517—in New York, XVI. 215—Scotland, XIX. 790, 793.
 Siluridae, or Silurids, fishes, XII. 261, 258.
 Silurus, genus of fishes, XII. 261, 259—electric, I. 738; VIII. 577.
 Silvanite, mineral, XV. 120.
 Silvas of South America, XVII. 604, 609.
 Silver, XX. 296; VI. 498; XV. 66, 113, 234—assaying of, III. 770—standard sterling silver of Great Britain, VII. 72—supply of, in early ages, 188—infux of, from America, 189—decrease in the supply of, for some time subsequent to 1810, 191—its value in the early part of last century, 378—process of coining, 86—melting, 87—valuations of the standard, 72—relative proportions of silver to gold, 78—amount coined at the Royal Mint, 95—specific gravity of, XII. 88—ductility of, X. 702—beating of, 703—extracted from lead, XVII. 622, process of, 1b; XV. 234—held in solution in sea-water, XVII. 572—distribution of, 622—in gulena, XIII. 299—use of, as money, XV. 417—coins of, 421 *et seq.*, 443; XVI. 252 *et seq.*—debasement of, XIV. 428—some of its salts poisonous, 434—red, XV. 121—bismuthic, 1b—plating with, XVII. 788—why less valuable than gold, XVIII. 241—cohesion of, XX. 756. See Precious Metals.
 — 1b, XVII. 757.
 Silver-mines, XV. 234—in America, II. 705—Burmah, V. 779—Bolivia, 825—Chili, VI. 648, 550—Hungary, IV. 313; XII. 17—Japan, 689—Mexico, XIV. 715—Europe, IX. 387—Norway, XVI. 322—of Pasco, XVII. 471—Peru, 1b—Puno, XVIII. 695—Russia, XIX. 542, 543—Siberia, 550—Spain, 489; II. 600—what benefits accrues to a country from colonies possessing them? VII. 145—silver found in England, 77, 407, 763; XV. 234—in Scotland, XIX. 804; VIII. 238; XIII. 175—Ireland, XII. 507.
 Silverphyllynglanz, XV. 117.
 Silver's marine governor, XX. 653, 654.
 Silversmith, X. 705.
 Silvis, genus of insects, IX. 231.
 Sinarubaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 189.
 Sinarsnek, in Russia, XX. 296; XIX. 521.
 Snarson (Charles), divine, XX. 296.
 — of Durham, XX. 286.
 — (Moses Ben), his Hebrew Bible, IV. 697.
 — Stylites, XV. 407.

SIM—SIN

- SIMFEROPOL, town in Russia, XX. 296, II. 435; VII. 504
- Simidae, in zoology, XIV. 137
- Simia catarrhini, XIV. 137—platyrrhini, 141 See Monkeys
- SIMILE, XX. 297, VII. 219, XIX. 132
- SIMLA, in India, XX. 297
- Simmel (Lambert), XII. 474; VIII. 695
- SIMON MACCABEUS, XX. 297; XII. 733, 770
- (RICHARD), XX. 297—his French New Testament, IV. 701—his Critical History of the Old Testament, XIX. 828
- (Dr), on the thymus gland, XII. 316
- Simon's Essay on Irish Coins, XV. 435
- SIMONIDES, XX. 297—invention of mnemonics by, XV. 285—inscription at Thermopylae by, XX. 500
- Simons (Richard), VIII. 695
- Simoon wind, XIV. 685—of Arabia, III. 342—of Egypt, VIII. 422
- Simosaurus, fossil reptiles, XVII. 144
- Simpliciani, section of insects, IX. 90, 92, 93
- Simplicipedes, section of insects, IX. 96, 99
- Simplicity, in poetry, XVIII. 95
- SIMPURUS, XX. 298
- SIMPLOX, XX. 298, II. 624—Bonaparte's road over the, *ib.*, *n.*, XIX. 228
- Simpson (General), XIX. 609, 610—on the designs of the Russians in the battle of Tchernaya, 509
- (Prof), his experiments on the growth of plants, II. 316—chloroform as an anæsthetic first proposed by, VI. 631
- (THOMAS), XX. 298—questions in physical astronomy solved by, I. 694—on annuities, III. 221, XII. 397—on mortality, XV. 632—on probability, XVIII. 591—his rules for finding the areas of plane surfaces, XX. 140 *et seq.*
- (Thomas), his Arctic expedition, XVIII. 171, 172
- Simson (Archibald), VI. 72
- (Dr ROBERT), XX. 298; I. 698, and *n.* 1—problems of Apollonius restored by, III. 302—on Euclid's porisms, XVIII. 361
- Simulha, genus of insects, IX. 229
- Sin, original, XVIII. 477—nature of sin, XXI. 199—all men under, 198—principle of, 200—kinds of, 192—no mere man has the power to forgive, I. 498—imputation of Adam's sin to his posterity, XXI. 204, 205, 207
- wilderness of, XX. 302
- SINAI (Mount), XX. 302—inscriptions near, XVII. 635—library of the convent of, XIII. 428—height, XVII. 644—dates of, VIII. 431—the law given from, XV. 659
- Sinaloa, in Mexico, XIV. 727, 718
- Sinclair (George), on the barometer, IV. 462—works of, *ib.*, *n.*—on the pressure of the atmosphere, XVIII. 27
- (Sir JOHN), XX. 303—on training, VIII. 25—his connection with the Board of Agriculture, II. 265
- SINDH, Indian province, XX. 303—Sepoy revolt in, XVI. 812—annexation of, V. 4
- Sinendrij, Persian town, XX. 307
- Sines, arithmetic of, II. 547—nature and calculation of, XIII. 665
- Sinew, II. 823. See Tendon
- Sinfulness of man, sources of, XXI. 201; consequences of, 207
- Sing-Sing, penitentiary of, XVIII. 571
- SINGAPORE, XX. 306—trade of, III. 787—silver exported from England to, XVIII. 472—weights and measures, XXI. 813
- Singer (Mr), on the electricity of powders, VIII. 564—on the fusion of wires, and oxidation of metals, by electricity, 592, 598—on the revival of oxides, *ib.*—on the effects of electricity on gases, 597—his electrometer, 617—his electric pile, XXI. 618
- Singhalese, VI. 391, 398—language, 397. See Ceylon

SIN—SIT

- SINGING, XX. 307; XV. 708; embellishments in, 719—singing-birds, XVII. 633
- Single-entry, book-keeping by, V. 28
- Singlesluck, game, XI. 170
- SINGAGALIA, town in the Papal States, XX. 307, XVII. 241—fair of, IX. 469
- SINISTER, in heraldry, XX. 307; XI. 327
- Sinkai, lake in Sumatra, XX. 802, 808
- Sinkel, river in Sumatra, XX. 803
- Sinking fund, VIII. 752; X. 328—Pitt's plan of, V. 439; XVII. 786—Walpole's bill, XXI. 692
- SINNA, town in Persia, XX. 307
- SINOPPE, XX. 307—port of, IV. 744—destruction of the Turkish fleet at, XIX. 501, XXI. 376
- Sinopite, mineral, XV. 84
- Sinter, siliceous, XV. 69, 144—pearl, *ib.* Sinotoos, Japanese sect, XII. 694
- SINUSSA, ancient Italian town, XX. 308
- Sinumbia lamp, XIII. 171
- Sinus, in anatomy, III. 30—variable size of the frontal, XVII. 567 and *n.*—much developed in some of the mammalia, III. 74, 79—in what fistula differs from, IX. 650—in veterinary science, XXI. 553
- Sion, Swiss town, XX. 882
- College, VII. 115
- Sionias' translation of Eudrius' Geography, VIII. 411
- SIOUT, XX. 308; VIII. 505
- Sioux, American tribes, IX. 347—languages, XIII. 223
- SIRIANTO, island, XX. 308
- Siphon, XII. 62. See Syphon
- Siphona, genus of insects, IX. 245
- Siphonostomata, mollusks, XV. 384
- Siphonostoma, genus of fishes, XII. 315
- Siphonotreta, fossil mollusks, XVII. 105
- Siphonotus, genus of mollusks, XV. 372
- SIPHONURUS, ancient Italian town, XX. 308
- Siphunculidae, zoophytes, XXI. 984
- Siphunculids, zoophytes, XXI. 985
- Sir, title, XX. 308—applied to clergymen, XIII. 114
- SIRARD (A.), his work on bees, IX. 23
- SIRILNUGGUR, town in India, XX. 308
- Siren, reptile, XIX. 14, 81, XIII. 460—odontology of, XVI. 430
- Sirène, instrument for enumerating sounds, I. 892
- Sirenidae or Sirenoids, family of fishes, XII. 318
- SIRENS, in fable, XX. 308
- Sirex, genus of insects, IX. 184
- SIRINDH, in India, XX. 309
- SIRINAGUR, XX. 309. See Cashmere
- SIRIS, city of Magna Græcia, XX. 309
- Sirtus. See Dogstar
- Sirmaraks, in ship-building, XX. 184
- Sirmour, in India, XX. 309
- Siro, genus of arachnides, III. 387
- SIROCOO, XX. 309, 247; XIV. 470; XI. 14; XII. 414—electrical state of the air during, VIII. 579
- SIMONS, town in India, XX. 309
- Sirven, aided by Voltaire, XXI. 661
- SIRENBOLT, in Turkey, XX. 309
- Siskin, bird, XVI. 761
- SISMONDI (J. C. Leonard Simonde de), XX. 309—on Machiavelli, I. 234—on taxation, XXI. 57
- Sisor, genus of fishes, XII. 263
- Sisson (Rev. J. Lawson), his photographic process, XVII. 548
- Sisson's optical instruments, III. 808
- Sissoo wood, XI. 444
- SISTEON, in France, XX. 310
- Sistine Chapel, XIV. 738—Angelo's painting of, XVII. 64, 66
- SISTOVA, in Turkey, XX. 310; VII. 653
- SISTRUM, musical instrument, XX. 310
- Sisyphus, in fable, XX. 810
- Sitana, genus of reptiles, XIX. 33
- Sitang, river, XXI. 161
- Sitaris, genus of insects, IX. 136
- Sitafists, in horses, XXI. 579
- Sitka, meteorological observations at, XIV. 687
- Sitokoki, Japanese island, XII. 688
- Sita, in coal-workings, VII. 122
- Sitta, genus of birds, XVI. 768
- SITTEBOURNE, town in Kent, XX. 310

SIU—SKU

- SIU-AN-HOA, Chinese town, XX. 311
- Siva, Hindu deity, V. 267, XI. 468
- SIVAS, in Turkey, XX. 311
- SIVASH, XX. 311
- Sivatherium, fossil mammals, XVII. 173, 598
- SIWAH, XX. 311, II. 718
- Six (M), on dew, VII. 769—his register thermometer, XI. 724; XXI. 224
- SIXTUS V (Pope), XX. 311
- IV. (Pope), his improvements in Rome, XIX. 366, 367
- SIZAR, XX. 312—at Oxford, XXI. 456
- SIZARSHIPS, XXI. 488
- Size of organs, in phrenology, XVII. 564
- Sizing of paper, XVII. 256, 258, 259—gold size, X. 708—in weaving, XXI. 784
- Skagerack, IV. 402, 408, 404
- Skaife (Thomas), his pistolograph, XX. 691, XVII. 554
- SKALITZ, town in Hungary, XX. 312
- Skaptæa Yokull, eruption of, in 1783, XII. 198—quantity of lava ejected by, XVII. 589
- Skates, fish, XII. 325, 326, IX. 763
- SKELTON, XX. 312; III. 4—of the lower animals, 74—fishes, XII. 208, 210 and *n.*, 211 and *n.*—of insects, IX. 30—cleaned by exposure to ants, III. 263
- Skellig islands, XIII. 73
- Skelly, fish, XII. 256
- SKELTON (John), poet, XX. 312
- SKENEZ (Sir JOHN), lawyer, XX. 313
- (Loch), VIII. 238
- SKERRENS, Irish seaport, XX. 314; VIII. 215—Islands, *ib.*
- in Shetland, XX. 113
- Skerryvore lighthouse, XIII. 467—force of waves at, XI. 216
- SKIRY BRIDGE, XX. 314, 729; on railways, XVIII. 762
- Skely, on muscular filament, II. 821
- SKIRREBERG, town in Ireland, XX. 315
- Skudlaw, VII. 576, 578; XVII. 643—slates of, XV. 196
- Skin, structure of the, II. 834—painted by the North American Indians, 682—cellular tissue under the, 786—its connection with the mucous membranes, 638—differences of its complexion, VII. 222—alleged cause of its black colour in the negro, II. 835—sent of its colour, VII. 223; XVII. 667—excretion from, *ib.*—of the crustacea, VII. 537—of the cetacea, XIV. 238—as a manure, II. 407—diseases of the, in the domestic animals, XXI. 678
- SKINNER (John), XX. 315
- Skins, imports of, into the United Kingdom, VIII. 736. See Leather, Hides
- Skjettner, or Albanians, IX. 361
- Skjapper, fish, XII. 264
- SKIRTON, town in Yorkshire, XX. 316—fairs at, XXI. 958—castle, 959
- Skirret, V. 195—culture of, XI. 740
- Skirtings, in joinery, V. 750, 761, XII. 809, 812
- Skleroklase, mineral, XV. 119
- Skolopseite, mineral, XV. 75
- Skrimshire (Mr), on the phosphorescent effects of electricity, VIII. 598
- Skua, bird, XVI. 813
- Skull (human), III. 15—general description of, 29—of the indigenous Americans, II. 676—distinguished by its sphenoidal shape and great size, 775; III. 28—shape and dimensions at different ages, 29—forms in different nations, *ib.*—Daubenton's occipital angle, 79—Camper's facial angle, *ib.*—Cuvier's method of estimating the proportion of the face and, 80—of the aborigines of Australia, IV. 259—Oken's vertebral theory of, XVI. 490, 601—how far correspondent in shape with the brain, X. 383; XVII. 678, 674—organs of the faculties marked out on, 662—amount of fluids contained in, 698—artificial flattening of, IX. 848—surgical treatment of fractures of, XX. 826
- of mammalia, III. 77; XIV. 133—birds, 84—reptiles, 87—fishes, 90; XII.

SHU—SLE

- 210—not filled by the brain in some animals, III. 104
- Skunk, quadruped, XIV. 158—its fur, X. 348
- Sky, colour of, XVI. 691—instrument for measuring the intensity of its colour, VII. 606, XVI. 692, XIX. 653—cold from a clear sky, VII. 101. See Climate
- Sky-rocket, XVIII. 707
- SKYE, island, XX. 316, XI. 278, 279—Michaelmas custom in, XIV. 736
- Skyros. See Seyros
- Slabbei, discovery of the metamorphosis of caustacea by, VII. 541
- Slacks, in Londonderry, XIII. 680
- Slag, in metallurgy, XX. 714
- SLANUWARTE, in Yorkshire, XX. 317
- Slaking of lime, XX. 713
- SLANDER, XX. 317
- Slane, in Meath, pagan relics near, XIV. 377
- Slaney, river, XII. 505
- Slate, XV. 142, 153, 155—slaty cleavage, 154, 179, XVII. 620—lead found in clay-slate, XV. 213—specific gravity of, XII. 88—slate-clay, XV. 89—polishing, 69—adhesive, *ib.*—roofing slates, XIX. 374—different kinds of, V. 746
- Slate-pencils, XVII. 376
- Slate-quarries in Britain, V. 746—Caernarvonshire, VI. 54—at Barmham, Peth-shire, XVII. 456—of Penryn, 620—Hebrides, XI. 278—Merionethshire, XIV. 643—Dumfriesshire, VIII. 235
- Slateford, aqueduct at, III. 339
- Slate's work, V. 745—measurement of, 746—on a farm-landing, II. 373
- SLAVE LAKE, (Great), XX. 318; XVIII. 172
- Slave-coast, II. 227; XI. 85, 89
- Slave-trade, XX. 321—African, II. 219, 227—South American, 638—discoveries in Africa extended by, 210—opposition to, in Britain, V. 533, 538, 540, by the Quakers, 527; XVIII. 722—its abolition there, V. 600—compensatory grant to Spain, 628—convention on, X. 194—Liverpool's participation in, XIII. 518—Bryan Edwards on, VIII. 414—opposed by Roscoe, XIX. 417; and Wilberforce, XXI. 865—in Nubia, XVI. 318—Constantinople, VII. 302—first publicly condemned by Dominick Soto, I. 330. See Negroes
- SLAVAKY, XX. 318, 324—in Afghanistan, II. 206—Brazil, V. 295—Columbia, VI. 134—Ihyti, XI. 255—India, 472 and *n.* 1—Jannaka, XII. 674—Java, 708—Russia, XIX. 623—United States, XXI. 430, 436—Virginia, 599—early abolished by the Danes, VII. 746—abolished in Bolivia, in 1836, IV. 897—American States in which it does not exist, II. 707—recent discussion on, in America, XIII. 42—Aristotle's view of, III. 569—Lord Exmouth's expedition to Algiers for the suppression of, V. 621—resolutions of the House of Commons in 1823 for improving the treatment of slaves, 639—proceedings in 1824, 641—sanctioned by Islamism, XV. 304—act for the abolition of, in all the British colonies, V. 664—its influence on the Athenians, X. 371—Wilberforce's exertions for the abolition of, XXI. 865—Washington's views of, 754; his emancipation of his own slaves, 764
- SLAVONIA, kingdom of, XX. 327; XII. 9
- Slavonians, IV. 318, 320; X. 587; XII. 10, 11; XIX. 469, 522—their historical writers, XI. 547
- Slavonic language. See Sclavonic
- SLAUFORD (New), in Lincolnshire, XX. 328
- Sledge, in Lapland, XIII. 240—sledge-racing in Russia, XIX. 645. See Sleigh
- Sleeman on Opium, XVII. 15, 18, 13
- Sleep, XVII. 680—mental phenomena of, XIV. 583—time that should be given to, XIX. 612—less ailment needed during, III. 180—supposed sleep of plants, V. 108. See Dreams

SLE—SME

Sleep-walking. See Somnambulism
 Sleepers, in railways, XVIII. 754, 756-58
 SLEIDAN (Johann), historian, XX. 328.
 Sleigh and Sleighing, in Canada, VI. 139, 140
 SLESWICK, XX. 328. See Schleswig
 Sleuthhound. See Bloodhound
 Shedderyford, pillars at, VIII. 123.
 Slide-rest, for turning lathes, I. 879.
 Slide-valves of steam-engines, XX. 589, 596, 654.
 SLIDING-RULE, XX. 328.
 Shelve Bloom Mountains, XIII. 91, XVIII. 729, 729
 — Donard, mountain, VIII. 122
 Shlevenamagh Mountains, XXI. 285
 Slight (James), his Report on Bell's Reaping Machine, II. 276
 Sligo, Irish county, XX. 328—agricultural statistics of, XII. 516, 517
 — bay, XX. 332
 Sling, its employment in war, III. 425, 426.
 Slingeby (Sir Robert), his work on the navy, XX. 130
 SLINGELANDT (Peter Van), painter, XX. 332
 Ships for hauling up ships, VIII. 77.
 SLOANE (Sir Hans), XX. 332, XIV. 462, IX. 4—purchase of his library for the British Museum, XIII. 389—Sloane MSS., 381—on birds, XVI. 728—Petiver's collection of plants purchased by, XVII. 495—on the Physales, XXI. 999
 SLOBODSKOI, or Slobosk, in Russia, XX. 334
 Sloe, XVII. 760
 SLOMIA, town in Russia, XX. 334
 Sloth, quadruped, XIV. 190; XVII. 631—odontology of, XVI. 441—bones of the foot, III. 83, 83—stomachs, 108—intestines, 110—tooth of the three-toed, XVI. 411, 412, of the two-toed, 441—fossil sloths, XVII. 173, 637.
 SLOUGH, XX. 334.
 Slovaks, XII. 11. See Slavonians.
 Slow-worms, XIX. 41.
 Slubbers, wages of, in Leeds district, XXI. 919.
 Slubbing billy, XX. 510.
 Slugs, XV. 374.
 SLUICE, XX. 334—diminution of discharge through a, XIX. 189—in irrigation, XII. 613
 Sluzsk, town in Russia, XX. 334.
 Smalcald, league of, XIX. 824; articles of, 825.
 Small (Dr), of Birmingham, his services to Wait, I. 868, n. 1.
 Small's plough, II. 270.
 Smallpox, death from, XV. 604—Sydenham's treatment of, XX. 895; XXI. 500.
 Smaltine, mineral, XV. 115.
 Smardina, genus of arachnids, III. 388.
 Smaris, genus of fishes, XII. 238.
 SMART (Christopher), XX. 334.
 — (John), his tables of interest, &c., XII. 433.
 Smearing of sheep, II. 351.
 Smeathman (Henry), his work on white ants, IX. 11, 173, 180.
 SKEATON (John), XX. 335—his boring mill, V. 41—his improvements on the diving bell, VIII. 64—on hydrodynamics, XII. 113, 121, 140—on water-wheels, 164, 168—on waves, XI. 216—his air-pump, XVIII. 37, 38—on the velocity of wind, 65—pyrometer invented by, 702—Eddystone Lighthouse erected by, III. 491; XIII. 464—his improvements on the steam-engine, XX. 575—his great Chase-water engine, ib.—his steam-boiler, 588.
 Smeck (Magnus), king of Sweden, XX. 845.
 Smeetyrnus, VI. 65; XV. 25.
 Smees (Alfred), his chemico-mechanical battery, XXI. 618—on multiplication of works of art in metal by voltaic electricity, 635, 636—on voltaic etching, 636, 637—on printing bank-notes from electrotypes, VIII. 810, n. 2.
 Small, sense of, in man, XVII. 877; XIV. 563—acute in the Arabs, III. 348—in the lower animals, 178; ants, 262; bees,

SME—SMI

IV. 575, insects, IX. 78, fishes, XII. 220—organ of, in man, III. 42, in brutes, 94 (see Nose)—smell of minerals, XV. 60
 SMELIE (William), XX. 336—his notice of Adam Smith, 343 and n. 3, 345—his connection with Gilbert Stuart, XXI. 788
 Smelt, fish, IX. 763
 SMELTING, XX. 337—of iron, VI. 178, 179, 489; XII. 538 *et seq.*—by hot-blast, 544; XIV. 546—fuel for, XII. 542—of tin, XV. 241—at Newcastle, XVI. 167
 See Copper-smelting
 Smerdis, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 343, XVII. 127.
 Smerinthus, genus of insects, IX. 210
 Smerthwick's burning-glasses, VI. 10.
 SMIRNOVSK, in Siberia, XX. 337
 Smilacæ, nat. order of plants, V. 210.
 Smiles (Dr.), his Life of George Stephenson, XX. 682
 Smilis, Greek sculptor, XIX. 852
 Smith, the most common surname in England, XVIII. 336
 — (ADAM), XX. 337—his theoretical system of philosophy, I. 3—on the ancient Greek philosophy, 9—on the law of nations, 91—on French metaphysical writers, 172 and n. 3—his dissertation on language, 175, 176, n. 1—his Theory of Moral Sentiments, 374—his theory of sympathy, 375, 376, 377—his objections to apprenticeship, III. 326—his friendship with Dr. Black, IV. 738—on metal as a medium of exchange, VII. 68—on the high price of gold before the recoinage, 79—on monopoly of the colonial trade, 141, 143, 144—on labour, 162—on the value of gold and silver in the early part of last century, 378—on division of labour, 429—Lord Hailes' Latin version of his account of Hume's last illness, 636—on exchange, IX. 431—on interest, XII. 429—on the origin of language, XIII. 188, n.—on money, XV. 416, 437—on the Bank of England, 470—his theory of rectitude, 545—on joint-stock companies, XVII. 316, 817—on wealth, XVIII. 211—his Wealth of Nations, 222, effects of its publication, I. 374, its prohibition in Spain, IV. 713—on capital, XVIII. 222, 223—on desire to better our condition, 234—on the productiveness of agriculture, 236—on retail dealers, 237—on value, 239—on wages, 240—on productive and unproductive consumption, 257—on primogeniture, 516—his opinion of Quesnay, 733—on taxation, XXI. 88, 43 *et seq.*; his maxims on, 40; on the tax on wages, 49
 — (Dr Archibald), on Peru, XVII. 470, 471, 472.
 — (Asheton), his hounds, XI. 787.
 — (Captain Baird), on Italian irrigation, XII. 140.
 — and Beck (Messrs), their object-glasses, XIV. 779, 780—their stereoscope, XX. 687, 688.
 — and Coventry, their steam-boiler, XX. 616
 — (Charles), on the corn produced and consumed in the United Kingdom, VII. 395—on the corn-trade, 379.
 — (Charlotte), XX. 337—her novels, XIX. 279.
 — (Dr), his microscope, XIV. 786.
 — (EDMUND), XX. 346.
 — (F.), his works on insects, IX. 18.
 — (F. P.), his experimental screw-vessel, XX. 137, 689—his screw-propeller, 688
 — (Dr Gordon), on forensic medicine, XIV. 424.
 — (General Sir Harry), his victory over the Sikhs, II. 538—his proceedings against the Kafirs, XIII. 34, 35; X. 712.
 — (James), of Deanston, his system of draining, II. 264; VIII. 138—his subsoil plough, II. 271—machinery erected by, at Shaw's Water, XI. 48.
 — (JAMES and HORACE), XX. 346.

SMI—SNI

SMITH (Sir James Edward), XX. 346—his herbarium, XVI. 334
 — (John), of Cambridge, on the immortality of the soul, I. 58, n. 1—passages from, illustrative of the Cartesian philosophy of the mind, 61, n. 2
 — (JOHN PRE), divine, XX. 347—on the Deluge, VII. 723—on the dispersion of mankind, VIII. 45
 — (JOHN THOMAS), XX. 348
 — (JOSEPH), Mormonist, XX. 318, XV. 589
 — (Sir Lionel), governor of Jamaica, XII. 674
 — (Nicholas Hankey), on breeding horses, XI. 636
 — (Rev. Mr.), of Lois Weedon, his system of growing wheat, II. 293; partly a revival of Tull's method, 308
 — (Rev. Mr.), nussomary, case of, XX. 324
 — (Sir Sidney), his defence of Acre, V. 568, X. 112; VIII. 489
 — (SYDNEY), XX. 348—on Francis Horner, XI. 632—on the origin of the Edinburgh Review, XII. 716
 — (Dr Southwood), his efforts in favour of sanitary legislation, XIX. 603
 — (Dr Thomas), on feudalism in Turkey, IX. 521.
 — (Sir THOMAS), XX. 350.
 — (WILLIAM), geologist, XX. 351
 — (Dr William), his Lexicon, XVII. 526
 — (Rev. William), on British diatomaceæ, III. 212.
 Smith's bellows, IV. 795—anchor-smiths, III. 119.
 — work, in building, V. 756.
 Smithsonite, mineral, XV. 100
 Smyth coal, VII. 118
 Smits (Edward), on the population of the Netherlands, XV. 620, 634
 SMOKE, XX. 352—its injury to the health of towns from, XIX. 605—Smoke Nuisance Abatement Act, ib.
 Smoke-balloons, II. 171, 172.
 SMOKE-BALL, XX. 350.
 Smoking, fashion of, IX. 487.
 — mountain, XVIII. 338.
 SMOLLENSK, in Russia, XX. 359, 360, XIX. 521—Napoleon's capture of the city, X. 155—his retreat from, 158.
 SMOLLETT (Tobias), XX. 360—character of his novels, XIX. 273—on the feudal system in the Highlands, IX. 521, n. 1
 Smolts, III. 162; IX. 591, XII. 239—their conversion into grilse, IX. 596.
 SMUGGLERS, XX. 363; XXI. 70.
 Smuggling, encouraged by indirect taxes, XXI. 58; and high duties, 69—reduction of these the only means of preventing, 70—in Spain, XX. 491.
 Smut, disease of wheat, V. 171, 172.
 Smyrnthrus, genus of insects, IX. 261.
 SMYRNA, XX. 363—probable birth-place of Homer, XI. 595—ruins of, XVIII. 799—trade of, XXI. 385.
 Smyth (C. P.), astronomer-royal of Scotland, III. 618, 819—his meteorological observations on Tenerife, XIV. 677, 676, 680, 685—on zones of vegetation on the Peak of Tenerife, XVII. 625.
 — (Admiral), on the Mediterranean, XVII. 573, 574—Neapolitan coasts, XX. 241, 242, 244—atmospheric phenomenon described by, 246
 Snails, XV. 373, 374, 368.
 Snake. See Serpents
 Snake-root, V. 133—Virginian, 205.
 Snap-fishing, III. 159.
 Sneedorf (Jens S.), XIX. 693.
 SNEEK, town in Friesland, XX. 364.
 SNEZEL (Wilhelm), XX. 364; X. 504—his measurement of an arc of the meridian, I. 618; IX. 548; III. 801—his discovery of the true law of refraction, I. 627, 747; II. 87; XIII. 449; XVI. 530—his treatise on navigation, 5—on the quadrature of the circle, XX. 528.
 Snelling, on coinage, VII. 75.
 Sniadecki (Andrzej), XX. 364.
 — (JAN), XX. 364.

SNI—SOC

Snipe-fish, XII. 209
 Snipe-shooting, XX. 223
 Snipes, XVI. 803
 SNORRO STURLESON, XX. 364; XIX. 689—Edda of, 690, VIII. 388, Rask's edition of, XVIII. 808
 SNOW, XX. 365, XIV. 659—exportation of, from Aetna, II. 190, VII. 101—cooling with, ib.—depth of, in Canada, VI. 140—its influence on rocks, XV. 139—perpetual snow, XVII. 602—line, or level, of perpetual snow, XIV. 659, X. 633; among the Alps, II. 625; of the Tyrol, X. 585, on the Andes, II. 669, XVII. 602, in Mexico, XIV. 716, Himalayas, XI. 442, VI. 772, Pyrenees, XVIII. 700, XX. 486—red, XI. 43—red snow plant, V. 75—green-snow plant, 113
 See Glacier, Polar Regions.
 Snow-drop and snow-flake, plants, V. 212
 Snow-drop tree, XVII. 764
 Snow-flower, Virginian, XVII. 764
 Snow-skates, XIII. 240
 Snow-spectacles, XIV. 800.
 SNOWDON, Welsh mountain, XX. 365; VI. 54—barometrical measurement of, IV. 466—height, XVII. 643
 Snuff, XXI. 295—manufacture of, 296, 297—at Sheffield, XX. 96
 Snuff-boxes, manufacture of, at Cummock, VII. 584, Mauchline, XIV. 359.
 Snuff-makers, diseases of, XIV. 443—license paid by, XIII. 435
 Sny, in ship-building, XX. 185
 SNYDER, or SNYDERUS (Francis), XX. 365; XVII. 75
 Soaking of timber, XXI. 279.
 SOAP, XX. 365—knowledge of, in ancient times, VIII. 273—license paid by makers of, XIII. 435—rosin used in making, XIX. 88—manufacture of, in France, X. 255
 Soap-bubbles, colours of, XVI. 602—solid bubbles, 603.
 Soapstone, XV. 84
 Soapwort, order of plants, V. 186
 Soar, river, XIII. 320.
 SOBIESKI (John), XX. 367; XVIII. 141—the Turks defeated by, XXI. 370—his residence, 743
 Soboles, in botany, V. 79.
 Sobhan, battle of, V. 670, XVIII. 693
 Sobriety, a virtue of the Chinese, VI. 695.
 SOGAGE, XX. 367
 Social science, XX. 552.
 — war, XIX. 320
 Socialism, denounced by Tocqueville, XXI. 300. See Communism.
 Society, origin of, XIII. 255—science of, 263—duties connected with, XV. 569—changes in English, VIII. 761. See Caste, Rank.
 — for promoting science, &c., XX. 367
 — advantages arising from learned societies, I. 47—societies in London, XIII. 674; XX. 368; Edinburgh, ib.; Dublin, ib.—Asiatic, III. 759; VI. 70—friendly societies, X. 309—anti-slavery societies, XX. 321; in United States, II. 43—Pythagorean, XVIII. 712. See Academy, Bible Societies, Royal Societies, &c.
 — ISLANDS, XX. 368; XVIII. 279—bread-fruit of, V. 300
 Socinians, XX. 369; XII. 764—views of some of them on original sin, XXI. 204, respecting the person of Christ, 208. See Socinus.
 SOCRUS (Faustus), XX. 368.
 — (LULIUS), XX. 368.
 Sockna, town in Fezzan, IX. 527.
 SOCONUSCO, town in Mexico, XX. 369.
 SOCORRO, town in New Granada, XX. 369.
 SOCRATES, island, XX. 369; II. 220.
 SOCRATES, XX. 369; XVII. 783 *et seq.*—his mode of teaching, 785, 786—his method of reasoning, I. 17, n.—his answer to those who maintained that the superiority of the soul of man to that of a brute arises from superior organisation, 180—a teacher of virtue rather than a searcher after truth, 316—Plato's account of his doctrines, ib.—his descrip-

SOC—SOL

tion of a tyrant, 317—on the opinion of men as to a future state, 460—Eberhard's defence of, VIII 369—Aristophanes' ridicule of, 139—poison which caused his death, XI 811—his ideas on beauty, IV 537—his daemon, III 310—cause of his condemnation, IV 216—Xenophon a disciple of, XXI 950

SOCRATES, of Constantinople, XX 404

SODA, XX 404, VI 485; XV 65, 61—in plants, II 387—poisonous quality of, XIV 434—manufacture of, at Newcastle, XVI 167—nitrate of, as manure, II 305, 413—salts of, as manure, 413—silicates, ib

Soda-alum, II 636, 638; XV 97

Sodalite, mineral, XV 74

Sodium, VI 435, XV 60, 61—Davy's discovery of, VII 669—specific gravity of, XII 88

SODOM, XX 404; XVII 187, 192

SODOR, XX 404—bishopric of, XIV 246

Soemmering (S Thomas), his anatomical works, II 769, III 73—spot on the eye named after him, 44—on the form of the eye, 95

SOERABAYA, in Java, XX 401

SOERKARTA, in Java, XX 404

SOEST, town in Prussia, XX 404

SOPALA, in Africa, XX 405, II 228; XV 670

Sophism, XV 304.

SOPHITA, XX 405, III 513—to find the soffit of an arch, XX 729—moulds for, ib 730

SOPHA, XX 405. See Sophia.

SORDIANA, in Central Asia, XX 405; V 759.

Soho, near Birmingham, IV 732; V 246.

SOUBRAI, town in Silesia, XX 405.

SOIGNIN, town in Belgium, XX 405

SOIL, XX 405, II 266; XV 150, 216—chemical and physical properties of, II 389, 392, 397, V 97—origin of, II 389—mechanical improvement of, 399—classification of soils, ib, 266—improvement of, by burning, 401—mixing of, ib—a source of the organic constituents of plants, 378—adapted for flax, 352—preparation of, for turnips, 315—comparative extent of useful soil in the Old and New Continents, 769—influence of, on the distribution of plants, V 221—effects of drainage on the temperature of, VIII 131—of gardens, III 700, 747—for nurseries, XVII 766—power of producing food limited by the nature of, XVII 339—its full resources have never been called forth, 345—its influence on health, XIX 610—of the tea-lands in China, XXI 84—influence of, on the growth of timber, 268, 269—of England, VIII 717—in Russia, XIX 518. See Mould, Subsoil

Soiling of live stock, II 326.

SOISSONS, town in France, XX 405.

Sokoto, XI 777, 778. See Succatoo.

Solan-goose, XVI 814, IX 762; III 181.

Solanaceæ, nat. order of plants, V 201—their narcotic properties, XIV 437; XXI 293.

Solander (Dr), IV 419.

Solar system, stability and permanence of, I 811—solar heat, 350. See Astronomy, Heat

—microscopes, XIV 789—time (see Time).

SOLARIO (Antonio de), XX 405.

Solarium, genus of mollusks, XV 382—fossil, XVII 110.

SOLDER, XX 406.

Soldiers, diet of, VIII 22—utility of training to, 25—diseases of, XIV 442—interriment of, among the Athenians, X 344. See Army.

SOLDEN, town in Prussia, XX 406.

Sole, fish, XII 272—fishery of, IX 649; in Ireland, 634.

—of windows, III 512.

Soles, genus of fishes, XII 272—fossil, XVII 128.

SOLCISM, XX 406.

SOL—SOM

Solecurtus, genus of mollusks, XV 350—fossil, XVII 108

Solemya, fossil mollusks, XVII 106

Solen, genus of mollusks, XV 350, 347

Solenella, genus of mollusks, XV 349—fossil, XVII 106

Solenellidæ, family of mollusks, XV 349

Solenhofen, lithographic stones of, XIII 510—fossil insects and spiders of, XVII 103

Solenidæ, family of mollusks, XV 350—fossil, XVII 108

Solenodon, teeth of, XVI 451

Solenognathus, genus of fishes, XII 815

Solenostomidæ, family of fishes, XII 315

Solenostomus, genus of fishes, XII 315

SOLNET (The), XX 406

Solenus (Julius), on geography, X 468.

SOLSMES, town in France, XX 406.

SOLURE, XX 406, 408, 882

SOLTA, XX 406

Solfataas, XVII 621—mountain near Naples, ib, XII 637

SOLERN, village in Lombardy, XX 406—battle of, in 1859, XIX 645

SOLTI, in Asia Minor, XX 106.

SOLITOR, XX 406—qualifications of, IV 219—in the supreme courts, VIII 395

Solid, definition of, X 506, 507, 535—geometry of, 532—motion of a rigid solid, XIV 387.

Solitipeda, II 774

Solidity, perception of, XIV 573—a primary quality of body, 571

Solids, mechanical properties of, I 874—application of force to, ib—refractive power of, XVI 558—dispersive powers of, 582—colours of dispersed light in, 693

Solidungula, family of mammals, XIV 199—their bones, III 77 *et seq*—muscles, 92—organs of smell, 91—ears, 98—organs of voice, 101—nervous system, 104—teeth, 106—length of their intestines, 110

Solidus, coin, XVI 386

Solia (M), his writings on insects, IX 18

SOLIMULL, town in Warwickshire, XX 406.

SOLIMAN II, the Magnificent, XX 406, XII 16; XVIII 383, XXI 369.

SOLINGEN, Prussian town, XX 407.

SOLIS (Antonio de), historian, XX 407.

Sollaire, extinct bird, XVII 634, 637.

Sollitaria, tribe of mollusks, XV 332.

SOLITARES, XX 407.

Solitary system, in prison discipline, XVII 571

SOLLER, seaport of Majorca, XX 407.

Solly (Mr), on the brain, XVII 560, 668, 669.

Solly's Syllabus of Logic, XIII 535.

Solo, in music, XX 407

—Javanese river, XII 708.

SOLORO, town in Naples, XX 407.

SOLOMON, XX 407, XII 767, XVII 193—aqueduct of, III 335—Proverbs of, XVIII 643—the probable author of Ecclesiastes, VIII 372—psalms composed by, XVIII 679—temple of, III 439; XII 740; altars in, II 691

—SONG OF, XX 407, VI 198.

SOLOMON'S ISLANDS, XX 407; IV 264

—seal, plant, V 79.

SOLON, XX 407—his government, IV 194—code, 195—travels, ib—legislation, 213—Calendar, VI 79—conversation with Croesus, VII 507.

SOLON, island, XX 408.

SOLOTHURN, or Soleure, XX 408, 882.

SOLSTICE, XX 409, IV 11

SOLWAY FURTH, XX 409; VIII 237—manufacture of salt on its shores, VII 551, n. 1

—Moss, battle of, XIX 775.

SOLYMANIA, town in Kurdistan, XX 409.

SOMALFEY, town in Hindustan, XX 409.

Somatoria, genus of birds, XVI 817.

SOMAUZ, or Somali, African race, XX 409; II 221, 222—country of, 228.

SOMBOY, town in Hungary, XX 409.

Somerled, XI 279; XIX 752.

SOMERS (John, Lord), XX 409.

—(Sir George), IV 668.

SOM—SOR

Somers' Islands. See Bermudas.

SOMERSET (Lord Charles), V 641, XIII 33.

—(Edward) See Worcester, Marquis of

—House, London, XIII 669, III 485

SOMERSETSHIRE, XX 409—population and value of property, VIII 754.

SOMERSTON, XX 411

SOMERVILLE (William), poet, XX 411—his poem, The Chase, XII 33

Somerville (Mis), I 924, n. 1—on the magnetic action of light, ib—on the chemical rays of the spectrum, ib—on the solar rays, XIII 452, XIV 12, XVI 595, 596—on heat, XI 266—her work on the mechanism of the heavens, IX 677—on thunder-storms, XVII 616—on the flora of Australia, 629—distribution of insects, 637—her Physical Geography, 642.

—(Lord), on the want of salt as a punishment, XXI 974

SOMMA, town in Lombardy, XX 412

—town in Naples, XX 412

SOMME, in France, XX 412

SOMMERFELD, in Prussia, XX 412

SOMMERIES, town in France, XX 412.

SOMNAMBULISM, XX 413, XVII 680. See Mesmer and Mesmerism

SOMSAURIN, town in India, XX 446

SOMMER (William), antiquary, XX 446.

SONATA, XX 446.

Sonderbund, XX 887.

Sonderland (Dr), proves by an ingenious experiment the identity of cow-pox and small-pox, XXI 502

SONDERSHAUSEN, town in Germany, XX 446.

SONDRIO, town in Lombardy, XX 446.

SONG, or Soane, Indian river, XX 446.

SONG, XX 447—hunting songs, XII 33

Songara, in Asia, III 732.

Sonna, supplement to the Koran, XV 303; XX 907.

Sonnerat, his voyage to New Guinea, IV 262—on birds, XVI 720.

SONNINI DE MANONCOURT (C N. S.), naturalist, XX 417

Sonnites, Mohammedan sect, XV 306; XX 907, 908.

Songla (M), his work on insects, IX 15

SONORA, Mexican state, XX 117; XIV 727, 718.

SONONATE, in Central America, XX 447.

SONT II, town in India, XX 447.

SOOGOO ISLANDS, XX 447; XVII 513.

SOOROO, cetaceous animal, XIV 220.

Soof, as a manure, II 305—quantity produced in London, ib—extraction of ammonia from, 722—as a dyestuff, VIII 398.

Soothsayers, VIII 54.

SOPHIA, Turkish town, XX 447.

—(Princess), XIX 476.

SOPHISM, XX 447; IX 476. See Fallacy.

SOPHIST, XX 447, 370, 383, 384, 391; XVII 795, 809—philology cultivated by the Sophists, 518—Plato's teaching distinguished from that of the, 797

SOPHOCLES, XX 447—tragedies of, VIII 138.

Sophonisba, daughter of Hasdrubal, XIV 834.

Sophora Japonica, XVII 622.

SOPHORO, XX 449.

Sopwith (Mr), on the effects of lead vapour on vegetation, XV 193, n.

SORA, town of Naples, XX 449.

Sorabian language, IX 392.

SOREA, Egyptian deity, XI 386.

SORANUS, Ephesian anatomist, II 754; XIV 454.

SORAZA, mountain, XX 449; III 120; IV 822—height of, XVII 644.

SORAU, town in Prussia, XX 449.

SORBAE, town in Spain, XX 449.

SORBONNE, XX 449; XXI 447.

Sorby (Mr), his machine for producing lamination, XV 159, n.—on current-marks on rocks, ib.—on cleavage, 179.

Sorcerer-fish, XII 281.

Sorcery, XIV 422—Malebranche on, I 75

See Magic.

SOR—SOU

Soidawalite, mineral, XV 82

Soiex, genus of mammalia, XIV 150—dentition of, XVI 451.

Sorgho, XX 798

SORIA, in Spain, XX 449, 450.

SOIS, Egyptian deity, VIII 454.

Soites, in logic, XIII 632, 633

SOLOCABA, town in Brazil, XX 450.

Soisais, in botany, V 139

Sorrel, wood, V 187—common, XI 745—French, ib

SORRENTO, town in Italy, XX 450, 240

Sorting of tea, XXI 85

Sosigenes, his improvement of the Calendar, VI 77

Sossistratus, VI 284

SOSEVITA, town in Russia, XX 450.

Sotesis, Egyptian king, XI 390.

Sotology, XXI 184, 215. See Salvation.

Sothic period, VI 670.

Soto (Domnic), I 330—first writer who condemned the slave-trade, ib

SOTTEVILL-LES-ROULN, in France, XX 450

SOUAI NUT, XVI 395.

Souban (M), on polarisation, XVI 681

Soucheong-tea, XXI 84.

Soudan mountains, IX 527

Soudan, in Africa, XX 450; II 211, 228; XI 776, XVI 267—languages of, II 221.

Souliangas, buds, XVI 769

Soul, nature and essence of, I 57, III 172, 176, XIV 567, 605, 619 and n. 1—seat of, 567, n. 6—presumption of its immortality from the analogy of the laws of nature, I 58—Leibnitz on the, 128, 259—argument of Addison for the immortality of, 162—futility of the attempts to assimilate the faculties of brutes to those of men, 179, 181—ancient opinions as to the nature of, III 369—Aristotle on, 548—Athenian speculation concerning, IV 211—Have brutes souls? V 700—Dr S. Clarke on, VI 757—Dr Pryce, XVIII 711—Priestley, 511—argument for its immortality from its simplicity, XIV 619, n. 1—opinions of the ancients as to its immortality, I 463—transmigration of souls, XL 470; I 469—Plato's notions of, XVII 807—Pythagoras' opinions, XVIII 711—operation of the Holy Spirit on, XIII 218. See Immortality, Future Life, Mind, Spirit.

Souleyet on the mollusca, XV 327.

Soulaie (M. Friedley), XX 450.

Soulin mouth of the Danube, IV 742.

Soulouque, emperor of Hayti, XI 257.

Soult (N. Jean-de-Dieu), marshal of France, XX 450; X 137 *et seq*, 207, 230—his Spanish campaigns, V 604—his opinion of Sir J. Moore, XV 529—his invasion of Portugal, XVIII 388—his operations in Spain and Portugal, XXI 821, 822, 824, 826.

SOUND, XX 451—nature of, II 97—propagation of, 98; I 892; XVIII 70—velocity of, through different media, I 891; II 101—through water, I 891; gases, II 104—mathematical theory of the propagation of, I 891—Chladni on, ib—musical, 892; II 107, 108; XV 704—grave and acute, II 109—beauty of, IV 553—Lagrange on, XIII 154—transposition of sounds in languages, XVII 639—of electric currents, XXI 631. See Acoustics, Echo, Music, &c.

—(Tine), strait in the Baltic, XX 461; IV 402—current in, 403—duces paid at, VII 740, 748; VIII 641.

SOUNDING at sea, XX 451, 26; XV 157—machine for, 27—in the Atlantic, IV 176.

Soup-making, IX 766—portable soup, 767.

SOUP, or THOU, XX 451. See Tyre.

Sour-Krout, IX 760.

Sousal (M. A. de), V 279.

—(Pero Lopes de), V 279.

—(Thome de), V 281.

Souterail, hydraulic obelisk, III 865.

South (Sir James), his transit instrument, IV 182—his equatorial, 185.

SOU—SPA

- SOUTH (Robert), divine, XX. 451
 —Down sheep, II 346—wool of, XXI 905 *et seq*
 —Sea, XVII 39—active volcanoes in, XXI 603 See Pacific Ocean
 —Sea Islands. See Polynesia.
 —Sea Scheme, IV. 507; V 456, XVIII 331
 South-Eastern Railway, IX 750; XIII 67—dividend in 1845, XVIII 786
 Southampton, XX. 452, XI. 203—docks of, VIII 75—battle of, 690
 —county See Hampshire
 —in Massachusetts, XIV 340
 Southcott (Joanna), XX. 453
 Southern (John), his experiments on steam, XX. 557
 —(Thomas), dramatist, XX. 454, XXI 172—dramatic works of, VIII 164
 Southey (Robert), XX. 454—his friendship with Coleridge, VII 109—his account of a meteorolite, XIV. 631—his poetry, XVIII 126.
 —(Thomas), on wool, II 853, XXI 907.
 Southport, village in Lancashire, XX. 456
 Southsea, XVIII 377.
 Southwark, XX. 456—Bridge, V. 361, XII 688; XIII 676; XIX 11
 —suburb of Philadelphia, XX. 456, XVII 509
 Southwell, in Nottinghamshire, XX. 456
 —(Sir Robert), his method of preserving flowers, IX 669.
 Southwold, in Suffolk, XX. 456—naval engagement with the Dutch in the bay of, V. 426
 Sovereign, XX. 456—coin, XV. 441, 430, XI 89
 —power, XIII 259—proprietary right of, considered, XI 511
 Sow. See Swine, Hog
 Sowbread, plant, V. 203.
 Sowerby (Messrs), their works on mollusca, XV. 327
 Sowerbya, fossil mollusks, XVII 108
 Sowing, implements for, II 274
 Sozomenus (Hieronymus), Historian, XX. 456.
 Spa, or Spaa, in Belgium, XX. 457.
 Spacalorono, town in Sicily, XX. 457
 Space, XIV 561—Clarke's, Leibnitz's, and D'Alembert's views regarding the nature of, I 142 and *n.*—Kant's notions respecting, 195, 280; XIII 48—phenological faculty of, XVII 673—temperature of, I 950.
 Space-penetrating power of telescopes, I 840; XXI 128.
 Spadate, mineral, XV. 80.
 Spadix, in botany, V. 112, 115.
 Spafeld notes, V. 625.
 Spagnolotto See Ribera (José de).
 SPAIN, XX. 457; IX. 408—history of, XX. 457—statistics of, 484—writers on ethics, I 330—academies of the Moors, II. 61—academies of painting and history at Madrid, 68, 69—Royal Spanish Academy, 71—agriculture, 253—war with the Algerines, 567, with the Almohades, 602—colonies in America, 700—population of Spanish America, 708—pointed and Moorish architecture, III 449—influence of the Italian school on the architecture of, 453—army, 642—painters, 712; XVII 75—Bibles, IV 701—relations to Britain in the reign of James I, V 386, 387—Gibraltar taken by the British, 448—War of the Succession, 10; IV. 308; XII 652—Quadruple Alliance, V. 456—wars with Britain, 10, 456, 488, 465, 559, 598—war with Portugal, in 1762, 468—disputes with Britain about the Falkland Islands, 470; and Nootka Sound, 598—Peninsular war, 608—negotiations with Britain, in 1823, 637—conquests of the Carthaginians in, VI. 281, 292, 298; XIX. 310—Castil's Catalogue of Arabian MSS. in, VI. 310—influence of chivalry in, 605—era of, 672—extent of coal area in, VII. 127—unsound policy as to the precious metals, 146—colonies, 149—miserable

SPA—SPA

- colonial system, XIV 707, 708; II. 701; XVII 780—not a flourishing country in the middle ages, VII. 187—comtrade, 403—condition at the time of the Crusades, 530—war with England in the reign of Elizabeth, VIII 712—Armada, 10—trade with England, 732, 733—drama, 145, 146—insects, IX. 65—sieges of towns by the British, 823, 825—French invasions of, X. 84, 149—French intervention in, 184; their operations under the Duke d'Angoulême, 185—Isabella acknowledged by France, 209—Don Carlos, 210—the Spanish marriages, 222, 226, 231, 232—French trade with, 259—subdued by the Goths, 577—gypsies, XI 171—historical writers, 549—war with the Dutch, 573, 574—the Inquisition introduced, XII 387—treatment of the Jews, 779, 780, 783—language, XIII 213—libraries, 409—orders of knighthood, 123, 51—events of 1808–1810, their effect in America, XIV 708—silver mines of, XV 231, 234—lead, 242—metallic products of, 248—monarchy, 414—history of money, 436—coins, 442, 445; XVI 360, 387—mortality, XV 608—mysticism, 757—newspapers, XVI 203—philology in the middle ages, XVII 521—mountain system, 595—height of mountains, 642, 643—poetry, XVIII 112, X. 403—postal system, XVIII 424—proverbs, 643—railway statistics, 787—the Reformation, 828—reptiles, XIX. 15—romance, 265, 285—Roman conquests, 315—Caesar's campaign in, 326—school of sculpture, 865—the Two Sicilies under, XX. 259, 263—slave-trade, 322, 323—silk produced in, 278—effects of heavy taxes in, XXI 39; and of their reduction, 72—manufacture of tobacco in, 294—universities, 492—wines, 884—Wellington's campaigns in, 821, 822 *et seq*—weights and measures, 818—wool exported to Britain, 907, 911—map of, XX. Plate See Spaniards, Spanish.
 Spain (New), increase of population in, XVIII 341.
 Spalacotherium, fossil mammals, XVII 160.
 Spalanx, genus of mammalia, XIV. 185
 SPALATO, or Spalatro, XX. 494—palace of Dioclesian at, II 126, III 470
 SPALDING, in Lincolnshire, XX. 494
 —(JOHANN JOACHIM), German divine, XX. 495
 —(WILLIAM), XX. 495.
 Spalding's improvement of the diving-bell, VIII 62, 63.
 SPALLANZANI (Lazaro), XX. 496—on the electricity of the torpedo, VIII 573.
 SPANDAU, Prussian town, XX. 498.
 Spandrel, III. 513; XI. 205
 SPANHEIM (Ezechiel), XX. 498.
 Spaniards, their cruelties in America, II. 97, 701, 702—beards, IV 528—their proceedings with the bucaners, V. 709—their invasion of Chili, VI. 552; of Ireland, XII 477, 479—wars in the Netherlands, IV. 595; XI 562 *et seq*—conquest of Mexico, VII 418; XIV. 707—revolt of Mexico, 708—evils of their colonial system, 707—their treatment of the Haytians, XVII 80—conquest of Peru, 462—discovery and occupation of La Plata, 779, 780 *et seq*—conquest of Portugal, XVIII 384—dominion in the Two Sicilies, XX. 259, 263; XII. 651 *et seq*—three-decked ships first used by, XX 127—their rule in Bohemia, IV 830 *et seq*—their hatred of the French, X 150, *n.*—ships, and progress of discovery, XX. 124, 127, 138—their colonies in United States, XXI. 422.
 Spaniel, XX. 220
 Spanish fowls, II. 356.
 —pointer, XX. 219.
 —sword, III 682.
 —Town, Jamaica, XX. 498; XII. 672, 680.

SPA—SPE

- Spanish wax, XXI 779.
 SPAR, XX. 498—heavy spar, XV 94—flour, 93—needle, 92—butter, 10 See Iceland Spar, Calcareous Spar, &c
 Sparedrus, genus of insects, IX 133
 Sparidae, or Sparoids, family of fishes, XII. 286, 287
 Spark, electric, VIII 544
 Sparmann on birds, XVI 739
 Sparnodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 343
 Sparoides, family of fossil fishes, XII 343.
 Sparring, XI 170
 Sparrow, hedge, XVI. 756—house, 760—Java, XII 705
 Sparrow-hawks, XVI 743
 Sparsipongia, fossil sponges, XVII 92
 SPARTA, or Lacedaemon, XX. 498, XIII 145—army of, III. 623—wars with Athens, IV 201 *et seq*—in its social arrangements an example of communism, VII 207—dancing at, 645—assistance to Macedonia given by, XIII 761—ephori, IX 269—town, XX. 503, XI 13—wars with Thebes, XXI 177, 178 See Lacomia.
 SPARTACUS, XX. 503—revolt of, XIX 322
 Sparte (Cape), XV 594
 Spavitento (Cape), XX. 242
 SPASK, two Russian towns, XX. 503
 Spasim, XVII. 700—in domestic cattle, XXI 565
 Spatangidae, fossil echinoids, XVII. 99, 100.
 —zoophytes, XXI 991.
 Spatangus, XVII 99, 100
 Spathe, in botany, V. 112
 Spaulding (Solomon), his Mormon MS., XV 597
 Spavin, XXI. 558, 559
 Spawn of salmon, IX. 589, 616, and *n.* 1.
 See Ova
 Spaying. See Castration
 Speaker, The, of the British House of Commons, XVII 296.
 Speaking machine, I. 893
 Speaking-trumpet, II 106; XXI 360
 Spearman (Major), his reform of the British artillery, III 687
 Spearmint, XI 745
 Speciale (Nicholas), on an eruption of Etna, II. 194.
 SPECIES, in logic, XX. 503.
 —in natural history, III 174; V 174—producible only by original creation, III 173—the production of fertile progeny not a proof of the identity of species of the parents, 174—distribution of species of plants over the globe, V. 222—number of species of animals, XVII 631, of plants, 626—difference between human and all other, 641—in mineralogy, XV. 67
 Specification, in logic, XIII 569.
 —in architecture, III 402—for farm offices, II. 371—of ships, XX. 197, 200.
 SPECIFIC GRAVITY, XX. 503; XI. 6; XII. 84—table of, 88, 89—Archimedes's knowledge of the doctines of, III 430—hydrostatic balance for determining, IV 886—of oil and coal gas, X 429—of minerals, XV. 56—of sea-water in different latitudes, XVII 573—relative specific gravity of salt and fresh water, XVI. 81—of the water of the Dead Sea, III. 761.
 —heat, I. 761, 926, 930, 932, 958; XI. 273—term introduced by Prof. Gadolin, I. 761—its discovery inadvertently assigned to Dr Irvine, 927, *n.* 1—Regnault on, 958—of gases, 941, 953.
 Speckle on Fortification, IX 818 *et seq*
 Speckodes, genus of insects, IX. 198
 SPECTACLES, XX. 503—invention of, I. 624; XVI 624—mentioned by Roger Bacon, XIII. 449—snow-spectacles, XIV. 800—Mr Airy's spherocylindrical spectacles, XVI 567.
 SPECTRA, XX. 503; XVI 695; XVII 678.
 Spectre. See Apparitions.
 Spectro-bat, XVI. 148.
 Spectrum, prismatic, VI. 604; XIII. 451; XVI. 643, 580—lines of the, I. 915;

SPE—SPH

- XVI. 588, 544—action of gases on, 545—heat of the, I 846, 954, XVI 592—point of maximum heat in, I 566—chemical rays of the, 921, 922, XVI 504—action of nitrous acid gas on, I 915, XVI 597, and of the earth's atmosphere, I 915, XVI 598—Sir D. Brewster's analysis of, I 915, XVI. 596—colours of, 580—irrationality of the coloured spaces in, 583—secondary spectrum, 10 584—tertiary, 586—optical phenomena of, 567—physical properties of, 592—recent discoveries respecting, 596
 Spectrum, genus of insects, IX 157
 Specular non, XV 108—one of, XII 540
 Speculation in trade, profits of, VII 197—peimicious effects of, 10
 SPECULUM, XX. 503, XVI 552 *et seq*—for telescopes, XXI 130, 145—flexure of, 130—modes of supporting, 10—silvered glass specula, 131—construction of, 134 *et seq* See Mirror, Telescope
 —Humana Salvations, early printed work, XVIII. 524, 526
 Spedding (Mr), VII 577.
 Speech, XVII 679—characteristic of man, II 775
 Speechy (Mr), on the Duke of Portland's plantations at Walbeck, XXI 271, 272, 273
 SPEED (John), historian, XX. 503.
 Speed-cones, in mechanics, XIV. 398.
 Specton clay, XV. 209 and *n.* 210
 Spegei (Hagvin), archbishop, XIX 697.
 Spedell (J), on logarithms, XXI. 553
 Speke (Capt), African traveller, XXI. 17.
 SPELMAN (Sir Henry), XX. 503; VIII 231
 SPENCE (Joseph), XX. 504.
 —(WILLIAM), entomologist, XX. 504; IX. 11—on entomology, 60 *et seq*—coadjutor of Kirby in their Introduction to Entomology, XIII. 96. See Kirby and Spence.
 Spencer (Earl), library of, XIII 399; XVII. 530—Dublin's Bibliotheca Spenceriana, VIII 7; XVIII. 531.
 —(Herbert), on the brain as the seat of the mental faculties, XVII. 569—on over-legislation, XIII 265
 —(JOHN), theologian, XX. 504—on baptism, IV 422
 —(JOHN CHARLES), third earl, XX. 504, V 660, 663.
 Spendius, VI 291
 Spener, of Berlin, on a fossil saurian, XVII. 140
 —(PHILIP JAKOB), XX. 505
 SPENCER (Edmund), XX. 505—on Ireland, IX. 618—his Shepherd's Calendar, XII. 369—on Sir P. Sidney, XX. 266, 268—merits of his poetry, XVIII. 121.
 —(Thomas), on multiplying works of art in metal by voltaic electricity, XXI. 635.
 Spennaceti, its use in making candles, VI 170
 —whale, XIV. 231—ambergris found in, II 657; XIV 233. See Cachalot.
 Spermatie chord, III 60—fluid, XVII. 683
 Spermatozoa, XXI. 975.
 Spermatozoids, V. 142.
 Spermometer, V. 139.
 Spermurus, Athenian philosopher, XX. 507.
 SREY, river, XX. 508, XII. 438; XV. 576.
 SREZIA, XX. 508; XIX. 633, 635.
 Sphaacteria, IV. 205.
 Sphaeria, fossil mollusks, XVII 107.
 Sphaeridium, genus of insects, IX. 117.
 Sphaeroderus, genus of insects, IX. 94.
 Sphaerodonta, family of insects, IX. 117
 Sphaerodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 337.
 Sphaerontes, fossil echinoderms, XVII 99.
 Sphaerostibula, mineral, XV. 76.
 Sphaerotus, genus of insects, IX. 132.
 Sphaerotozoid, zoophytes, XXI. 1008.
 Sphaghranchus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 347.
 Sphagrodus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII. 116.
 Sphigides, family of insects, IX. 196.

SPH—SPI

Sphegna, genus of insects, IX 239
 Sphenacanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 339, XVII 117
 Sphegne, mineral, XV 110—pyro-electricity of, VIII 561
 Spheniscus, genus of birds, XVI 811
 ——— genus of insects, IX 132
 Sphenocephalus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 343
 Sphenoid bone, in man, III 17—in the mammalia, 77—in birds, 85
 Sphenolepis, genus of fossil fishes, XII 347
 Sphenosaurus, genus of fossil reptiles, XVII 148
 Sphenotochus, fossil corals, XVII 97
 SPHERE, XX. 508—in geometry, X 540, 558—projection of the, 488 *et seq.* ; XVIII 689—mensuration of, XIV 514—refraction of rays by, XVI 564—celestial, IV 1—right parallel, and oblique sphere, 5—terrestrial, X 479—attraction of, IV 223—movement of heat in a, I 948—problem of the, 949—how to develop, in masonry, XX 730—Tatius' work on, XXI 35.
 Spheres, music of, III 545, n 4
 Spherical aberration, destruction of, XXI 121
 ——— trigonometry, XXI 343
 Sphorodactyl, reptiles, XIX 36
 SPHEROID, XX. 508—definition and properties of elliptical, IV 221—attraction of spheroids of revolution, 225—mensuration of, XIV 517—sections of, in masonry, XX 728.
 Spheg, genus of insects, IX 195
 Sphegides, family of insects, IX 209
 SPHEX, fabulous monster, XX. 508—Egyptian, VIII 501, 508.
 ——— genus of insects, IX 209
 Sphyraena, genus of fishes, teeth of, XVI 422—fossil, XII 346
 Sphyrenoides, family of fossil fishes, XII 346
 Sphyrænodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 346
 Sphyria, genus of fossil fishes, XII 341
 Splice Islands, XV. 404.
 Splice, IX 705
 Spider-wort order of plants, V. 213.
 Spiders, III 373—power of reproducing lost parts, 375—ascend of, into the air, 376—webs, 374, 375—may be eaten with impunity, 376—bird-catching, 377 hunting-spider, 384—diadem-spider, 381—sea-spiders, VII 641—then power of abstinence, III 180—colour of their webs, XVI 622—use of the webs in micrometers, XIV 744
 Spigellaceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 109.
 Spigelius (Adrian), on anatomy, II 761.
 Spilce and Spikelet, in botany, V. 115.
 Spikenard, plant, V. 196
 Spilbergen, his visit to the Ladrone Islands, XVIII 269.
 Spiller and Crooks, their mode of preserving collodion plates, XVII 548.
 Spillbury (Mr), his method of tanning, XIII 308.
 SPILSURY, in Lincolnshire, XX. 508.
 Spineacanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 346.
 Spinaceous plants, XI. 741
 Spinachia, genus of fishes, XII 280.
 Spinaciadæ, family of fishes, XII 324
 Spinacanthus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 342.
 SPINAGE, or Spinach, XX. 508; V 203—culture of, XI. 741.
 Spinal cord, in man, III 55; XVII 688—function of, 674—in brutes, III 103—in fishes, XII 218, 219; XVII 688.
 Spinax, genus of fishes, XII 325—fossil, 340.
 SPINAZZOLA, town in Naples, XX. 508.
 Spindle, XX. 508.
 Spindle-tree, XVII 782.
 ——— order of plants, V. 189.
 Spine (human), bones of, III 4—canal of, 8—motions of, ib.—structure and functions of, XVII 672—disorders of, 700—effect of poisons on, 702—of brutes, III 75. See Spinal Cord.

SPI—SPI

Spinel or Spinnelle, XV. 87, XVII. 623—spindle ruby lenses, XIV 768
 Spines of plants, V. 79—of animals, XIV 183
 SPINNET, or Spinnet, XX. 508
 Spinnigera, fossil mollusks, XVII 109.
 Spinnigada, zoophytes, XXI 984
 SPINNING, XX. 508—of silk, 281, 283, 285—of ropes, XIX 403 See Cotton-manufacture, Silk-manufacture
 Spinning-frame, Aikwright's, III 609, VII 442, XX 510
 Spinning-jenny, III 609; VII 441, XX. 510
 SPINOLA (Ambrosio), Marquis de, XX 512, XI 572.
 ——— (Maximilian), his works on insects, IX 17
 SPINOZA (Benedict de), XX 512; VII 235—his early life, I 144 and n 3, 4—Fontenelle's opinion of his system of philosophy, 145—his doctrines, in their practical tendency, the same as atheism, ib—points in which he has been misunderstood, ib, 148—his ideas of God, 145, n 3—coincidence of his principles of government with those of Hobbes, 146, n—tendency of his speculations to degrade human nature, ib, n—his private life and character, 204—exposition of his system, XVII. 234—on the authenticity of the Scriptures, XIX 828—Jacobi on, XII 668
 Spio, genus of annelides, XI. 208.
 Spica (Francis), XIX 827
 ——— (John de), printer, XVIII 532
 Spicrales, or breathing pores, of insects, IX. 48
 Spuridæ, nat. order of plants, V 191.
 Spinal vessels of plants, V. 70, 71—pump, XII 182
 SPINRES, town in Bavaria, XX. 515—dicts at, XIII 734, 735; XVIII. 822
 ——— in architecture, III 449, 481, 513—Gothic, 410—medieval, XX. 736—of Stasbourg cathedral, 747
 Spinulus, genus of mollusks, XV. 361
 Spintaria, genus of mollusks, XVII 101.
 Spiliferidæ, family of mollusks, XV 358—fossil, XVII 104.
 Spitt, ancient opinions respecting, III 308—use of the word in Scripture, XXI 217. See Demon, Soul.
 ——— (Holy). See Holy Ghost.
 Spirit-level, XXI. 347.
 Spitt-rapping, XX. 445
 Spirits, effects of excessive indulgence in, VIII. 24—number of gallons distilled in the United Kingdom, 61, 62—quantities charged with excise duties, 731—imports of, into the United Kingdom, 735—distillation of, from potatoes, 51; XVI 326—quantity distilled in Ireland, XII 621—France, X. 247, 256—duties paid by retailers of, XIII 435—Scotch manufacture of, XIX. 805—expediency of a duty on, XXI 41—excise duties, 59, 73—effects of the reduction of the duties on, 71—increase of duties on, 73—equalisation of duties, ib.—quantities charged with consumption duties, 74. See Alcohol, Distillation
 Spirituality of the Gospel Dispensation, I. 481.
 ——— of God, XXI. 190.
 Spilitus asper and lenis, II 613; III 760
 Spirling, fish, XII. 245.
 Spilobranchus, genus of fishes, XII 290.
 Spirogyphus, fossils, XVII 101.
 Spiroptera, entozoa, XXI. 981.
 Spisobris, genus of annelides, XI. 294.
 Spirula, genus of mollusks, XV. 398.
 Spirulidæ, family of mollusks, XV. 398.
 Spirulirostra, fossil cephalopods, XVII 114.
 SPITALFIELDS, XX. 516; XIII 659; XIV. 809—silk-weavers of, XX. 276; distress among, in 1784, V. 468.
 SPITHEAD, XX. 516; XVII. 873.
 Spittal of Berwick, IV. 681, 693.
 Spittals' Hospital, Stirling, XX. 702.
 Spittle. See Saliva.
 SPITZBERGEN, XX. 516—glaciers of, X 625

SPI—SPU

—flowering plants of, V. 226; XVII 626, XVIII 178.
 Spix (Dr), on Brazil, II 670 *et seq.*
 Splanchnic nerve, III 58
 Spleen, erectile tissue of the, II 799—anatomy and functions of, III 62; XVII 657—diseases of, in domestic animals, XXI 570
 Spleenwort, V. 216.
 Splint, XXI 538
 Splint-coal, VII 118; XII 543.
 Spodumene, mineral, XV 72.
 Spott (Ludwig), violinist, XX. 516.
 Spoils, XX 517
 Spolero, in the Papal States, XX 517—delegation of, XVII 243
 SPONDYL, XX. 518; IX 770
 Spondylus, genus of insects, IX. 144
 Spondylus, genus of mollusks, XV. 348—fossil, XVII 106
 Sponge, in baking, IV 380
 SPONGE, XX. 518; XXI 1008—fossil, XVII 92—use of, in diving, VIII 57
 Spongules, or spongettes, of plants, V 76.
 Sponsors, in baptism, IV 424.
 Sponzilli on Napoleon's military tactics, XXI 703
 Spool, in net-making, XIX 90.
 Spoon-bills, birds, XVI. 800.
 Spoon-wheels, XII. 169
 SPORADIS, islands, XX 518
 Sporangia, in botany, V. 113.
 Spore, in botany, V. 141, 142.
 Sporoceps, in botany, V. 141.
 Sporting dogs, XX. 218.
 Sports, English. See Hunting, Shooting, &c—Egyptian, VIII. 441
 Sportsmen, English, XX. 211.
 Spots, solar, IV. 25, 28—theories regarding, 29—their rotatory motion, 88—their connection with the temperature of the seasons, 30; XIV. 637—works on, IV. 31—their appearance periodical, XIV. 637—observed by Galileo, X. 876—lunar, IV. 42—on the planet Mars, 66.
 SPOTSWOOD (John), XX. 518—his account of Ilungus's vision of St Andrew's Cross, XIX 749
 Spout-fish, XV 350
 Sprague (Major), anecdote of certain Indians related by, VI. 146.
 Sprains in cattle, XXI 559.
 SPRIAT (Thomas), bishop, XX. 518—his estimate of Bacon's genius, I. 211—his defence of the Royal Society against the clergy, XIV. 461.
 ——— fish, XII. 236, XX. 763—sale of, in London, 640—fishery of, in Britain, ib.—in Ireland, 634—Stellv. 247.
 Spratella, genus of fishes, XII. 237.
 Spree, river, IV. 667.
 SPRENGEL (Kurt), botanist, XX. 518.
 Sprenger's catalogue of MSS. in the libraries of the king of Oudh, XIII. 431.
 Spring, season, the young of most animals produced in, III. 182—beauty of, IV. 544.
 ——— in mechanics, of clocks and watches, VII 14, 21 *et seq.*—spring-clocks, 18—of coaches, 48.
 Spring-buck, antelope, XIV. 210.
 Spring-tide, XXI 249.
 SPRINGFIELD, in Massachusetts, XX. 619; XIV. 340
 ——— in Illinois, XX. 519.
 ——— in Ohio, XX. 519.
 SPRING, XX. 519; XVII. 601—thermal, 602—gaseous, ib.—intermittent, ib ; XVIII 81—indicate the medium temperature of climate, VI. 768—boiling springs, in Iceland, XII. 201; in St Michael, IV. 336; Barbadoes, 430—hot springs of Baden, 361; among the Himalayas, XI. 448. See Mineral Waters.
 SPROTAN, Prussian town, XX. 519.
 Spruce fir, XVII 756—hemlock spruce, V. 209—timber of, XXI 275.
 Spur, XI. 886—spur-money, XIII 112—battle of the spur, VII 468.
 Spur-wing, bird, XVI 516.
 Spurgewort, order of plants, V. 206.

SPU—STA

SPURIUS CASSIUS, XIX. 298.
 ——— Machus, XIX 302
 SPURTHAM (Johann Gaspar), XX. 519—his connection with Gall, X. 384—on phrenology, XVII 558, 561, 562.
 Spyræ, or Spynæe, XX. 123
 Squali, sub-order of fishes, XII 323—fossil, 341.
 Squalidæ, fossil fishes, XVII 118
 Squalo-raja, fossil fishes, XII 342
 Squampennes, or Squampennæ, fishes, XII 299—fossil, 344
 Squamous suture, III. 27
 Square, X. 508—method of least squares, XVIII 633, I 819
 ——— barometer, IV. 454.
 ——— root, extraction of the, III 606
 SQUARING of the circle, X. 520; X 520
 See Quadrature
 Squatarola, genus of birds, XVI 797.
 Squatina, genus of fishes, XII 325, 319, 320, 323.
 Squatidae, family of fishes, XII 325
 Squids, mollusks, XV. 399, 400
 Squill, plant, V 213
 Squillace, gulf of, XX 242.
 Squinting, origin of, XVI 694.
 Squire, in chivalry, VI. 613
 Squirrels, XIV 178, XXI 548—fur of, X. 349—in Canada, VI 142—Alpine squirrel, XX. 489
 Stability of structures, XIV 380—of position and friction, 381, 382—of floating bodies, XX 162—statistical stability, ib.—of the solar system, I 811—principles of, in masonry, XX 715.
 Stable, XI 663, 669—specifications for, II 373
 Stackhouse, nat. order of plants, V. 189.
 Stacks of corn, II 311
 STADIN, in Hanover, XX. 523.
 STADIUM, XX 524
 ——— edifice in ancient Athens, IV. 170
 STANT (Anne M L G. Norker, Madame de), XX 524—on the literary life of Voltaire, and the French philosophy of the eighteenth century, I. 277—on Kant's Critique of Pure Reason, 190—mistakes of, respecting the philosophy of Locke and Leibnitz, ib, n 3—on German philosophy, ib, n 2—on Fichte's philosophical system, 200—her death, X. 178—her hatred of Napoleon, XV. 791. n ; X. 129—her account of Mirabeau, XV. 246—her acquaintance with Schlegel, XIX. 723—her exertions in favour of Talleyrand, XXI 12—character of her novels, XIX. 289.
 Staff, in the army, III. 665. See Army.
 ——— college, in the army, XXI. 609.
 STAFFA, island, XX. 528, XI 278, XV. 190—Sir Joseph Banks's visit to, IV. 419.
 STAFFORD, English town, XX. 528, 531.
 ——— (Edward), Duke of Buckingham, VIII. 698.
 STAFFORDSHIRE, XX. 529—potteries of, VIII 732; XVIII. 493—population, value of property, &c, VIII. 754—from manufacture in, XII. 561—perpetual Staffordshire almanack, II 599—bottle-plates, XX. 634
 Stag, XIV. 208—order of the golden stag, XIII 121.
 Stag-hound, XII 764.
 Stag-hunting, XII. 39.
 Stage, in theatres, VIII 135.
 Stage-coaches, VII. 43.
 Stagirius, or Stagira, birth-place of Aristotle, III. 633
 STAGNELIUS (Erik Johan), XX. 531; XIX. 701.
 STAHN (Georg Ernst), XX. 531—doctrines of, XIV 528.
 STAINDROP, in Durham, XX. 532.
 Stained glass, X. 667.
 STAINES, in Middlesex, XX. 532—iron bridge, XII 579.
 Stainton (H. J.), his works on insects, IX. 14.
 Stainville (M. de), IV. 479. See Choiseul (Duke de).
 Stair (Lord). See Dalrymple (James).

STA—STA

Stair (Rev J B.), his description of an
anneal, XI 297.
STAIRCASE, XX. 532, 732 See Stairs
— shell, XV. 382
Stairs, III 489, XX. 732—building of,
V. 739—measurement of, 754—con-
struction of wooden, XII. 813—fixing
the landings of, 812—construction of, to
guard against fire, VII 331—solid and
arms steps in, XX. 732
Staking of horses, XXI 570
Staktometer, Brewster's, XII 87.
Stalactites, XV 143
Stalagmites, XV. 143
STALEYBRIDGE, in Lancashire, XX 532—
steam-engine in a mill at, 607.
STALIMENE, island, XX. 532, X. 113 331
Stall-feeding of cattle, II 345
Stallion, II 339, XI 633 *et seq*
STAMENS of plants, XX 532; V. 117, 118,
125, 126 *et seq*—transformations of, 129
STAMPFORD, in Lincolnshire, XX 532—cus-
tom of Borough-English at, XVIII 516.
Stampford-bridge, battle of, VIII. 663
STAMMERING, XX. 533
Stamp Act, for America, V 469—its repeal,
470
Stamp-duties, XXI 64—when first intro-
duced into England, 65—on policies
of insurance, XII 409—on leases, XIII
305—on newspapers, XVI 184, 189, 190
—in Scotland, XIX 809.
Stamping of coins, VII 92
Stamps, manufacture of postage, XVIII
415.
Stanches, on rivers, XVI 63
Standard of value, XV 419—of money, 428,
430; VII 73—variations of, ib., X.V.
431, 437—bad effects arising from, ib.
— battle of the, XIX 752
— in botany, V 124
— Life Assurance Company, XII 409,
411
— Royal, IX. 651.
— weights and measures; XXI. 799,
801
Standards of the Scotch Established
Church, XVIII 498—Free Church, 493.
Standing, muscles employed in, III 41
Staudinger (Otto), his work on insects,
IX. 24.
STANHOPE (Charles), Earl of Chesterfield,
XX. 535—his method of fire-proofing,
XIII. 438—his printing-press, XVIII
544.
— (GEORGE), divine, XX. 536.
— (Lady Hester), XX. 535.
— (PHILIP DORMER), Earl of Chester-
field, XX. 535—his government of Ire-
land, XII. 494—his treatment of Dr
Johnson, 798, 797.
STANISLAS LESZCZYŃSKI, king of Poland,
XX. 536, 538, 534.
— Polish kings, XVIII 145, 160
STANISLAWOW, in Austrian Galicia, XX 537.
Stanley (Lord), on the importance of
stanchions, XX. 550
— (Mr), measure for the abolition of
slavery introduced by, XX 325.
— (Captain Owen), his survey of the
coasts of New Guinea, IV. 263.
— (THOMAS), XX. 537.
STANWYCH COURTS, XX. 537.
Stannine, mineral, XV. 121.
Stannite, mineral, XV. 109
STANVOOR MOUNTAINS, XX. 537.
Stanbury (Mr O), his mode of arithme-
tical computation for the blind, VII.
616.
Stapellas, plants, region of, V. 228; XVII. 628.
Stapfer's account of Berne, IV. 671
Staphyleaceae, nat order of plants, V 189.
Staphylinus, genus of insects, IX. 103.
Staple Inn, Chancery, XII 385.
— of wool, XXI 905—merchants of
the, 908
Star of Bethlehem, plant, V. 150.
STAR-CHAMBER, XX. 537; V. 394, 398;
XIII. 856
Star-fish, XXI. 991.
Star-forts, IX. 809.
STARAJA RUSSA, in Russia, XX. 537.
Starboard tack, XVI. 18.

STA—STA

STARCHE, XX. 537, II 380; V. 72, 320;
IX. 755; XIX. 610—a constituent of
flour, IV 379—chemical character of,
VI 516, 518—its conversion into sugar
in malting, V. 320—sugar of, VIII 47
—its conversion into dextrine, II 380—
(see Dextrine)—lichen-starch, ib., IX
756—inuline, ib., II 380—nutritive pro-
perties of, VIII 19
Starching of cotton cloth by bleachers,
IV. 768
STARGARD, town in Pomerania, XX. 537
— town in Prussia, XX. 538
STARK (William), physician, XX. 538—his
experiments on digestion, VIII 21, 22.
Starkenburg, in Hesse-Darmstadt, II 362
Starkie (Mr), on the law of wages, X. 394
Stirling, bird, XVI 763
STARODUB, in Russia, XX. 538
Stars (fixed), IV. 79, 3—aberration of, II
95—acceleration, 74—scintillation of,
IV. 10—arrangement of, 79—distance,
magnitude, and number of, 81—proper
motions of, 82, I 845, 861—parallax of,
IV 81; I 864, 841—catalogues of, IV
80, 95, 143, III 791; VI 331—apparent
magnitude, number, and distribu-
tion of, IV 95—double stars, I. 841, 861,
862, IV 84—multiple, ib.—variable,
ib., I 862—brightness of, 862, when
seen off the southern coast of Africa,
II 216—knowledge of, among the
Druids, VIII 186—how to take the alti-
tude of, XVI 32—spurious discs of, 618
—fixed lines in star light, 591—shooting-
stars, XIV 684; VIII 598, IX 586—
determination of the longitude by, XIII
689. See Nebula, Milky-way
— in pyrotechny, XVIII 707
Starvation, power of different animals to
resist, III 180—case of voluntary, VIII.
23—death from, XIV. 430.
Starwort, order of plants, V 206
Stassfurtite, mineral, XV. 94.
State, definition of, X. 731—error of mak-
ing church and state one community,
I 539
— constitutions of the United States,
XXI. 431.
STATEN ISLAND, XX. 538, XVI 213.
Stater, Grecian gold coin, XVI 360
States of Europe, IX. 397—states-general
of Holland, XI. 886—convocation of the
states-general, X. 44—arms of, XI 322
—duties of, to each other, XV. 569, to
their subjects, 570—in the United
States, XXI 419
Statistical balance, IV. 452—statistical stabi-
lity, XX 152—statistical electricity, VIII
533; I 887
STATISTICS, XX. 538—principles of, I 721.
Stationary beam-engines, XX. 603
Stationers, V. 30—Stationers' Company,
VII 356—their registry of books, 359
—their almanacs, II 598.
Stations, railway, XVIII. 765—terminal,
765, 768, 770, 771—intermediate, 772—
station works, 768—fittings, 776—sig-
nals, 778—for locomotives, 774 *et seq*
STATISTICS, XX. 540—Achenwall the
founder of the science, II. 84—distinct
from political economy, XVIII 224—of
vegetation, V 224—agricultural, of Scot-
land, XIX. 791—of textile industry,
XXI. 791. See Census, Population,
Sanitary Science, and the different
countries.
STATIUS (P. Papinius), senior, XX. 552.
— (P. PAPINUS), Roman poet, XX.
552; VIII 142—Pope's translations
from, XVIII. 325
Statuary porcelain, XVIII 439.
— See Sculpture.
Statues, Greek, III 707—casting of, V.
676—gigantic figures erected by the
Egyptians and Babylonians, VII. 716—
measurement of ancient, VIII. 173—
foundry of, IX. 843—ancient coloured,
XIX 844—in London, XIII 675—Rome,
XIX. 369—Glasgow, X. 650.
Stature (human), II 691; III. 2—of the
Patagonians, II 691; XVII. 335.
Statute-labour, in Scotland, XXI 43.

STA—STE

Statute-law, XIII 255—reason for not re-
ducing unwritten law to, 260—defective
nature of English, 271, its reduction
into a practical code, 273, n.
Staubach, falls of the, XVII 605
Staudlin on the character of the Phari-
sees, XVII 505.
STAVROTON (Sir George Leonard), XX. 553
—on China, VI 564, 568, 596—his transla-
tion of Chinese works, 578, 577.
— (Captain), his defence of Cory-
gaum, VII 422
Staurolite, or Staurolite, mineral, XV 86
STAVANGER, in Norway, XX. 553
Staves of casks, VII 342
STAVROPOLE, in Russia, XX. 553, XIX 521
Stays, missing, in sailing, XX. 14.
STEAM, XX. 554, XI 270, 272—general
considerations regarding the properties,
phenomena, and application of, XX.
554, 557, 572—ordinary or saturated
steam, 564, relation between its pres-
sure and temperature, ib.—constituent
heat of, 566—density, 568—distribution
and mode of action in the steam-engine,
565 *et seq*—work of, in the steam-engine,
617, 620, 627—Watt's first experiments
on, I 867—its elasticity, 563, 568—its
introduction into nautical affairs, 869;
XX 20—propulsion of vessels by, 159—
its use for horticultural purposes, XI
721—its application to domestic pur-
poses, 272—steaming of wood for bend-
ing, XII. 811, for preserving, XX 167
—colour of, XVI 692—history of its
application to locomotives, XVIII 779.
See Evaporation, Steam-engine, &c.
Steam-carriages, I 881 See Locomotives
Steam-coal, VII 118.
Steam-colours, in dyeing, VIII. 316.
Steam-drawing, VIII 131*
STEAM-ENGINE, XX. 573—origin and his-
tory of, I. 866; XX. 573—era of the
Marquis of Worcester, 574; I 866; of
Watt, XX. 576; I 807 (see Watt)—
history of the modern steam-engine,
XX 589—late improvements in, XIV.
277—atmospheric engine, I. 867, 868,
XX. 575 *et seq*—double-acting, I. 869—
high-pressure engine, principle of, VI.
460—beam engines, XX. 603, 607—
direct action, 608, 610, 641—pumping,
611, I 868—portable, 614—marine, 641
—screw, 643 *et seq*—long and short
stroke, 646—combined cylinder, 647—its
influence on the manufacture of iron,
XII 539, engine used in, 558—use of,
in mining, XV 227—boring of cylinders
for, V. 43—wooden beams for, VI 267
—condensation might be connected with,
VII 107—history of its introduction into
cotton manufacture, 446—use and manufac-
ture of, in France, X 256—governor,
XIV. 410—for farms, II 281; XX. 614
—for draining Ilfracombe Moor, XI. 173.
See Steam, Steam-Navigation, Locomo-
tive, Watt, Boilers
Steam-lamprer, XI. 201, XII. 563—its use
in making anchors, XX. 24
STEAM-NAVIGATION, XX. 536—introduction
of, I. 869; XX. 136—its benefits to
Britain, VII 457—mistake frequently
committed in, XX. 22—skill in some
points of seamanship deteriorated by,
23—introduced into the postal service
of Britain, XVIII. 425—steam navy of
Britain, XVI. 95, 96; XX. 640, 669, 670;
VIII. 741—vessels belonging to the dif-
ferent ports of England, 738; Scotland,
739; Ireland, ib.—at the different
British colonies, 740—of France, X. 278
—mode of ascertaining the tonnage of
steam-vessels, XXI 304; allowance for
engine-room in, 300, 307—of the United
States, 426.
Steam-press, in printing, XVIII 559;
lithographic, XIII 518.
Stearic acid, II. 381; VI 170.
Stearine, VI 510; IX. 787; XVI 492.
Steattie, X.V. 79—eaten by the natives of
New Caledonia, VI. 266—its use in
manufacture of porcelain, XVIII. 439—
in Cornwall, VII 408.

STE—STE

Steatornis, genus of birds, XVI 759.
STEELE, XX. 672—annealing of, III 218—
composition of, VI. 490—tempering of,
VII 600—engraving on, VIII 809—
specific gravity of, XII 88—magnetic
power of, XIV 9—probable early use
of, XI 410—optical properties of, XVI
684—art of converting iron into, XVIII.
815—steel-plates for ships, XX 175—
cohesion of, 737—tensile strength of,
779 See Cutlery, Iron
Steel-bow, in farm leases, II 365.
Steel-pens, XVII 399
STEELE (Sh. Richard), XX. 672—his con-
nection with Addison, II 134, 135—
Swift's pamphlet against, XX 873—
his connection with Drury Lane Theatre,
XXI. 173
STEELEYARD, XX. 673, IV. 385; XIV 415,
XXI 797—association of the, XI 215
STEEL (Jan), painter, X. 673, XVIII 75
Steenbock (General), XX. 851 *et seq*.
Steenstrup (Professor), on the sexual
characters of the Cephalopoda, XV 401,
n 4—on alternate generation, XVII 688
Steeple, in architecture, III. 513
Steeple-chase racing, III. 688.
Steering See Seamanship.
STEEVENS (George), XX. 673—on the
popularity of Shakespeare, 71
STEFANI (Agostino), musician, XX. 673
STEFANS (Heinrich), XX. 673
Stegana, genus of insects, IX. 256
Stegonodictyum, fossil sponges, XVII 92
Stegonophthalmita, zoophytes, X. 1001.
Stegostoma, genus of fishes, XII 323, 321
STEIN (Dr F. Karl, Baron von), XX. 674
STEIN-AM-ANGEL, town in Ilungay, XX.
675
Stein-bock, in zoology, XIV. 212.
Steinhell, his electric telegraph, I. 986;
XXI 100, 102, 104—his mode of silver-
ing specula, 132.
Steinmannite, mineral, XV 119.
Steinthal (II.), on philology, XVIII 517.
Stele, in architecture, III. 513.
Stella, genus of insects, IX. 200
Stella, XX. 871, 874.
Stellata, nat order of plants, V 196
Stellen, in zoology, XIV 220
Stellina, extinct mammals, XVII 176.
Stelleria, zoophytes, XXI 891.
Stelleria, genus of mammals, XIV. 219.
Stellio, genus of reptiles, XIX. 31.
Stellipongia, fossil sponges, XVII. 93.
Stellite, mineral, XV. 75
Stells for sheep, II. 352, 358.
STELVIO, pass across the Alps, XX. 675.
Stem of plants, various forms of, V. 78—
internal structure, 80—exogenous, ib.—
endogenous, 83—acrogenous, 84—sub-
terranean, 79—physiology of, 101.
Stemmata, and stemmatic eyes, in insects,
IX. 46, 47.
STERNAL, Prussian town, XX. 675.
Stenelytra, family of insects, IX. 131.
Stenoceras, fossil reptiles, XVII. 142—
teeth of, XVI. 437.
Stennis, stones of, XVI. 718
Steno (Nicholas), anatomist, II. 761, 762—
on the lymphatics, 804
Stenodactylus, genus of reptiles, XIX. 27.
Stenodus, genus of fishes, XII. 246.
STENOGRAPHY, XX. 675; II. 617.
Stenopteris, genus of insects, IX. 145.
Stenopteryx, genus of insects, IX. 239.
Stenorhynchus, genus of mammals, XIV.
172—dentition of, XVI. 463.
Stenostoma, genus of insects, IX. 133.
Stenotrachelus, genus of insects, IX. 132.
Stonus, genus of insects, IX. 103.
Step, in architecture, V. 739—steps of a
ship, XX. 190.
Stephanite, mineral, XV. 120.
STEPHANUS (Hyzantinus), XX. 679.
— (CHARLES), XX. 680.
— (HENRY), printer, XX. 679—his
Thesaurus, XVII. 523, 526.
— (HENRY), XX. 680—Scapula's con-
duct to, XIX. 702.
— (PAUL), XX. 681.
— (ROBERT), XX. 679; XVIII. 549—
his Thesaurus, XVII. 523, 526—his

STE—STE

- Bible and Testament, IV 695, 698; XIX 687.
- STEPHANUS (Robert), XX 680.
- genus of insects, IX 188
- STEPHEN (Sir James), XX 681—on Gregory VII, XI 61—on Jansen's Augustinus, XII 636
- sovereigns so named, XX 681—of Hungary, XII 12, 20—king of England, VIII 671—his war with Scotland, XIX 751.
- Stephen's ink, XII 383.
- Memoirs of John Horne Tooke, XXI 810
- Stephens (George), on irrigation, XII 613
- (II), his collection of spurious odes of Anacreon, II 744
- (Henry), his Book of the Farm, II 322.
- (J F), his works on British insects, IX 14
- (J L), on the architectural remains of South America, III 502; II 607—his incidents of travel, ib
- STEPHENSON (George), XX 681—his early history and character, I 883—his safety lamp, ib—his improvements in locomotive engines, ib, XVIII 779—adapts railways to thum, I 884—his experiments on the friction of trains, ib—his locomotives adapted for the Manchester and Liverpool Railway, 885—his death, 886—passenger locomotive by, XX 614—his valve-gear for locomotives, 585—his link-motion, 586, XIV 401—his opinion on gradients, XVIII 791
- (ROBERT), XX 682; I 876, 878, 886—his tubular bridges, 877; XII 607, 608—his improvements in locomotives, XVIII 779, 780—on railway legislation, 798—his plan for working railways on leane, ib—bridge at Newcastle erected by, XVI 166—bridge at Sunderland improved by, XX 807.
- STERNER, in Middlesex, XX 684
- Steppen, in South America, II 608, 703—In Eastern Europe, IX 383; XVII 610—In Russia, XIX 515—Siberia, 548.
- Sterculiaceae, nat. order of plants, V 184.
- Stère, French solid measure, X 284.
- Stereobate, in architecture, III 513.
- Sterognathus, genus of fossil mammals, XVII 159, 163
- Stereographic projection, X 489.
- Stereometer, XII 87.
- Stereometry, Kepler's tract on, I 554.
- Stereomicroscope, XX 689.
- STERNOSCORPE, XX 684—invention of, XVI 542, 543; XVII 460; I 925—principle of, as stated by Galen, XVI 523—phenomena of, XIV 574.
- STERNOTYPE, XX 691; XVIII 519—stereotyping of wood-cuts, 551—invention of the art, X 414
- Sterility, causes of, XIV 425—of hybrids, III 174.
- Sterlet, fish, abundance of gelatine in, III 83.
- STERLING (John), XX 691—Hare's life of, XI 228.
- money, VII 71—silver, 72—gold, ib. See Standard of Value
- Stern of a ship, XX 163 et seq
- Sterna, genus of birds, XVI 813
- Sternarchus, genus of fishes, XII 234.
- STERNBERG, Austrian town, XX 692.
- Sternbergite, mineral, XV 121.
- STERNES (Laurence), XX 693, 392—Nolkeons' bust of, XVI 288—his character of Lord Bathurst, IV 508—his novels, XIX 274.
- STERNHOLD (Thomas), XX 692.
- Sternopyx, genus of fishes, XII 248.
- Sternopygus, genus of fishes, XII 254.
- Sternoxi, family of insects, IX 104
- Sternum, in man, III 9—mammalia, 70—birds, 85—fishes, 90—insects, IX 87.
- Steropsis, genus of insects, IX 134
- STESIOCORUS, Greek poet, XX 693.
- STESIOSCORPE, XX 694; XIV 464—invention of, XIII 151—use of, in determining pregnancy, XIV 423.

STE—STI

- STETTIN, in Prussia, XX 694, XVIII 284—wooden bridge near, VI 383—hering trade of, IX 640
- STREUBENVILLE, in Ohio, XX 694
- STEVEN (Mr), builder of a bridge in Dublin, VI 382, n. 1.
- (Christian), his work on insects, IX 11.
- Stevens (R L), his improvements in steam-boats, XX 698—his plan to prevent smoke, 354.
- Stevenson (Alan), his Treatise on Light-houses, I 907—Skenyvore lighthouse erected by, ib; XIII 467—his description of the difficulties of that undertaking, ib, 468—on lights for light-houses, 475, 477, 478, 479—on undercurrents in Cromarty Firth, XVI 61—on the river Conon, 82.
- (David), on the force of waves, XI 216—his work on marine surveying, XVI 59, n. 2
- (Messrs), their operations on the river Tay, XVI 73, Foith, 75, Rabbie, 77, Lane, ib; Dec 83
- (ROBERT), XX 694, I 907—on the destruction of timber by the Linnonia torebans, VII 542, XI 224—Bell-loch lighthouse erected by, XIII 465, 466—his flashing and intermittent lights, 481—on the currents of the river Dee, XVI 61, 81—sea-wall at Trinity by, XI 220.
- (Thomas), his heliophotal system of lights, XIII 477—his catadioptric glass mirror, 478—dipping and apparent lights, ib—his spherico-cylindric lenses, 480
- (W B), his account of the Peruvians, II 689 and n. 1.
- Stevinus, or Stevin (Simon), engineer, I 590—discovered that the pressure of fluids is according to their depth, 596—introduced the practice of decimal fractions, 703—on hydrostatics, 708—on the resolution of forces, VIII 335—on navigation, XVI 3—on locks in rivers, XIX 222
- STEWART, XX 695—Lord, of the royal household, XI 774.
- Stewart (Charles), of Hillside, VIII 237.
- (DUGALD), XX 695, I 402—410—his Dissertation on the progress of metaphysical and ethical philosophy, I—on beauty, IV 540, 564—succeeded by Dr Thomas Brown, V 684—on dreaming, III 321, n.; VIII 176—his account of a deaf and blind boy, VII 688—on Locke's definitions, XIII 601, n.—on the origin of language, 188, n.—on insanity, XIV 526—on metaphysics, 551, 555 et seq.—on attention, 575—on conception and imagination, 576—on moral distinctions, 580—on volition during sleep, 583, n. 3—Mills' eulogium on, XV 11—on Robertson's Charles V., XIX 231—on Dr Reid, 2; Dr Robertson, 233—his character of Dr Adam Smith, XX 344
- (John), his rope machinery, XIX 412.
- (MATTHEW), XX 698; I 698; X 505—completed the Newtonian theory of the moon, 780; IV 104—Playfair's Life of, XVII 4—on poisons, 361.
- STEWARTON, in Ayrshire, XX 699.
- Stewing, IX 766.
- STEWYER, Austrian town, XX 699
- Stilbonus, genus of fishes, XII 283.
- Stilbene, mineral, XV 119.
- Stilbite, mineral, XV 112.
- STIGMACE, XX 699.
- Sticklebacks, fishes, XII 281—in salt reservoirs, XIX 688.
- STIEGLITZ (C. Ludwig), XX 699.
- (Dr), on animal magnetism, XX 444.
- Stell's Hospital, XI 178.
- STIEL, XX 699, I 707—mathematical attainments of, 558—his improvements in algebra, II 485.
- Stiffness, in structures, XIV 380, 583.

STI—STO

- STIGLIANO, town in Naples, XX 699.
- STIGLMAYER (J Baptist), XX 699.
- Stigma, in botany, V 118, 130, 132
- Stigmatalia, V 235.
- Stigmatophora, genus of fishes, XII 315
- Stigmus, genus of insects, IX 186
- Stilaginaceae, nat. order of plants, V 207
- Stilbaceae, nat. order of plants, V 202
- Stilbite, mineral, XV 76
- Still, used in distillation, VIII 47, 49.
- (JOHN), bishop, XX 699—comedy by, XXI 166
- STILLING (J II Jung), XX 699
- STILLINGFLEET (Edward), XX 700
- (BENJAMIN), XX 700
- Stilpnomelan, mineral, XV 79
- Stilpnosiderite, mineral, XV 108
- STILOPO of Megara, XX 700
- Stilton cheese, VII 625, XIII 320
- Stimulants, in medicine, XIX 611
- Sting, of the bee, IV 573—of arachnidae and insects, XIV 440—of plants, V 75
- See Entomology
- Stipend of the Scotch clergy, XVIII 494
- Stipules of leaves, V 93
- STIRLING, XX 700—course of, VI 276—bridge of, IX 796.
- (James), I 711, n. 3—his theorem, XVIII 617.
- (Sir James), his expedition to Japan, XII 699
- (Mr), of Glenberrie, on the mode of sowing grass-seeds, II 322.
- (Dr Robert), his heat economiser, XX 619
- (William) of Keir, his Life of Charles V., XIX 231, n. 2.
- STIRLINGSHIRE, XX 702—agricultural statistics of, XIX 796, 797, 798—population, 799
- Starrup, XI 675, 685.
- Stizus, genus of insects, IX 195
- Stjernhjelm (George), Swedish author, XIX 697
- STJERNSTOLPE, Swedish author, XX 701; XIX 699
- Stoa, in architecture, III 513—Poetice, in ancient Athens, IV 161—of Hadrian, 164
- STOBEUS (Joannes), XX 701.
- Stock. See Horses, Cattle, Sheep, &c
- in grating, V 168; XI 695, 703.
- Stock-Exchange, London, XIII 663
- See Fund
- Stock-fish, XII 269; XVI 327.
- Stockach, battle of, X 111.
- Stockade, in fortification, IX 799
- STOCKHOLM, XX 704, 861 et seq., IV 404
- Academy of Sciences at, II 66—Academy of the Fine Arts, 68—libraries, XIII 427—early printing at, XVIII 533
- climate, XX 861—assembly of the diet at, 865—state of crime, 869—births, ib
- STOCKING, XX 706—yarn, VII 448.
- Stocking-manufacture of England, VIII 732—Nottingham, XVI 333—Leicestershire, XIII 321—Derbyshire, VII 755
- Hawick, XI 216
- Stocking-trade, VII 448.
- Stockport, in Cheshire, XX 706.
- STOCKS, XX 707 See Funding System.
- as a punishment, XVIII 575.
- STODART-UPON-TRENT, XX 707, VIII 266.
- STODART (Mr), his mode of tempering steel, VII 600.
- STODDART (Sir John), XX 707.
- (T. Tod), on the destruction of unspawned salmon in the Tweed, IX 616
- his estimate of the amount of salmon ova spawned in the Tweed, ib
- STOKES, XX 708; I 818—notice of the most celebrated, 318—evils which resulted from their attempts to stretch their system beyond the limits of nature, 320—their theory on the basis of morality, XV 550—their opinions on predestination, XVIII 477.
- Stoke, battle of, VIII 696.
- Stoke's engraving machine, VIII 810.
- STOKES-UPON-TRENT, XX 708, 531.
- Stokers and stoking, XX 648.
- Stokes (Prof. George Gabriel), I 924—on

STO—STO

- the earth's attraction, 851—on the pendulum, 853—his definition of the index of friction, 887—on the refrangibility of light, 924—on the conduction of heat, 952—on optics, XVI 560, 669, 694.
- Stokes (Mr), his survey of the coasts of Australia, IV 254.
- STOLBERG (the Brothers), XX 708
- Stoll (Casper), his work on insects, IX 7
- Stolon, and stoloniferous plants, V 79
- STOLPE, Prussian town, XX 708
- Stoltzius, engravers, VIII 800.
- Stolzit, mineral, XV 106
- Stomach, human, III 59—digestion in, XVII 659 See Digestion.
- of brutes, III 108—of bees, IV 572—insects, IX 51—diseases of, in the domestic animals, XII 565, 567, 568
- Stomach-pump, XVIII 133
- Stomach-staggers, a disease in cattle, XXI 566
- Stomopoda, crustacea, VII 542
- Stomata, or Stomates, of plants, V 74.
- Stomas, genus of fishes, XII 250.
- Stomoxidae, family of insects, IX 245.
- Stomoxys, genus of insects, IX 245
- STONER (Edmund), XX 708
- in the bladder See Calculus (Urinary).
- Stone-chat, bird, XVI 753.
- Stone-cutting, X 710, 725
- Stone-flies, use of in angling, III 149, 153.
- Stone-limes, XVII 98.
- STONE-MASONRY, XX 710; V 737; XIV 336—materials used in, XX 711—principles of stability and strength in, 715—foundations, 721—stone cutting, 725
- artificial stones, and the induration of soft stones, 735
- Stone-masons, XX 710, 711—diseases of, XIV 442.
- Stone-paving, V 739.
- Stone-walls, measuring of, V 740.
- Stonectop, order of plants, V 194.
- STONEHAVEN, XX 708, XIII 89.
- STONEHOUSE, XX 709; II 665; III 433, 434; VIII 187; XIII 2
- STONEHOUSE, XX 709, XVIII 19.
- Stones, transmission of sound by, II 101
- building with, V 737 et seq.—expansion of, by heat, XI 268—specific gravity of various kinds of, 86—strength of, XX 759, 768—rocking, or lozen stones, VIII 187, XV 166; VII 764—in construction, 323, 328—as building materials, XX 711, 712—their durability and causes of decay, 713—strength and resistance of, 717, 759—stone period in archaeology, III 419. See Geology, Mineralogy, Limestone, Sandstone, Marble, Stone-masonry.
- Stonefield, strata at, XVII 158, 159—fossil insects of, 160—megalosaurus in, 640.
- Stoneware, XVIII 430, 434.
- Stony-Middleton, in Derbyshire, tepid spring at, VII 755.
- Stooking sheaves, II 314.
- STORACE (Stefano), XX 736.
- STORAX, order of plants, V 198.
- resin, V 198.
- Storch, on the mercantile system, XVIII 215—on political economy, 224, n. 1 et seq.
- STORCK, Anabaptist leader, II 742.
- STOREYS, commencement of the practice of building houses in, III 447.
- Storks, XVI 799
- Storm (Edward), Norwegian poet, XIX 693.
- Stormontfield, artificial breeding of salmon at, IX 592, 593, 595, n.; XVII 455.
- Storms, law of, VI 774—indicated by the barometer, IV 458 See Meteorology, &c.
- STORNOWAY, XX 736; XIII 352—fisheries of, XIX 427; IX 640, 642.
- Storr's classification of animals, III 183.
- STORR (Joseph), American judge, XX 736
- posts, XX 779.
- STROTHERD (C Alfred), XX 787; XVII 80.
- (THOMAS), painter, XX 738.
- Stour, river, XIII 65; VIII 111.

STO—STR

STOURBRIDGE, XX. 738; XXI. 928—its brick clay, V. 345, 346; XIII. 721, XVIII. 439.
 STOURPORT, XX. 738.
 STOURTON quarries, footprints in, XVII. 131.
 STOVE, XX. 738—plant-stove, XI. 756—stove-plants, 757—stove-grate, XVIII. 78—warming of apartments by stoves, ib.; XIX. 614—lamp stove, XIII. 172.
 STOW (John), historian, XX. 744—his Chronicle quoted, VI. 623—his Survey of London, XIII. 673, Strype's edition of, XX. 783—his notice of the ship Princess Royal, 128.
 Stowe, in Buckinghamshire, V. 722.
 Stowe-papers, XI. 59.
 Stowell (Lord). See Scott (William).
 STOWMARKET, in Suffolk, XX. 744.
 STRABANE, in Tyrone, XX. 744; VIII. 103, XXI. 408.
 STRABO, XX. 744, X. 462—in geography, 467—his account of ancient navigators, 462—on mythological fables, VII. 493—on the Cretans, 496—on Aristotle's library, XIII. 383—his description of Rome, XIX. 360—on the boundaries of Syria, XX. 901; on the provinces of, 904—on the tides, XXI. 250—on the plain of Troy, 358.
 Strachey (Edward), his translation of a Hindu treatise on algebra, II. 487.
 — (Sir Henry), on the state of India, XI. 518, 521, 522, 523.
 — (Captain R.), on the glaciers of the Himalaya, X. 634.
 STRADA (Famiano), XX. 745.
 STRADBALLY, town in Ireland, XX. 745.
 STRATFORD (Earl of). See Wentworth (Thomas).
 STRAHAN (William), printer, XX. 745.
 Strahlstein, mineral, XV. 81.
 STAAIN, on timber, VI. 255, 256, on timber in roofs, XIX. 375 *et seq.*, mode of calculating, 385—strains to which a ship is liable, XX. 179—strains to which strength is opposed, 755—on building materials, 715.
 STRAIT, XX. 745; X. 483—various meanings of the word, VIII. 11.
 STRALSUND, XX. 745—trade of, XVIII. 670—siege of, in the year 1715, XX. 856.
 Stramonium. See Datura.
 Stranding of a ship, what constitutes, XII. 422.
 Strands, in rope-making, XIX. 401, 405.
 Strang (Dr), on the statistics of the factories of Lancashire, VII. 451—on the population of Glasgow, X. 649—on the educational statistics of Glasgow, 653.
 STRANGE (Sir Robert), engraver, XX. 746; VIII. 809.
 STRANGEOR, XX. 746.
 — (Lough), VIII. 122.
 Strangling, death from, XIV. 430.
 STRANRAER, in Wigtonshire, XX. 746, XXI. 864.
 Straps, in carpentry, VI. 265.
 STRASBURG, XX. 746—population, X. 277—early printing at, XVIII. 532—masonic societies at, XX. 423—roof of Strasburgh railway station, Paris, XIX. 398.
 Strata, or beds, in geology, XV. 156; XVII. 536—extent and termination of, XV. 158—contemporaneity of, on same horizon, 160—interstratification, association, and alternation of, 161—lateral variation of, 162—inclination of, 168—contorsions, 169—inversion of, 170—unconformable, 182—overlapping, ib.
 Strategy, in war, XXI. 702.
 STRATFORD (Stony), XX. 747.
 Stratford-le-bow, earthenware of, XVIII. 433.
 STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, XX. 747—canal, XXI. 738.
 Strathbogie, II. 83.
 Strathclyd, kingdom of, XIX. 743, 746.
 STRATHCROLO, in Fifeshire, XX. 747.
 Strathmore, IX. 781; XIX. 792.
 Strathnaver, XX. 840.
 Strathpfeffer mineral well, XIX. 426.

STR—STR

Stratification of rocks, XV. 156, 158. See Strata.
 — in tanning, XIII. 307.
 — of the electric light, XXI. 630.
 Stratified rocks, XV. 194 *et seq.*, XVII. 586.
 Stratiomyidae, family of insects, IX. 287.
 Stratiomys, genus of insects, IX. 238.
 STRATO of Lampascus, XX. 743.
 Stratus, cloud, XIV. 635.
 STRAUBING, in Bavaria, XX. 743.
 Straus-Duickheim, his work on the anatomy of the articulated animals, IX. 15—on the laws of organic structure, 41.
 STAUSS (Dr), on Christianity, X. 616—on the impossibility of miracles, XV. 264—on myths, ib., *n*—on the evidences of Christianity, XVII. 203.
 Shaw, as manure, II. 406—bleaching of, IV. 770—plaiting of, XI. 243—used for making paper, XVII. 260.
 Straw-hats, XI. 242.
 STRAWBERRY, V. 135, 118, 124—culture of, XI. 718.
 — tree, V. 193; XI. 748. See Arbutus.
 Stream-anchor, III. 116.
 Street's blowing machine, IV. 796.
 Streets, width and direction of, III. 494—in ancient Rome, 471—street thoroughfares of London, XIII. 679—of Peking, XVII. 369—paving of, XIX. 227.
 STRICKLER, Prussian town, XX. 748.
 Strength, muscular, improved by training, VIII. 25—instrument for measuring, 365—of men and animals, XIV. 416—principles of strength in masonry, XX. 715.
 — OF MATERIALS, XX. 748, I. 874 *et seq.*—passive, VI. 240—strength of cast iron, XII. 566; malleable, 570—in structures, XIV. 380, 383—principles which regulate, XIX. 374—transverse strength and resistance of stones, XX. 717—of timber, as the density, XXI. 279.
 Strepsidura, fossil mollusks, XVII. 110.
 Strepsilas, genus of birds, XVI. 804.
 Strepsiptera, order of insects, IX. 26, 220.
 Strata corpora, III. 54.
 Strated substances, colours of, VI. 649.
 STRICKLAND (Hugh Edwin), XX. 782.
 Structure, in pathology, XVII. 690—of the urethra, XX. 831.
 Stridulantes, family of insects, IX. 167.
 STRIEGAT, town in Silesia, XX. 732.
 Strike among workmen, VII. 161, 163, 164, 165, XIV. 350.
 — of beds, in geology, XV. 168.
 String courses, in architecture, III. 513, V. 739.
 Stringhalt in horses, XXI. 576.
 Stringocephalus, fossil mollusks, XVII. 103.
 Strings (musical), theory of, II. 110.
 Strix, genus of birds, XVI. 746.
 Striobius, in botany, V. 115.
 Stroganowitz, mineral, XV. 73.
 Strokr, Great and Little, Iceland, XII. 201.
 Stromatens, genus of fishes, XII. 298, 293.
 Stromatopora, fossil sponges, XVII. 92.
 Strombeck (Baron Von), on animal magnetism, XX. 444.
 Strombidae, family of mollusks, XV. 388—fossil, XVII. 109.
 STROMBOLI, XX. 732, 246, XIII. 502.
 Strombus, genus of mollusks, XV. 388.
 Stromeyer (M.), his discovery of cadmium, VI. 51.
 Stromeyerite, mineral, XV. 118.
 Stromness, in Orkney, XX. 732.
 Stromnits, mineral, XV. 95.
 Strom, one of the Faroe islands, IX. 484.
 Strongbow, XII. 467, XIII. 81; VIII. 217.
 Strongylum, genus of insects, IX. 132.
 Strongyloceros, fossil deer, XVII. 171.
 Strongylus, XXI. 980—in the domestic animals, 574.
 Strongey, one of the Orkney islands, XVI. 718, 719.
 Strondia, XV. 65—nitrate of, used to produce red fire, XVIII. 706.
 Strontianite, mineral, XV. 95.

STR—STU

Strontites, XV. 628.
 Strontium, VI. 486.
 Strophalosia, fossil mollusks, XVII. 105.
 STROPHIE, in poetry, XX. 782.
 Strophiles, in botany, V. 140.
 Strophodus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 341.
 Strophomena, fossil mollusks, XVII. 104.
 STROUD, or Stoudwater, XX. 732, X. 682.
 Structures, theory of, XIV. 380.
 STRUENEE AND BRANDT (Counts), XX. 782, VII. 742.
 Struthio, genus of birds, XVI. 795.
 Struthium, IV. 757.
 Stuts, in carpentry, V. 748, VI. 259, XIX. 383—distinguished from a toe, VI. 373.
 Strutt (Jedediah), III. 610, *n* 1, VII. 442, 449, 755.
 — (Joseph), XX. 782—on English sports, XVII. 714.
 — (Joseph), his public park at Derby, VII. 753.
 STUVE (F. G. Wilhelm), on double stars, I. 861, IV. 85—multiple stars, ib.—his measurement of an arc of meridian, I. 854, IX. 552—his reasoning on the Milky Way, I. 845, *n* 3—on Sir W. Herschel's discoveries, 846, *n* 2—his connection with the Dorpat and Pulkowa Observatories, III. 819, 820—on the constant of aberration, IV. 22—on Jupiter's satellites, 71—on Saturn's ring, 72—on Jupiter, 91—his catalogue of stars, 95—on the parallax of a star, 96.
 — (Otto), astronomical observations made by, I. 861—on the solar motion, IV. 87—on Saturn, 92.
 Stuvite, mineral, XV. 96.
 Struyck (Nicolaas), on the population of Holland, XV. 602, 603.
 Strychnia, a poisonous alkaloid, XIV. 438; XVI. 399; XVIII. 123, 130.
 — order of plants, V. 199.
 Strychnine, effects of, on the spine, XVII. 702.
 Strychnos nux vomica, V. 200; XIV. 438.
 STRYKER (John), XX. 782.
 Strzelecki (Count), his explorations in the interior of Australia, IV. 256—on the native women of Australia, 260.
 Stuard's patent anchor, III. 118.
 Stuart (Arabella), V. 384.
 — (Gilbert), XX. 733—on the feudal system, IX. 520, 522—his attack on Henry's history of England, XI. 215.
 — (Gilbert Charles), painter, XX. 784.
 — (James), XX. 784—his Antiquities of Athens, III. 456—on the Tower of the Winds, VII. 774.
 — (General Sir John), V. 602.
 — (Mr), on the effect of an allowance to the poor, XVIII. 310, *n* 1.
 STUARTS (The), XX. 783. See Scotland and Great Britain.
 Stub (Ambrosius), Danish poet, XIX. 693.
 Stubbs on hats, XI. 240.
 Stubner, Anabaptist leader, II. 742.
 Stucco, V. 742—plastering of walls with, 744—decay of, on walls, ib.—stucco work of the ancients, XIX. 844.
 Stud of race horses, XI. 644—general stud-book, 645.
 Students, in universities, XXI. 445 *et seq.*
 Stuff hats, XI. 240.
 STULLWEISSBURG, in Hungary, XX. 784.
 STURKLEY (William), XX. 784.
 Study, in sheep, XXI. 575.
 Sture (Steen), XX. 846.
 Sturgeon, fish, XII. 317—as an article of food, IX. 768—pyloric appendages, III. 111, 112—isinglass from, XII. 628. See Caviare.
 Sturionidae, family of fishes, XII. 317.
 Sturionil, fossil fishes, XVII. 125.
 STURM (J. C. François), XX. 784.
 — (Jacques), his works on insects, IX. 10, 24.
 — (JOHANN), or Sturmus, XX. 784.
 STURNUS, genus of birds, XVI. 703.
 Sturt (Captain), his explorations in Australia, IV. 255, 256.

STU—SUC

Stuttering, XX. 534—distinguished from stammering, 533.
 STUTTGART, in Wurttemberg, XX. 785—library of, XIII. 421.
 Styca, Anglo-Saxon coin, VII. 71.
 Stygia, genus of insects, IX. 212, 233.
 Style, in architecture, III. 513—in botany, V. 118, 130, 132—in joinery, 751, 752—in design, XVII. 65.
 — in language, Addison's, I. 162—his definition of fine writing, ib.—principles of prose style, XIX. 140, 129.
 Stylephorus, genus of fishes, XII. 303.
 Stylis, in chronology, XX. 785—old and new, VI. 89, 668, I. 529.
 Stylewort, order of plants, V. 197.
 Styliaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 197.
 Stylina, genus of mollusks, XV. 384.
 — fossil corals, XVII. 97.
 STYLITES (Simeon), XX. 785.
 Stylobate, in architecture, III. 513—Doric, 463—Ionic, 465, 475—Corinthian, 466, 473.
 Stylophomnae, zoophytes, XXI. 1005.
 Stylops, genus of insects, IX. 220.
 Stylus, use of in ancient painting, XVII. 51.
 STYRACACEAE, nat. order of plants, V. 198.
 STRADA (Duchy of), XX. 785, IV. 311, 309—scenery of, 312.
 STRYX, XX. 785.
 Suabia, in Bavaria, chief towns of, IV. 618. See Swabia.
 Suabian dynasty, XX. 257, 263.
 Suckin, in Nubia, XX. 786—trade of, XVIII. 819.
 Suard (M.), his character of Cornille, I. 135, *n* 3.
 SUAREZ (Francis), Jesuit, XX. 786—on the will of God as a rule of conscience, XV. 550.
 Sub-genus, V. 175.
 Subalternation, in logic, XIII. 604.
 Subclavian artery, III. 65.
 SUBIACO, Italian town, XX. 786—early printing at, XVIII. 532.
 Subjective and objective, explanation of these terms, XIV. 660, *n*—subject and subjective, XVI. 401.
 Subjects, their duty to the State, *AV*. 570.
 Subjunctive mood, X. 766, 790.
 Sublimans, XVIII. 478.
 Sublimity, IV. 553.
 Subordinaries, in heraldry, III. 329.
 SUBORDINA, XX. 786.
 Subsoil, II. 398, XV. 216—analyses of, II. 393, 400. See Soil.
 Subsoil-ploughing, II. 400—plough, 271.
 Substance, mistaken application of the word, I. 242. See Matter.
 Substantive noun, X. 746, 789.
 Substitution, in chemistry, VI. 504.
 Subterranean irrigation, XII. 618.
 Subtraction, in arithmetic, III. 584—of vulgar fractions, 598—of decimals, 600, 602, 603—in algebra, II. 490, 494.
 Subulicorne, family of insects, IX. 175.
 Subulipalpi, family of insects, IX. 100.
 Succadana, in Borneo, V. 47.
 Succession, French law of, VII. 432—war of the Spanish, IV. 303; V. 448; XII. 632; of the Roman (A.D. 68), XIX. 398 (see Primogeniture)—duties on successions, XXI. 65, 66.
 Succinea, genus of mollusks, XV. 373.
 Succinite, mineral, XV. 124.
 Succory, culture of, XI. 744. See Chicory.
 SUCNER (General), XX. 786; X. 118, 139 *et seq.*—his Spanish campaign, V. 613; XXI. 825, 826.
 SU-CHUW, Chinese city, XX. 786.
 Suchosaurus, genus of fossil reptiles, XVII. 162.
 Suck, river, X. 889.
 Suckers, sub-order of fishes, XII. 227.
 — of insects, IX. 34, 35.
 — of plants, V. 79—propagation by, XI. 694.
 Sucking, operation of, XVIII. 76.
 Sucking-fish, XII. 270. See Echeinis.
 Sucking-pump, XII. 174.
 Suckling (Sir John), XX. 786—character of his poetry, XVIII. 122.

SUC—SUL

Sucre (General), IV. 833, 836, XVII 468.
 Suctorina, order of insects, IX. 26, 260.
 SUDBURY, in Suffolk, XX. 786, 790, 791.
 Sudebnik, code of Russian laws, XIX. 475.
 Sudermania (Duke of), revolution in Sweden in favour of, XX. 859.
 Sudetic mountains, IX. 382; XX. 274.
 Sudras, Hindu caste, VI. 818; XI. 471.
 SUE (Eugene), novelist, XX. 787.
 Suetonius (C. Tranquillus), XX. 787.
 — (Paulinus), V. 378.
 SUEUR (Le), painter, XX. 788; XVII. 76.
 SUEVI, XX. 788, X. 572—their irruption into Spain, XX. 459.
 SUEZ, Egyptian seaport, XX. 789; VIII. 424; XVIII. 818—shipping of, XXI. 385.
 — (Gulf of), XX. 789; XVIII. 817, 818.
 — (Isthmus of), XX. 789—railway and proposed canals across, VIII. 430.
 SUEFO KÖH, mountain range, XX. 790.
 Suffocation, VIII. 181; XIV. 430.
 SUFFOLK, XX. 790—ditch, II. 274—punch, 338—duns, 342—population and value of property, VIII. 754.
 — in Massachusetts, XIV. 342.
 Sufis and Sufism, XV. 756.
 SUGAR, XX. 791, V. 73; VI. 515, 516, VIII. 47; XIX. 611—of Bengal, IV. 649—Bourbon, V. 248—Brazil, 294—France, X. 248, 256—Hindustan, XI. 453—Guiana, 82—Mauritius, XIV. 363—Mexico, 717—sugar estates in Jamaica, XII. 680—production of, in West Indies, since the abolition of slavery, XX. 327—imports of, from India, XI. 482—grape sugar, II. 380; V. 320, VI. 516; VIII. 47; IX. 756; XXI. 889—cane sugar, II. 380; V. 216, VI. 516, IX. 756—manna sugar, VIII. 47—liquorice, ib.—beet-root sugar, II. 334—maple-sugar, quantity produced in Canada, VI. 142, 147—sugar of milk, XV. 11, IX. 756—sugar-yielding vegetables, 759—ants fond of, IV. 263—in wheat, 379—in barley flour, V. 330—in malt, 824—as a substitute for barley malt in brewing, 336—effects of feeding a dog solely on, VIII. 18—its nutritious qualities, 20—its use in curing gravel, 24; and in preserving food, IX. 767—the source of ardent spirits, VIII. 47—optical properties of, XVI. 681—Mr Howard's process of boiling in vacuo, XX. 556—duties on, in France, XXI. 72—sugar-factories in Prussia, XVIII. 665, 666, 669—in Belgium, IV. 625. See Sugar-cane.
 Sugar-ant, III. 261, 263—means of destroying, 266.
 Sugar-candy, VI. 172; XX. 791, 795, 796, 797.
 Sugar-cane, V. 216; IX. 759—often injured by ants, III. 264—in Jamaica, XII. 682—Louisiana, XIII. 700—Nicaragua, XVI. 244. See Sugar.
 Sugden (Mr). See Leonards (St Lord).
 Suggestion, its meaning as employed by Reid and Berkeley, I. 167—and by Dr T. Brown, 416—law of, XIX. 115. See Association of Ideas.
 SUMARUPUR, in India, XX. 799.
 SUMR, Prussian town, XX. 790.
 SUMK (Peter F. von), Danish author, XX. 799.
 SUMOND, XX. 799—common among the North American women, II. 681—no crime with the Chinese, VI. 595—in Japan, XII. 698—Prussia, XVIII. 664—Socrates' opinion of, XX. 393—suicidal mania, XIV. 532.
 SUMNAS, Greek lexicographer, XX. 801—Klister's edition of, XIII. 187.
 Suir, Irish river, XIII. 84; XVIII. 728.
 Suit, or action, in law, II. 119.
 Sujah Dowlah, XI. 487, 488.
 Sula, genus of birds, XVI. 614.
 Sullina mouth of the Danube, VII. 654.
 Sullotes, II. 442, XI. 23, 24.
 Sullteima, mountain, XIII. 95, 234; XVI. 820; XVII. 643.
 SULLA, Roman dictator, XX. 801; XIX.

SUL—SUN

321; VI. 222, XIV. 306, XV. 284—an apparition seen by, III. 310—his engagement with Archelaus, 685—capture of Athens by, IV. 172—support given to, by Pompey, XVIII. 288.
 Sullivan (Di), on peat, XVII. 358.
 SULLY (Maximilien De Bethune, Duke of), XX. 801—anecdote of, IV. 528—on the expense of collecting the revenue in France, XXI. 42.
 SULMONA, town of Naples, XX. 801.
 Sulphate of copper, used for preserving timber, XX. 167.
 — of lime, II. 304. See Gypsum.
 — of magnesia, as manure, II. 413.
 Sulphated urine, II. 407.
 SULPHUR, XX. 801; VI. 474—combined with oxygen, 475; with hydrogen, chlorine, and carbon, 477—localities where it occurs, XVII. 624—in mineralogy, XV. 64, 122—in pyrites, 246—sulphur-salts, 62—proportions of, in gunpowder, XI. 151—specific gravity of, XII. 88—in Japan, 689; Sicily, XX. 247—on the shores of the Dead Sea, III. 761—sulphur-caves, in Arabia, 357—effects of, in coal gas, XIX. 616—duty on, XXI. 60.
 Sulphureous springs, in Derbyshire, VII. 755.
 Sulphurets, VI. 474, 483, 484—of barium, 486—antimony, 494—arsenic, 495—bismuth, 496—copper, 497—silver, 498—iron, 439, 490—lead, 497—magnesium, 487—potassium, 486—strontium, 487—sodium, 486—tin, 493—zinc, 491—alkaline, their poisonous qualities, XIV. 434. See Chemistry.
 Sulphuretted hydrogen, found in the atmosphere, II. 376—poisonous quality of, XIV. 436; XVIII. 135—spilings impregnated with, XVII. 602.
 — metals, XV. 114.
 Sulphuric acid, VI. 475—in plants, II. 388—employed in bleaching, IV. 758—as an absorbent, VII. 105—its poisonous qualities, XIV. 435—Dr Roebuck's manufacture of, XIX. 244.
 — ether, as an anæsthetic, VI. 631.
 Sulphuring of wool, IV. 769.
 Sulphurous acid, VI. 475—poisonous quality of, XIV. 43; XVIII. 135—specific gravity of, XII. 89—in the smoke of London, XX. 712.
 SULPICIA, Roman poetess, XX. 801.
 SULPICIUS (Severus), XX. 801—his connection with Vigilantius, XX. 587.
 Sultanas, Turkish raisins, XVIII. 799.
 Sultapur, in Oude, XVII. 17.
 Sultans of Turkey, XXI. 376.
 SULZER (Johann Georg), XX. 802.
 — (Mr), his experiments on the elasticity of air, XVIII. 63.
 — (John Henry), his work on insects, IX. 6.
 Sumach, Venetian, V. 190—a brown dye-stuff, VIII. 307—used in tanning, XIII. 306.
 SUMAROKOV, XX. 802; XIX. 547.
 SUMATRA, XX. 802—cannibalism in, III. 270—edible birds' nests in, IV. 727—filigree manufactures, IX. 579—language, XIII. 207—volcanoes, XVII. 589—height of mountains, 645, 646—reptiles, XIX. 50, 53, 64, 68, 72, 73—variation of the needle, XIV. 54.
 Sumatra-camphor order of plants, V. 185.
 SUMBAWA, East Indian island, XX. 806—volcanoes, XVII. 589.
 SUMOUPUR, in Bengal, XX. 807.
 SUMMER, XX. 807.
 SUMMERTY LAWS, XX. 807.
 SUN, XX. 807; IV. 11, 86; I. 841—dependence of magnetic periods on, 996—motions of, IV. 4—oval appearance of, in the horizon, 10—its apparent circular motion in the ecliptic, II—its orbit, 15—its diameter, 18—variation of its motion, ib.—describes areas proportional to the times, ib.—eccentricity of its orbit, 18—equation of the centre, ib.—secular diminution of the eccentricity

SUN—SUR

of its orbit, 19—determination of its place in its orbit, ib.—its parallax, distance, and volume, 20—spots, 25, 28, 29, 88—rotation, ib.—constitution and physical peculiarities of surface, 25, 30, 87, 88—position of its axis, 27—supposed atmosphere, 30, 179—eclipses of, 47—transits of Venus and Mercury over its disk, 62—force by which it disturbs the motion of the moon round the earth, 102—to find how much its rising is advanced by refraction, 112—its mean motion, 127—equation of its centre for 1801, 128—its declination for 1801, 132—elements for the projection of its eclipses, 138—heat of its rays, VI. 2, 775 et seq—quantity of light received from it in different latitudes, 766—its obliquity a source of cold, VII. 100, XIV. 637—tables of its longitude and declination for every day in the year, &c., 797—electricity of its rays, VIII. 567—properties of its rays, XIII. 452—magnetism of its rays, XIV. 12—magnetic influence of, 66, XVI. 595—as a source of heat, XIV. 637—method of measuring the direct heating-power of its rays, 638—bands of light passing through, 681—coronæ and halos round the, ib., 682 (see Corona)—to take its altitude, XVI. 32, 33—to reduce its declination, 36—influence of, on the tides, XVII. 580—effect of its heat on the earth, I. 950—total quantity received by the earth from, ib.—solar year, VI. 76—solar cycle, 80—mock-sun (see Halo, Parhelia, Corona). See Light, Optics, Spectrum, &c.
 Sun Fire Office, XII. 417.
 Sun-fish, XII. 322; IX. 634. See Basking Shark.
 Sun-worshippers, their rule in Egypt, VIII. 461.
 Sundas, people, XII. 702, 709—language, 707.
 Sunday, I. 502, n.—institution of, XIX. 562—origin of the name, I. 458, n.; VI. 75. See Sabbath.
 — schools, in England, VIII. 746, 747, for adults, 747—in Manchester and Salford, XIV. 257—in Scotland, XIX. 803.
 Sunderbunds, in Bengal, IV. 648, 651; X. 400; XI. 449.
 SUNDERLAND, XX. 807—Iron bridge at, III. 414—docks, VIII. 75—coal trade of, 266.
 — (Earl of), V. 436.
 Sundew, order of plants, V. 168.
 SUNUM, XX. 808. See Colonna (Cape).
 Sunnhemp, XI. 311.
 Sunstone, XV. 71.
 Supercargo, II. 236.
 Superdices, X. 506, 507.
 Superheating of steam, XX. 647—apparatus for, 650—condenses freely, 655.
 SUPRATOR (Lake), XX. 808; VI. 138; XVII. 605.
 SUPERLATIVE, in grammar, XX. 808, X. 775.
 Superphosphate of lime, as manure, II. 264—mode of preparing it, 299—from fossil bones, 300—from the remains of cetacea, XVII. 166—analyses of, II. 411.
 Superstition, monomania of, XIV. 533—its connection with infidelity, XX. 382.
 Sûphis I. and II., Egyptian kings, VIII. 464.
 SUPPER, XX. 808.
 — (The Lord's), I. 511—not a fresh sacrifice, but the celebration of one already made, 512—how regarded by Quakers, XVIII. 716—the real presence in, 821—use of leavened or unleavened bread, I. 525. See Eucharist.
 Supporters, in heraldry, XI. 388.
 Suppuration, in wounds, XX. 823.
 Supralapsarians, XVIII. 478.
 SURAZ, in India, XX. 808; XI. 92.
 Surbase, in architecture, III. 513.
 Surcoat, in heraldry, XI. 321.
 SURCS, in algebra, II. 499.
 SURENAS, XVII. 311.
 Surf of the sea, XVII. 582.

SUR—SUT

Surfaces, X. 506, 507—equations to surfaces of the second degree deduced from their properties, 558—tangent planes and normals to, 560—on the curvature of, 561—generation of, by the motion of lines, 562—cylindrical, conical, and conoidal, ib., 563—of revolution, ib.—of simple and double curvature, VII. 59, 62.
 Surgeon, qualities necessary in a, XX. 821—in the navy, XVI. 102, 112, 114—London College of Surgeons, VII. 114, XIII. 672—Edinburgh College of Surgeons, VII. 114; VIII. 400—baird-surgeons, IV. 432—Paris College of Surgeons, foundation of, XX. 816.
 SURGEON, XX. 809, XIV. 448, 449, 461—academies of, II. 62—application of anatomy to, 766—use of chloroform in, VI. 628—knowledge of, in ancient Egypt, VIII. 442—its province defined, XIV. 449—included in physic, 448—sub-divisions of, 460—in Ireland, VIII. 223.
 Surgical instruments, manufacture of, VII. 601; XX. 96.
 Surikate, in zoology, XIV. 167.
 SCRINAM, river, XX. 835; XI. 84.
 — on Dutch Guiana, XI. 84—load, XVII. 634; XIX. 81—serpents, 72.
 Sarmuliet, family of fishes, XII. 778.
 Surnames, the most common in England and Wales, XVIII. 836.
 SURPLICE, XX. 835.
 SURREY, English county, XX. 835—population and value of property, VIII. 751.
 — (Earl of), his translation of part of the *Æneid*, VIII. 119—poetry of, XVIII. 121.
 Surtees (Dr W. E.), on Lord Eldon and Lord Stowell, IX. 813, 825, 826.
 Survey, trigonometrical, IX. 551—of Great Britain, XXI. 330.
 SURVEYING, XX. 838; XXI. 346.
 Surville (Capt.), his visit to Solomon's Islands, IV. 265, and to New Zealand, 266.
 SURVIVORSHIP, XX. 838—presumptions of, XIV. 426. See Annuities, Mortality.
 SURYA Siddhanta, Hindu work on trigonometry, X. 503.
 SUS, genus of mammalia, XIV. 197.
 SUSA, ancient Persian city, XX. 838—taken by Alexander, XIII. 708—his residence there, 771.
 — in Sardinia, XX. 838.
 — seaport in Tunis, XX. 838.
 Susannite, mineral, XV. 105.
 Susarion, the Greek drama improved by, VIII. 134*.
 Suse, territory of, XV. 595.
 SUSPENSION-BRIDGE, XX. 838. See Bridge (Suspension).
 Suspicion, monomania of, XIV. 533.
 SUSQUEHANNAH, river, XIV. 230, XVII. 395, 647.
 SUSSEX, XX. 838—population, and value of property, VIII. 754—superiority of its oak trees, XXI. 268.
 Süssmilch on mortality, XV. 601, 632—on the diminution of marriages, XVIII. 248.
 Sustentation Fund of the Free Church, XVIII. 495.
 SUTHERLAND, XX. 840—physical geography of, XIX. 794—agricultural statistics, 796, 797, 798—population, 799—salmon fishery, IX. 592, 595, 597, 600, 610—sheep farming in, II. 850.
 — (Dukes of), their improvements in Sutherlandshire, XX. 842.
 — (Mr), on the herring fishery of Dumbar, IX. 635, n. 2.
 SUTLER, or Suttin, river, XX. 845; XVI. 687, 688—origin of, XIV. 269—valley of the, XI. 441, 448—climate of, 450.
 Sutte, no sanction for, in the Vêda, XVII. 841.
 Sutton (Charles Manners), elected speaker of the House of Commons, V. 623—his re-election, 603—his retirement from the office, 604.
 — COLDFIELD, XX. 845.

SUT—SWE

Sutures of bones, II 880—of the skull, III 27, 28—frontal, 16—sagittal and coronal, 19—in the mammalia, 77—in birds, 85—in botany, V 128.
 Suwaroff, (Field-Marshal), X. 111 *et seq.*, XIX. 489—his Italian campaign, III. 649; V 567.
 Suwarrow-nut order of plants, V 188
 Svanberg's measurement of an arc of meridian, IX. 551.
 Sveaborg, or Sweaborg, in Finland, XX 843—bombardment of, by the British in 1555, XIX. 511, IX. 881.
 Sviatopolk, XIX. 471.
 Sviatoslav, king of Russia, XIX. 470
 SWABIA, XX 843—dialect, X. 587—origin of the name, XX. 788. See Suabia and Suabian
 SWAFFHAM, in Norfolk, XX 843.
 Swanson (William), his works on insects, IX. 14—on the classification of the mammalia, XIV 132, n 1—on birds, XVI 732, 828—on a genus of entozoa, XXI 973—on the boas of South America, XIX. 61, n 3.
 Swabacus (J. G.), on birds, XVI. 725.
 Swallow (Mr), his improvements in rope-making, XIX. 414
 Swallows, XVI. 757, 758—hibernation of, III 181, XII 62—edible swallow's nests, IV 727; in Ceylon, VI 394, Java, XII 710
 SWAMMERDAM (John), XX. 844—his anatomical researches, II 763—on ants, III 261—on bees, IV 571 *et seq.*—his works on insects, IX. 3—his arrangement of the articulata, ib—on the metamorphoses of insects, 54
 Swan, XVI 815—age attained by, II 234—black swan, IV 261.
 —(Joseph), his plates of the brain, III. 74
 —River Settlement, IV. 254, 298.
 Swan-pan, Chinese computing table, II. 8.
 Swan's variation compass, XIV. 80.
 SWANAGE, in Dorsetshire, XX. 844
 SWANEVELT (Hermann Van), painter, XX. 844
 Swanlinbar, in Cavan, VI 348
 SWANSEA, XX. 844, X. 642—branch of Bank of England at, XV 470
 —valley railway, XX. 845
 Swarming of ants, III. 265—of bees, IV. 581.
 SWARTZ (Olof), botanist, XX. 845.
 Swayne (Rev. G.), on the culture of the fig, XI. 708
 Swealand, or Sweden proper, XX. 864
 Sweating, love of, VIII. 249.
 Sweating sickness, VIII. 694; XIII. 659.
 SWEDEN, XX. 845; IX. 402—Royal Swedish Academy, II 66—Academy of Fine Arts, 68—alum works, 637, 640—Swedish skull, III 29—army, and martial qualities of the Swedes, 650—balance, IV. 886—elevation of its coasts, 408—Sir John Moore's expedition to, V. 603—colonies, VII 149—union with Denmark and Norway, 739; XVI 317—union with Norway, 318—wars with Denmark, VII 741—ballads of, IV. 397—Bibles, 702—iron ores of, VI 178; XII. 541—trade with England, VIII 741, with France, X 269—insects, IX. 65—Jews in, XII. 738—language, XIII. 211—libraries, 427—gradual elevation of the land, XV 167—silver mines, 236—copper mines, 239; XVII. 621—lead, XV 242—metallic produce, 248—coins, 442, 445; XVI. 389—population and mortality, 603, 605, 606, 627 *et seq.*, 638, 646 *et seq.*; XVIII. 350—monarchy, XV. 414—vaccination begun in, 639—newspapers, XVI. 202—birds, 730—the Reformation, XVIII. 827—postal system, 424—roads, XIX. 229—wars with Russia, 475 *et seq.*; V 530—modern literature, XIX. 696—French school, 699—new school, ib—romance and novel writers of, 701—reptiles, 15, 62—large Swedish ship in the sixteenth century, XX. 126—navy, 138—bear-hunting, 211—capercaillie-shooting, 226—stoves, 739, 740—Telford's

SWE—SWO

engineering survey, XXI. 145—universities, 492—weights and measures, 813—map of, XX. Plate.
 SWEDENBORG (Emanuel), XX. 867—his theosophic mysticism, XV. 758
 SWEDENBORGIAN, XX. 868.
 Swedenaur (Dr), on ambergris, II. 657.
 Swedish Lapland, XIII. 234.
 Swedish-turnip, XI. 740—sowing of, II 317. See Turnip.
 SWEETERS (Jacques Thierri), general, XX. 869
 Sweet-bay, plant, V. 204; XI 748
 Sweet-flag, order of plants, V. 214
 Sweetsop, plant, V. 181
 Sweno, king of Denmark, his treaty with Malcolm, XIX. 745
 Sweno's stone, near Forres, XV. 577.
 Sweker, king of Sweden, XX. 845
 Sweyn, king of Denmark, his invasions on Britain, VIII. 661.
 SWETAN (Geard Van), physician, XX. 869
 SWIFT (Jonathan, D.D.), XX. 869—possible source of his idea of Gulliver's voyage to Laputa, II 168—his Meditation upon a Broomstick, V 258—perhaps derived hints from Aristophanes, VIII. 139—his monument, 221—his Draper's Letters, XII. 493, 527—his Examiner, XVI. 183—on the effects of the newspaper stamp, 184—his poetry, XVIII. 124—his intercourse with Pope, 332—Sterne's imitation of, XX. 693—his letter to Lord Carteret regarding Bishop Berkeley, IV. 674—his abuse of Vanbrugh, XXI. 518—bird, XVI. 758
 Swilly (Loch), VIII. 105.
 SWIMMING, XX. 878—air-jacket, II 430—cork-jacket, VII. 369, XIII 440—India-rubber belts for, ib—utility of the art, 439—repulsion the cause of some bodies swimming in fluids specifically lighter than themselves, XX. 753.
 Swimming-birds, XVII. 634. See Palmipedes.
 Swinburne (Mr), his account of the Alhambra, II. 577, and of the Moffata, 732—on the fountain Arethusa, III. 522.
 Swinden (Van), on magnetism, XIV. 6, 14.
 SWINDON, in Wiltshire, XX. 881.
 Swine, XIV. 197—in Dumfriesshire, VIII. 238—in Scotland, XIX. 798. See Hog
 SWINEMÜNDE, Prussian town, XX. 881
 SWINHEAD, town in Lincolnshire, XX. 881.
 SWINFORD REGIS, in Staffordshire, XX. 881
 Swing-bridges, XVI. 79.
 Swing-plough, II. 270, 271.
 Swinton (Sir John), VI. 116
 Switches, on railways, XVIII. 776, 768
 SWITZERLAND, XX. 881; IX. 400—trout of the lakes of, III. 157, 158; XII. 242—salmon in the rivers of, 238—conquered by the French, V. 568, X. 108—its importance to them, V. 567—disadvantage of its situation for cotton manufacture, VII. 459—French trade with, X. 269 and n—Swiss Confederation, IX. 498—condition of the Jews in, XII. 782, 783—libraries, XIII. 424—variation of the needle, XIV. 54—cristinism in, 639—coins, XV. 242, 445; XVI. 889—miocene rocks of, XV. 214—glaciers, X. 633—heights of mountains, XVII. 642, 643—lakes, 591—increase of population, XVIII. 348—postal system, 424—Presbyterianism, 486—railway statistics, 787—the Reformation, 821—Ranz des Vaches, 806—savings-banks, XIX. 678—silk manufacture, XX. 278, 279—French policy towards, in 1847, X. 230—metallic produce of, XV. 248—universities, XXI. 492—weights and measures, 813—wines of, 886—map of, XX. Plate. See Alps.
 Swooning—fits of animals, XXI. 574.
 Sword, IX. 501, 502—Roman, III. 632—ceremony with, on the creation of a knight, XIII. 112—manufacture of, at Toledo, XXI. 802.

SWO—SYM

Sword-fish, XII. 293, 295, 297—mode of fishing for, XX. 246.
 SWORDS, town in Ireland, XX. 891
 STRABIS, ancient city, XX. 891—coins of, XVI. 363.
 Sybines, genus of insects, IX. 140
 Sybistoma, genus of insects, IX. 243
 Sycamore tree, XVII. 769, 761, V. 186—embryo of, 167—Egyptian, IX. 536—wood of, XXI. 278
 Syconus, in botany, V. 139.
 SYDENHAM (Floyer), translator of Plato, XX. 895
 —village in Kent, XX. 891.
 —(Lord), on Canada, VI. 134
 —(Thomas), XX. 892; XIV. 460—Locke's commendation of his work on Acute Diseases, I. 101—Dr John Gregory's remarks on, ib., n 2
 SYDNEY, in New South Wales, XX. 895; IV. 271 *et seq.*—Sydney Cove, 271—climate, 279—college, 283—newspapers, ib
 SYENE, in Egypt, XX. 897—antiquities at, VIII. 514
 Syenne, XV. 137—soils from, II. 390.
 Syennesis of Cyprus, II. 749
 Syeporite, mineral, XV. 116.
 Sykes (Colonel), on a fog-rainbow, XIV. 680
 SYLBURG (Friedrich), XX. 897.
 Sylla (Lucius Cornelius) See Sulla.
 Syllia, genus of annelides, XI. 298.
 SYLLOGISM, XX. 897, XIV. 593—Kant on, ib, n 2—doctrine of, XIII. 607—form of, ib—figure and mood of, 608—first syllogistic figure, ib—canons of, 610, 611, 627, 628—breaches of the six syllogistic rules, 612, n—deduction of, 614, 616, 617, uses of, 627—analysed in extension and comprehension, 618—functions of, 623—hypothetical and disjunctive, 631, 632—Aristotle on, III. 563, 564.
 Sylvanus, VII. 304.
 —genus of insects, IX. 142.
 SYLVESTER (Joshua), poet, XX. 897.
 —II. on arithmetic, III. 581.
 Sylvester's rope-machine, XIX. 408—method of protecting the surface of building-stone, XX. 735—mode of heating rooms, 743.
 Sylvia, genus of birds, XVI. 755
 Sylvn, mineral, XV. 97
 Sylvius (Jacobus), anatomist, II. 757.
 Symbols, chemical, VI. 451—botanical, V. 176
 Syme (Mr), his mode of operating for stricture, XX. 832
 Symes on the natives of the Andaman islands, III. 124
 Symington (Dr), on the Atonement, XXI. 213.
 Symington's steam-boats, I. 869; XX. 637, 638.
 SYMMACUS (Quintus Aurelius), XX. 898; II. 603—orations of, XVII. 211.
 —his Greek version of the Scriptures, IV. 700, XIX. 840.
 Symmer (R.), on electricity, VIII. 528
 Symmetry, violation of the law of, in animals, III. 91.
 —in flowers, V. 117, 119, 120.
 Symond (Lambert), VIII. 695.
 Symonds (Capt. T. E.), on Irish fisheries, IX. 682.
 —(Mr), on the mechanics of law-making, XIII. 271, 273.
 —(Sir WILLIAM), XX. 898—his improvements in the navy, XVI. 98; XX. 134, 135, 137.
 Sympathetic ink, VII. 545; XII. 384.
 —nerve, great, III. 68—functions of the sympathetic nerves, XVII. 675
 Sympathy, Adam Smith's theory regarding, I. 375, 376; XV. 545; XX. 339—whether an incentive to virtue, XV. 564.
 SYMPHONY, XX. 898.
 Sympiezometer, IV. 488.
 Symplectite, mineral, XV. 102
 Symplocaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 108.
 Sympterygia, genus of fishes, XII. 327.

SYM—SZE

Symptom, argument from, XIX. 123.
 SYNERESIS, XX. 898.
 SYNAGOGUE, XX. 898; XII. 768—synagogues converted into churches in apostolical times, I. 490, 491
 Synagrus, genus of insects, IX. 197.
 Synallaxis, genus of birds, XVI. 768.
 SYNALPHEA, in grammar, XX. 898
 Synanceia, genus of fishes, XII. 283.
 Synapia, genus of insects, IX. 228.
 Synaptidae, echinoderms, XXI. 986.
 Synbranchidae, family of fishes, XII. 231.
 Synbranchus, genus of fishes, XII. 231.
 Synchellus, Byzantine author, VIII. 452
 Syncope, XVII. 701—death by, 702
 Syndosmya, genus of mollusks, XV. 350—fossil, XVII. 108
 Synecdoche, in rhetoric, XIX. 134
 Synesius, his admiration of Hypatia, XII. 190
 Syntheres, genus of mammalia, XIV. 187
 Synetista, genus of insects, IX. 142
 Syngnatha, myriapods, XV. 749
 Syngnathidae, family of fishes, XII. 315.
 Syngnathus, genus of fishes, XII. 315—fossil, 338
 Synod, Scotch, XVIII. 493—of United Original Seceders, 502—Reformed Presbyterian of Ireland, XII. 532
 Synolendron, genus of insects, IX. 128.
 Synodic month, IV. 38.
 Synodontis, genus of fishes, XII. 258, 259, 263
 Synovial membrane, II. 840—affections of, XXI. 569.
 SYNTAX, in grammar, XX. 898, X. 744
 SYNTESIS, XX. 898.
 Syntomis, genus of insects, IX. 210.
 Syntomium, genus of insects, IX. 210.
 Syphax, XIV. 381; XVI. 350.
 Syphilis, poem of Fraenstorio on, IX. 860.
 Syphon, XII. 69, 82; XVIII. 49, 50—oscillations of water in, XII. 162; XIX. 194
 —fountain, XVIII. 49—barometer, IV. 450.
 Syphostoma, genus of annelides, XI. 296.
 Syr Darya, river, XII. 711
 SYRA, Greek island, XX. 898
 SYRACUSE, XX. 899, 244—besieged by the Carthaginians, VI. 283, 285—taken by the Romans, XIX. 311—coins of, XVI. 366, 367.
 SYRIA, XX. 901; III. 734, VIII. 470, 477, 478, 479—great part subjugated by Saladin, 480—revolt in, 482, 484—El-Muehyad Sheykh's campaigns in, 486—ceded to Mohammad 'Alee in 1833, 486—Druses of, 197—conquered by Timur, XXI. 283—Syrian month, VI. 671—coins of, XVI. 378—deserts of, XVII. 614—earthquakes, 616—height of mountains, 644—abundance of lizards in, XIX. 27—branch of the Caucasian race of man, II. 775. See Palestine.
 Syriac alphabet, II. 614—Bibles, IV. 700; XIX. 839—language, XIII. 209.
 Syringa, order of plants, V. 192—genus of plants, XVII. 764.
 Syringe, XVIII. 30 *et seq.*
 Syringopora, fossil corals, XVII. 97.
 Syrmia, XX. 827.
 Syrmium, genus of birds, XVI. 746.
 Syrrhoid, family of insects, IX. 239.
 Syrrhus, genus of insects, IX. 240.
 Syrrhaptes, genus of birds, XVI. 792.
 Syrtis, genus of insects, IX. 162.
 Syrup, XX. 795 *et seq.*—fruits preserved in, IX. 767.
 Système Deaumur, for preventing smoke, XX. 358.
 Systrophia, genus of insects, IX. 199.
 SYSTYLE, in architecture, XX. 912; III. 613.
 SYZAN, Russian town, XX. 912
 SYZYGY, in astronomy, XX. 912; IV. 82 *et seq.*
 SZALONTA, in Hungary, XX. 912.
 SZARRAS, in Hungary, XX. 912.
 SZASZ REGEN, in Transylvania, XX. 912.
 SZATEMAR, in Hungary, XX. 912.
 Szechenyi (Count Stephen), Hungarian author, XII. 90, 28.

SZE—TÆ

SZEGEDIN, in Hungary, XX. 912
 Szekely-vassahely, in Transylvania, XIV 313
 SZFNTA, in Hungary, XX. 912.
 SZENTES, in Hungary, XX. 912.
 Szereimey (Mr), his method of protecting the surface of building stones, &c., XX. 785.
 SZEXARD, or Szegszard, in Hungary, XX. 912
 SZIGETH, in Hungary, XX. 912.
 SZOLNOK, in Hungary, XX. 912.
 Szu-chuan, in China, XX. 29.

T

T, letter of the alphabet, XXI. 1—in abbreviations, II. 20
 Taban-tree, V. 199.
 Tabanus, family of insects, IX. 231.
 Ta' anus, genus of insects, IX. 231.
 Tabard, in heraldry, XI. 322.
 TABASCO, Mexican State, XXI. 1; XIV 726, 718
 Tabaxir, or Tabascheer, IV. 407.
 TABERNACLE, XXI. 1.
 —in architecture, III. 513.
 —Connection, religious body, XIV. 693.
 TABERNACLES (Feast of), XXI. 1; IX. 494.
 TABLE BAY, XXI. 1; X. 711.
 —mountain, XXI. 1; X. 714; XIV. 655—his tablecloth, ib.
 —computing, II. 8.
 Table-land, in Switzerland, XX. 888.
 Table-talk See Ana.
 Tables, Twelve, Laws of the, XIX. 301, VI. 789
 —glacier, X. 635.
 Tablet, in architecture, III. 513
 TABON, town in Bohemia, XXI. 1.
 —(Mount), XXI. 1, XVII. 183.
 Tabortices, XXI. 972
 TABRIZ, Persian town, XXI. 2
 Tabu, or Taboo, XVIII. 275, 276.
 Tabular spar, XV. 82.
 —painting, XVII. 52.
 Tacanova, island, XVII. 240.
 Tacacaca, nat. order of plants, V. 212.
 Tuccazze, river, II. 55.
 Tachina, genus of insects, IX. 248.
 Tachinus, genus of insects, IX. 104.
 Tachometer, XII. 143; XVI. 60.
 Tachos, or Teos, king of Egypt, VIII. 406
 Tachyphalctis, XV. 87.
 Tachydromia, genus of insects, IX. 236.
 Tachydromia, family of insects, IX. 236.
 Tachydromus, genus of reptiles, XIX. 30.
 Tachylite, mineral, XV. 83.
 Tachypetes, genus of birds, XVI. 814.
 Tachyphonus, genus of birds, XVI. 751.
 Tachyporus, genus of insects, IX. 104.
 TACRUS (C. Cornelius), XXI. 2; XI. 548
 —his Life of Agricola, V. 378—his annals, III. 215—on the army of Sesostris, 622, n. 3—on political constitutions, VIII. 760, 761—his allusion to London, XIII. 658—his allusion to Christ's death, XII. 780—on the Germans, VI. 602, 606; X. 572, 573—on the Goths, 727—contrasted with Suetonius, XX. 788
 —Roman emperor, XIX. 340.
 Tackling, in seamanship, XX. 18.
 Tackle, in mechanics, XIV. 401—White's, ib.
 TACVA, town in Peru, XXI. 5; XVII. 474.
 Taconic system, in the geology of New York, XVI. 214.
 Tactics, military, XXI. 702—of battles, 710—naval, XVI. 108; XXI. 719.
 Tacubaya, in Mexico, XIV. 728.
 TADCASTER, XXI. 6—building-stone of, XX. 712.
 Tadjika, people of Bukhara, V. 753.
 TADMOR, XXI. 5; XVII. 221.
 Tadorina, genus of birds, XVI. 817.
 Tadpoles, XIX. 74, 79—temporary gills of, III. 113.
 Tania, in architecture, III. 507, 518.
 —genus of zoophytes, XXI. 979, 977, 998—in horses, 569.

TÆ—TAM

Tænianotus, genus of fishes, XII. 283.
 Tænidæ, family of fishes, XII. 303
 Tænobranchiata, order of mollusks, XV 334
 Tamiura, genus of fishes, XII. 328
 Talfi, river, X. 642
 TAFILLELT, or Taflet, in Morocco, XXI 5; XV. 595
 Tafnet, Egyptian deity, VIII. 437.
 TAGANROG, in Russia, XXI. 5; VIII. 520; XIX. 521.
 Taganyka, African lake, XV. 500
 Tagenia, genus of insects, IX. 129.
 TAGHMOX, town in Wexford, XXI. 5.
 Taglite, mineral, XV. 104.
 TAGLIACCOZZI (Gasparo), or Tallacotus, surgeon, XXI. 5, XX. 818.
 TAGODAST, in Morocco, XXI. 5
 TAGUS, river, XXI. 6, 302, IX. 339; XIII. 804; XVII. 647, XVIII. 893; XX. 486, 487—gold of the, XVIII. 894.
 Tahir Pasha, VIII. 490
 TAHITI, XXI. 6, XVIII. 280, 281—society of Atrecoys in, III. 676—bread-fruit of, V. 301—tradition of the Deluge in, VII. 719—French protectorate of, X. 217.
 Tahitian group of islands, XVIII. 280.
 Tai Mihal, mausoleum at Agia, II. 244
 TAI-WAN, town in the island of Formosa, XXI. 6.
 TAI-YUAN, town in China, XX. 6.
 Taido Suma, Japanese emperor, XII. 697
 Tail of animals, bones of the, III. 76, 84—muscles, 93—uses, ib.
 Taille, in France, X. 278; XXI. 47, 38, n.
 Tailors, diseases of, XIV. 442—merchant tailors, XXI. 913.
 Tailleze, See Entail.
 TAIN, town in Ross-shire, XXI. 6
 Taïra, in zoology, XIV. 156.
 Tazula, Caledonian tribe, VI. 74
 Talapat. See Talipat.
 TALAVERA-DE-LA-REINA, in Spain, XXI. 6
 —battle of, III. 690, V. 606; XXI. 823
 Talbot (W. H. Fox), his invention of calotype, I. 923; XVII. 545—his polygraphic process, 544, 545—on the colours of double plates, XVI. 622, 625
 —(Sir John), in Ireland, XII. 472
 Talbotstown, in Ireland, XXI. 850.
 Talbotype, XVII. 545, 546. See Calotype
 Tale, mineral, XV. 78.
 Talca, in Chile, VI. 547.
 Talculuano, in Chile, VI. 546; VII. 228.
 Talcoese schist, XV. 154.
 TALENT, XXI. 6, XVI. 356; VII. 66, 67.
 TALFOURD (Thomas Noon), dramatist, XXI. 6.
 Taliacotus. See Tagliacozzi.
 Talians, Indian people, XXI. 161.
 Talicus, VII. 317
 TALIPAT Palm, XXI. 7.
 Tallsmann, II. 735.
 Tall, various meanings of the word, VIII. 10.
 Tallahassee, town in Florida, IX. 667.
 Tallard (Marshal), V. 448.
 TALLEYRAND-PERIGORD (Charles Maurice de), XXI. 8; X. 507, 125, 141 et seq—death and character, 213—his reply to Lord Grenville, V. 569
 TALLEIN (J. Lambert), XXI. 14; X. 90 et seq.
 TALLIS (Thomas), musician, XXI. 14.
 TALLON, town in Ireland, XXI. 15.
 Tallow, XVI. 493—candles of, VI. 170—mineral, XV. 124—vegetable, VI. 589, XIV. 496—of New South Wales, IV. 285.
 Tally, calculation by, II. 8.
 TALMA (F. Joseph), tragedian, XXI. 15.
 TALMUD, XXI. 15; XII. 776. See Mishna.
 Talmudists, IX. 395—in Russia, XIX. 523.
 Talpa, genus of mammalia, XIV. 152; XXI. 546, 547. See Mole.
 Talk, loch, XX. 329.
 Tamandua, genus of mammalia, XIV. 192.
 Tamar, river, VII. 406, 763.
 —canal, VII. 763.
 Tamariceæ, nat. order of plants, V. 189.
 Tamarind tree, V. 190
 Tamarisk, not injured by sea air, VII. 406.

TAM—TAR

Tamatave, in Madagascar, XIII. 793.
 Tamatia, genus of birds, XVI. 779.
 Tamaulipas (Santa Anna de), XXI. 17.
 TAMAULIPS, or Tamaulipas, Mexican state, XXI. 16; XIV. 727, 718
 Tambookies, Kafarian tribe, XIII. 32, 37
 Tambour lace, XIII. 142.
 Tambouring machine, VII. 449.
 TAMBOY, in Russia, XXI. 16; XIX. 521.
 TAMERLANE, or Temoor-lang, XXI. 17. See Timur
 Tamise, town in Belgium, XXI. 179.
 Tamnophilus, genus of insects, IX. 140.
 TAMPIO, seaport in Mexico, XXI. 17; XIV. 738.
 Tamping, in blasting rocks, IV. 756
 TAPWORTH, English town, XXI. 17.
 Tan See Tanning
 Tana, or Tarna, river in Lapland, XIII. 284
 Tanagers, birds, XVI. 751.
 TANAGRA, ancient town in Boeotia, XXI. 17
 —genus of birds, XVI. 751.
 Tanais, river, XIX. 869. See Don, in Russia.
 Tancredia, fossil mollusks, XVII. 107.
 TANDA, in Oude, XVII. 17.
 TANDERAGEE, in Ireland, XXI. 17.
 TANGANYIKA, African lake, XXI. 17.
 Tangent, X. 514; XXI. 338—nature and calculation of tangents, XIII. 566—tangent-plane, XX. 153, and n. 3
 TANGERMUNDÉ, town in Saxony, XXI. 17.
 Tanghin, poison, V. 199.
 TANGIER, in Morocco, XXI. 17; XV. 596
 —pilgrims from, ib.—mole at, V. 301—bombardment of, by the French, X. 221.
 Tangrolipix, VII. 314.
 Tangun hoise, V. 34.
 TANTS, town of ancient Egypt, XXI. 18, VII. 498
 Tannistry, law of, XIX. 750.
 TANJORE, in India, XXI. 18
 Tanks for liquid manure, II. 268—iron tanks in ships, XX. 24
 TANNAHILL (Robert), XXI. 18
 TANNER (Thomas), antiquary, XXI. 19
 Tannic acid in wines, XXI. 889.
 Tannin, VIII. 281; XIII. 305—in tea, XXI. 82
 TANNING, XXI. 19—materials for, XIII. 305—recent improvements in, 311—Sir II. Davy on, VII. 668
 Tanrec, in zoology, XIV. 158—dentition of, XVI. 452—its hybernation, III. 181; XII. 62.
 Tansy, plant, XI. 745
 Tantalite, mineral, XV. 110.
 Tantalum, XV. 66.
 TANTALLON Castle, XI. 178.
 TANTALUS, in fable, XXI. 19.
 —genus of birds, XVI. 800.
 Tanypeza, genus of insects, IX. 263.
 Tanypus, genus of insects, IX. 225.
 Tansyptera, genus of birds, XVI. 773.
 Tanyptrophæus, fossil reptiles, XVII. 146.
 Tao-tse, VI. 569.
 Taormina, in Sicily, XX. 244.
 Tap-root, V. 78—in trees, XVII. 769; in the oak, XXI. 273
 Tapes, fossil mollusks, XVII. 108.
 TAPESTRY, XXI. 19.
 Tapeurum, in various animals, III. 96.
 Tapeworm, XXI. 978—its mode of reproduction, XVII. 688.
 Taphazous, genus of mammalia, XIV. 149.
 Taphrenchyma, tissue in plants, V. 70.
 Taploca, V. 294.
 Tapir, in zoology, XIV. 199; II. 713—dentition of, XVI. 471.
 Tapping, XXI. 567.
 TAPROBANE, ancient name of Ceylon, XXI. 21, X. 463. See Ceylon.
 TAR, XXI. 21; XVI. 100—coal-tar, X. 433—used for stamping cotton, IV. 704—tar apparatus in gas-manufacture, X. 416—from peat, XVII. 359—tarring of ropes, XIX. 404.
 Tara, hill of, in Meath, XIV. 377.
 —town in Siberia, XXI. 21.
 Tarakal. See Saghalien.
 TARANCON, town in Spain, XXI. 22.

TAR—TAS

Tarannon shales, XV. 198.
 Taranta (Valesco de), XX. 817.
 Taranto, gulf of, XX. 242
 —town of Naples, XXI. 22
 Tarapaca, in Peru, nitrate of soda in, XVII. 472.
 TARARE, French town, XXI. 22.
 —an excessive eater, VIII. 23
 TARASCON, town of France, XXI. 22
 TARAZONA, town of Spain, XXI. 22
 TARBAGATAI, town in China, XXI. 22
 TARBES, town in France, XXI. 23
 TARBOLTON, in Ayrshire, XXI. 23
 Tardigrada, tribe of mammalia, XIV. 100.
 Tare, in commerce, III. 595.
 Tarentine war, XIX. 305, XXI. 22.
 Tarentula, III. 383
 Tarentum, XXI. 22—coins of, XVI. 863.
 Tares, culture of, II. 312.
 TARGUI, XXI. 23, XIX. 838.
 Tairil, poem of, X. 569.
 TARIFA, seaport in Spain, XXI. 24
 TARIFF, XXI. 24—Sir Robert Peel's reform of, XVII. 364; VII. 384
 TARKI, or Tarku, town in Asiatic Russia, XXI. 24.
 Tarlet (Emile), his work on the Chinese Silk-wood, IX. 24
 TARMA, town in Peru, XXI. 24
 TARN, in France, XXI. 24
 —river, XXI. 24, 25
 TARN-ET-GARONNE, in France, XXI. 25.
 TARNOPOL, town in Austria, XXI. 25
 Tarnowitzite, mineral, XV. 93.
 Tarpeian hill, in Rome, XIX. 358
 TARPOREUX, English town, XXI. 25.
 TARQUINI, ancient Etrurian city, XXI. 25.
 Tarquinius Priscus, XIX. 297.
 —Superbus, XIX. 297.
 TARQUINS, XXI. 25.
 TARIACONENSIS, ancient Spanish province, XX. 458.
 TARRAGONA, Spanish seaport, XXI. 25—siege of, in 1813, V. 613.
 TARRABA, town in Spain, XXI. 26.
 TARSHEIM, XXI. 26; X. 460, n., VII. 185.
 Tarsipes, dentition of, XVI. 448.
 Tarsius, genus of mammalia, XIV. 145.
 Tarsus, in anatomy, bones of the, III. 86—muscles of the, 39—in the mammalia, 82—in birds, 86—in reptiles, 88.
 —town in Asia Minor, XXI. 28.
 TARTAGLIA, or Tartalea (Nicholas), XXI. 28—his improvements in algebra, I. 557; II. 484—on gunnery, I. 103, 104—on fortification, IX. 817, 819.
 Tartar, employed in dyeing, VIII. 298.
 Tartarus, species of Ichneumon, VIII. 286.
 Tartaric acid, VI. 616; IX. 758—used for discharging colours, VIII. 816.
 —languages, IX. 389; XIII. 199, 216.
 Tartars, XXI. 28; II. 766; III. 747, 751; VII. 504; IX. 544, 388; XIX. 522, 550—skulls of, III. 28—conquests of, in Asia, 746—European embassies to, in the middle ages, 753—cultivation of astronomy by, 795—Baghdad taken by, IV. 844—the Chinese derived from, VI. 568—their mode of warfare, 569—their invasions of Poland, XVIII. 140, 143—conquest of Russia by, XIX. 472—Moscow burnt by, 474—defeated by the Swedes, XX. 851. See Timur.
 TARTARY, XXI. 28—cattle of, III. 740. See Tartars
 Tartessus, XXI. 27.
 TARTINI (Giuseppe), violinist, XXI. 28—on harmony, XV. 701.
 Tarudant, town in Morocco, XXI. 158.
 Tash-kurgan, XIII. 77.
 TASHIKHAN, in Turkestan, XXI. 29.
 Task-work, XIV. 280.
 TASMAN (Abel Janssen), XXI. 29—his discovery of New Holland, IV. 252, 253; and New Zealand, 266—on the aborigines of Australia, 258—Papua visited by, 262—Van Diemen's Land discovered by, X. 474; XXI. 30—exploratory voyage of, X. 474.
 TASMANIA, XXI. 29—discovery of, by Tasman, IV. 252; X. 474—general view of, IV. 261—discoveries in, 253—Sir John Franklin governor of, X. 206—

TAS—TAY

- height of mountains in, XVII. 646—
 wool of, XXI. 912.
TASSE (James), modeller, XXI. 33.
 — (William), XXI. 33.
Tassin (Leonard), anatomist, II. 763.
Tasso (Torquato), XXI. 84—his table-talk,
 II. 740, 741—translations of his Jeru-
 salem Delivered, by Fairfax, IX. 469,
 by Hoole, XI. 622—his poetry, XVIII.
 98, 111.
Tassoni (Alessandro), XXI. 35—poetry of,
 XVIII. 112.
Taste, sense of, II. 178; XVII. 677; XIV.
 564—in the bee, IV. 578—in insects,
 IX. 44—fishes, XII. 220—organ of, III.
 47, 99. See *Tongue*
 — or perception and judgment of
 beauty, IV. 534—standard of, 554—
 effect of education on, 545—the real in
 the philosophy of taste, XIV. 623—as
 an incentive to virtue, XV. 564—national
 tastes, IV. 544.
Tata, Hungarian town, VIII. 113.
Tate (Nahum), poet, XXI. 35, 171—on
 Shakespeare, XX. 71—his co-authorship
 with Brady in a metrical version of the
 Psalms, V. 265.
 — (Thomas), on the law of density of
 steam, XX. 572.
TATIANUS, or **Tatian**, XXI. 35; IX. 492,
 X. 688; XXI. 197.
TATRUS (Achilles), Greek writer, XXI. 35.
Tatouing, IX. 487, XX. 231.
TATTA, in Sindh, XXI. 35, X. 305. See
Thaththa.
Tattian (Archdeacon), Syriac MSS. dis-
 covered by, XII. 360, XIII. 393.
Tauler (John), German mystic, XV. 756.
TAUNTON, in Massachusetts, XXI. 36.
 — in Somersetshire, XXI. 35; XX.
 411—vale of, 410.
Tauparot (M.), his photographic process,
 XVII. 549.
Taur, VII. 504.
Tauric Chersonese, coins of, XVI. 368.
Taurichthys, genus of fishes, XII. 301, 302.
TAURIDA, XXI. 36; VII. 504; XIX. 521.
Taurinum, taken by Hannibal, VI. 294.
Taurus, beazar of, IV. 525.
Taurusus of Tralles, III. 303.
TAUROMENTUM, in Sicily, XXI. 36.
TAURUS, in Asia Minor, XXI. 36; III. 758.
 — and *Anti-Taurus*, XXI. 377.
Tautog, fish, XII. 265.
Tautoga, genus of fishes, XII. 267.
Tautokite, mineral, XV. 89.
TAVAI Ponamoo, island, IV. 267, XVI.
 232.
Tave, Welsh river, VI. 52.
TAVERNIER (Jean Baptist), French travel-
 ler, XXI. 36—on the use of tea in Japan,
 89.
TAVIRA, in Portugal, XXI. 36.
TAVERSTOCK, in Devonshire, XXI. 36.
TAVIERE, XX. 248.
TAVOX, in India, XXI. 37.
Tavy, river, VII. 763.
Tawee-Tawee, island, XX. 447.
TAWING, XXI. 37; XIII. 810.
Taxacea, nat. order of plants, V. 209.
TAXATION, XXI. 37, XVIII. 234—direct,
 XXI. 37, 43—indirect, 37, 57—increase of,
 the cause of rise of prices in war, VII. 199.
 — comparative burden of taxes borne by
 agriculturists, 389—practice of taxation
 said to have been introduced by the
 Crusades, 532—connection between the
 state of agriculture and extent of, VIII.
 725—hitherto favourable to the progress
 of the country, XIV. 276—for support
 of the poor, XVIII. 301—tax on game,
 XX. 210—on woollen and worsted goods,
 XXI. 914, 917—influence of, on wages,
 680—in France, X. 273; India, XI. 476,
 510 *et seq.*; Scotland, XIX. 809; Prussia,
 XVIII. 874, the United States, XXI.
 427. See *Income Tax*, *Property Tax*,
Funding System.
Taxers, in Bologna University, XXI. 447.
Taxicores, family of insects, IX. 181.
Taxological botany, V. 174.
Tay (Loch), XVII. 455; XIX. 794.
 — *river*, XXI. 76; XVII. 455, 647;

TAY—TEA

- XIX. 791, 794—salmon fisheries of, IX.
 603, 604—improvement in its navigation,
 XVI. 74—amount of river and tidal
 water in, 83—increase of tidal water by
 works on, ib.—inundations of, XVII.
 451 and *n*.
Taygetus, mountain, XI. 11; XIII. 147.
Taylorson and Co., their diagonal framing
 in ship-building, XX. 204.
TAYLOR (Brook), XXI. 76; I. 714—a new
 branch added by him to the analysis
 of variable quantity, 648—more remark-
 able for the ingenuity and depth, than
 for the perspicuity of his writings, ib.
 — theorem known by his name, ib.—the
 only British mathematician after New-
 ton who could enter the lists with the
 Bernoullis, 714—on capillary attraction,
 731—on the force of adhesion, II. 140—
 problem in the integral calculus pro-
 posed by, IX. 675—his theorem, 689;
 applied to the development of functions,
 691—on magnetism, XIV. 4.
 — (Dr), of Norwich, on the spirit and
 temper with which theology should be
 studied, XXI. 184—on original sin, 204.
 — (Ephraim), his power-loom, XXI.
 789.
 — (Isaac), his definition of imagina-
 tion, XII. 364.
 — (James), his connection with steam-
 navigation, I. 869, XX. 637.
 — (JEREMY), XXI. 77.
 — (JOHN), the water poet, XXI. 78.
 — (JOHN), philologist, XXI. 78.
 — (Dr John), his translation of a
 Hindu treatise on algebra, II. 487.
 — (Mr), on coal strata, VII. 117.
 — (Mr), his oil-gas apparatus, X. 427.
 — (Mr), on the transmission of ancient
 books, XIII. 388, *n* 1.
 — (Rev. Robert), on the natives of
 New Zealand, XVI. 237, 238.
 — (Sir Robert), his merits as an
 architect, XII. 455.
 — (THOMAS), the Platonist, XXI. 79.
 — (Walter), of Southampton, his
 block-machinery, IV. 783.
 — (WILLIAM), XXI. 79.
 — Institute, at Oxford, XVII. 35.
Taylor's Tables of Logarithms, XIII. 555.
 — catalogue of stars, IV. 95.
TEHAD, or **Tsad** (Lake), XXI. 80, II. 214,
 V. 50—navigated by Dr Overweg, II.
 211, 214—Dr Barth's account of, X. 478.
Tchadda, or **Tschadda**, African river, X.
 478; II. 214; XVI. 260.
Tchalaiphut Kaleh, VII. 505.
Tchar, mountains in Turkey, XXI. 376.
TOCHUSSY, town in Russia, XXI. 80.
TOCHBOKSARI, town in Russia, XXI. 80.
Tocheffkin, on the mining produce of
 Russia, XIX. 543.
Tcheffkante, mineral, XV. 90.
Tchelmimar, ruins of, III. 401.
Tchemakha, XIX. 551.
TOCHKASKI, two Russian towns, XXI. 80.
Tchernaya, battle of, XIX. 509.
TOCHENIGOV, in Russia, XXI. 80; XIX.
 521.
Tchihatcheff's work on Asia Minor, III.
 758.
TOCHORUM, town in Turkey, XXI. 80.
Tchoufuit Kaleh, VII. 505.
TOCHUGUEV, town in Russia, XXI. 80.
TEA and **TEA-TRADE**, XXI. 81; IX. 761—
 of Assam, III. 763—Brazil, V. 294—
 Barmah, 778—China, VI. 589—Japan,
 XII. 693—Western Himalaya, XI. 444.
 — Kemaon, XIII. 69—Nghanhoi, XVI.
 241—Punjab, XVIII. 690—Cochin-
 China, VII. 48—green and black, V.
 185—exports from Canton, VI. 200—
 consumption of, 891—exports from
 China, 594; duty on, in China, XXI.
 80—history of the duties on, 70—
 culture of, in United States, 425—adul-
 terations of, IX. 769.
 — order of plants, V. 185.
 — of Paraguay, IV. 827, XVII. 268.
 See *Maté*.
Teachers, diseases of, XIV. 442—relative
 duties of teacher and taught, XV. 569.

TEA—TEL

- Teak-wood**, XVI. 101; XXI. 276—in ship-
 building, XX. 167—tree, V. 202—in
 Barmah, 779—Bombay, 2—Malabar,
 XV. 104—India, XI. 454—Moulmein,
 XV. 667—African, V. 206.
Teals, birds, XVI. 819; IX. 762.
TEANO, town of Naples, XXI. 92.
Teas, gland secreting, III. 45.
Teazel, order of plants, V. 196.
 — grown in Gloucestershire, X. 680.
Teazling of woollen cloth, XXI. 922.
Technical education, XV. 807.
Technology, chair of, in Edinburgh, XXI.
 485, 874.
Tectibianchata, order of mollusks, XV.
 371—fossil, XVII. 111.
Techzite, mineral, XV. 97.
Teela, in Morocco, XXI. 93.
Tees, river, VIII. 266—navigation of the,
 XX. 707.
Teeswater cattle, II. 340—sheep, 346.
Teeth, II. 830, XVII. 658—works on, II.
 767—relation between food and, 774—
 structure and development of, 830,
 III. 25—comparative anatomy of,
 105—of fishes, 106, XII. 222, fossil,
 118, 119—of the mammalia, XIV. 135,
 146, *n*, XVII. 151, 158, 159 *et seq.*—
 Aristotle on, XIV. 123—of serpents,
 XIX. 44—in the domestic animals, XXI.
 563; their diseases, 564—homologies of
 the teeth, XVI. 478—dyed black by the
 Japanese, XII. 690. See *Odontology*.
 — of wheels, XIV. 293 *et seq.*—friction
 of, 407—in clocks and watches, VII. 36.
 See *Wheels*, *Mechanics*.
TEFLIS, town in Georgia, XXI. 92; X. 566;
 XIX. 551—trade of, III. 755—meteorolo-
 gical observations at, IV. 687—
 government, XXI. 521.
TEFZA, town in Morocco, XXI. 93.
TEGEA, ancient Grecian city, XXI. 93.
Tegherly, in Fezzan, IX. 530.
Tegnien, in botany, V. 139.
TEGNER (Elias), Swedish poet, XXI. 93,
 XIX. 695, 700.
TEGUIGALPA, town in Honduras, XXI.
 93; XI. 613, 614.
Tehama, III. 341, 348.
TEHERAN, or **Tehrán**, Persian city, XXI.
 93—climate of, XVII. 422.
TEHUANTEPEC, town in Mexico, XXI. 93;
 XIV. 725.
 — isthmus of, II. 711.
Teifi, river, VI. 233—vale of, ib. See
Tevry.
TEIGNMOUTH, in Devonshire, XXI. 93—
 railway to, VII. 768.
Teinds, in Scotland, court of, XVIII. 494.
Telescope, XVI. 586.
Teivy, river, VI. 52.
Teleses, Greek sculptor, XIX. 853.
Teledu, in zoology, XIV. 158.
TELEGRAPH (Electric), XXI. 94; VIII. 543.
 — its early history, I. 985—invention of,
 II. 725—three independent inventors, I.
 986—Gauss and Weber's early experi-
 ments, 985—telegraphs of Morse, Stein-
 hell, and Wheatstone, ib., 986 (see these
 articles)—Bain's, VIII. 544; I. 986—Mr
 Fothergill Cooke's services to, ib., *n*
 — its services to astronomy, IV. 110—to
 find the longitude by, XIII. 690—sub-
 marine telegraph, I. 986; between Dover
 and the French coast, ib.; in the Red
 Sea, XVIII. 819 (see *Atlantic Tele-*
graph)—telegraph offices on railways,
 767—utility of, in preventing railway
 accidents, 795—in Belgium, IV. 626—
 England, VIII. 722—London, XIII. 679.
 — Russia, XIX. 636—Spain, XX. 491—
 Switzerland, 890—United States, XXI.
 427.
Telesaurus, fossil reptiles, XVII. 182—
 teeth of, XIV. 437.
Telephorus, genus of insects, IX. 110.
TELESCOPE, XXI. 117—invention of, I. 626;
 II. 86; XIII. 449; XVI. 524, 527—im-
 provers of, II. 87; Sir William Herschel,
 I. 839; Dolland, Rosse, Lassell, ib. (see
 these articles)—construction of, by
 Galileo, 606; II. 87; III. 800; X. 376;
 XVI. 628—advantages to science arising

TEL—TEM

- from, I. 9, *n*, 2, particularly astronomy,
 613—law on which its construction de-
 pends discovered by Snellius, 747, but
 simplified, and first published by Des-
 cartes, ib.—magnifying power of, 839;
 XVI. 569—illuminating power, I. 839—
 space-penetrating-power, 840—rational-
 ity of, XVI. 569—reflecting telescopes, II.
 39, XVI. 580—reflecting, 532, 569—
 achromatic, II. 86, XVI. 534, 581—
 astronomical, IV. 149, XVI. 569—ap-
 plied to quadrants, III. 802, to sextants,
 XVI. 29—Dorpat, IV. 150—Gregorian
 reflecting, XVI. 533—Newtonian, ib.—
 Cassegrainian, ib.—Lord Rosse's, IV.
 151; I. 803—Herschel's forty-feet re-
 flector, 840—Blair's applanatic, XVI. 536.
 — Lassell's, I. 860. See *Optics*.
Telfan (Mr), huge medusa seen by, XXI.
 997.
TELFORD (Thomas), engineer, XXI. 145—
 his suspension bridges, I. 875—Menai
 bridge by, ib.—aqueducts designed by,
 III. 339—iron bridge in London pro-
 posed by, XII. 679—other iron bridges
 by, 578, 583, 584—his method of road-
 making, XIX. 226—his birthplace, XI.
 183.
TELL (William), XXI. 146; XX. 884.
 — el Amaunch, in Egypt, VIII. 504.
 — el-Kady, in Palestine, XVII. 184,
 185.
TELLEZ (Gabriel), dramatist, XXI. 147.
TELLURBERY, in India, XXI. 147.
Tellina, genus of mollusks, XV. 347, 350.
Telluidae, family of mollusks, XV. 350.
Telluric iron, XV. 114.
Tellurism, XX. 445.
Tellurite, mineral, XV. 112.
Tellurium, IV. 495; XV. 65, 114—its dis-
 covery, XIII. 106—black, or foliated,
 XV. 118.
Temera, genus of fishes, XII. 327.
TEMESVAR, XXI. 147.
Temia, genus of birds, XVI. 765.
Temmink (M.), his arrangement of the
 mammalia, XIV. 130, 131—on birds,
 XVI. 731—his ornithological system,
 821.
Temnodon, genus of fishes, XII. 296, 298.
Tennoplenus, fossil ichniodon, XVII.
 100.
TEMPPE, vale of, XXI. 147; XI. 12.
Tempei, in horses, XI. 642, 650, 688.
Tempera painting, XVII. 64.
Temperament, XVII. 567—its influence on
 insanity, XIV. 536; and on health, XIX.
 607.
 — OF THE MUSICAL SCALE, XXI. 148.
Temperance, conducive to health, XIV.
 441.
Temperate zones, X. 484.
Temperature, Gay-Lussac's observations
 on its diminution with increase of
 height, II. 182, 184—of the climate of
 Africa, 215—of the climate of Arabia,
 III. 341—influence of the solar spots on,
 IV. 88—its effect on cohesive force, VI.
 208; and on the brilliancy of gas-light,
 X. 424—variations of, in the climate of
 England, VIII. 718—mean of several
 places in Europe, IX. 381—artificial
 means of increasing and diminishing,
 XI. 275—its influence on the distri-
 bution of organised beings, XII.
 329; on the distribution of plants, V.
 219—Isothermal lines, VI. 771—law of
 its decrement on ascending into the
 air, XIV. 641—death from extremes of,
 431—effect of, on magnets, 6—diurnal
 and annual fluctuations of, 670—of
 mines, XV. 225—one of the chief ele-
 ments in our notion of climates, XVII.
 610—distribution of, 611—normal law
 of mean temperature, ib.—average sur-
 face temperature of the earth, 613—
 extremes of absolute temperature over
 the globe, ib.—line of maximum mean,
 ib.—of man and animals, 666—plague
 supposed to be dependent on, 751—of
 the Polar Regions, XVIII. 178—tem-
 perature of steam, XX. 555, 571—rela-
 tion of the pressure and temperature of

TEM—TEN

- steam, 564—absolute, in thermo-dynamics, 618 See Climate, Heat, Warming, &c.
- Tempest in France in 1788, X. 48.
- TEMPESTA, XXI 148 See Molyb.
- TEMPLE, Knights of the Temple, XXI 148, VI 622, XIII 115; X. 15, XV. 310, 408.
- TEMPLE (Sir William), XXI 148, XX. 870—on ancient and modern learning, IV 657—on the mercantile prosperity of Holland, VII 197—Dean Swift amanuensis to, XX. 837, 870—his posthumous works edited by Swift, 871.
- (Sir Grenville), his description of a Maltese galley, XX. 123.
- of Jerusalem, XII 740, 742—its destruction necessarily abolished the Mosaic system, I 468—belief of the Jews that it will yet become the centre of worship for all mankind, 485—Julian's attempt to rebuild it, II. 644; XII 766, XVII 195.
- XXI 151—Greek temples, III 461.
- Roman, 469—Egyptian, 458—Mexican, XIV 721—of Ava, IV. 321.
- or Inns of Court, in London, XIII. 672.
- libraries of the Inner and Middle, XIII 394.
- Templecross, XXI 840.
- TEMPLEMORE, town in Ireland, XXI 151.
- Templeton (James), his improvement in carpet-making, VI. 272.
- Temporal bones, III. 20, 78.
- Témsah, lake, proposed harbour at, XX. 789.
- Tenacity of minerals, XV 56—of metals, woods, &c., XX. 756, 757.
- Tenaille, in fortification, IX 810, 818.
- Tenant-right, II 365—tenant-at-will, ib. See Lease, Tenure.
- TENASSERIM, XXI 151.
- TENBUURY, in Worcestershire, XXI 152.
- TENNY, town in Wales, XXI 152.
- Tench, XII 256—angling for, III. 160.
- Tencin (Madame de), character of her novels, XIX. 287.
- Tendons, structure of, II. 823.
- Tendrils, V. 79.
- Tenebio, genus of insects, IX. 130.
- Tenebrionites, family of insects, IX. 130.
- TENEDOS, island, XXI 152.
- Tenoriffe, VI. 165—Blake's attack on the Spanish fleet at, IV. 752—Penk of, VI 175; zones of vegetation on, XVII. 625; clouds as seen from, XIV 687—old crater walls of volcano in, XXI. 604—wines of, 887.
- Tengri, or Thian Shan, mountains, XVII. 599.
- TENIERS (David), two painters of that name, XXI. 152; XVII. 75.
- TENISON (Thomas), archbishop, XXI. 152.
- Tennant (Charles), his bleaching substances, IV. 760, 761, 762—on the loss of weight sustained by linen in bleaching, 769.
- (Emerson), his act regarding the copyright of designs for manufactures, VII. 892.
- (Mr.), on Hindu penances, XI. 469.
- (SMITHSON), chemist, XXI. 152.
- (WILLIAM), poet and orientalist, XXI. 154.
- Tennant's grubber, II. 272—system of winter fallowing, 290.
- Tennantite, mineral, XV. 120.
- TENNENMAN (W. Gottlieb), XXI. 155—his History of Philosophy, V. 698.
- TENNESSEE, American state, XXI. 155, 419—debt of, 428—wines, 888.
- river, XXI. 155.
- Tenny, in heraldry, XI. 824.
- Tenochtitlan, ruins at, II. 684.
- Tenon and mortise, XII. 810.
- Tenoning, in carpentry, V. 747.
- Tenorite, mineral, XV. 112.
- Tenares. See Tanrac.
- TANAR, in grammar, XXI. 156; X. 763, 790.
- Tensift, river, XV. 594.
- Tension, failure of timber by, XX. 755, 779.

TEN—TER

- Tent, Arabian, III. 353—Lapland, XIII 239.
- Tentacles, in mollusks, XV. 323, 355, 358.
- Tentaculites, fossils, XVII. 101.
- TENTERDEN, town in Kent, XXI. 156.
- (CHARLES ABBOTT), lord, XXI. 157.
- Tenthredineta, family of insects, IX. 138.
- Tenthredo, genus of insects, IX. 133.
- Tentorium, in anatomy, III. 56, 105.
- TENTURA, XXI 157 See Dendorah.
- Tentyria, genus of insects, IX. 129.
- Tenuirostres, tribe of birds, XVI 768.
- TENURE, in law, XXI 157—right to sit in the House of Lords by, XVII 292—of land, II 364; in India, XI. 512, 513; Egypt, VIII. 428.
- Toocalis, Mexican place of worship, II. 684; XIV. 722—Robertson's mistake regarding, II 684, n.
- Tephroite, mineral, XV. 89.
- Tequandama, waterfall of, II. 668; III 131, IV. 808.
- Tet-Goes, town in Holland, X. 693.
- Tetral, or Tetrae, wooded region of the Himalayas, XI. 437, 438.
- TERAMO, town of Naples, XXI 157.
- Teratolite, mineral, XV. 84.
- Teratology, V. 120; XVII 702.
- Tetrium, VI. 468.
- TERCEIRA, island, XXI 157, IV. 336.
- Terechloride of phosphorus, VI. 480.
- Terebella, genus of annelides, XI. 295.
- Terebellum, genus of mollusks, XV. 388.
- Terebinth tree, V. 190.
- Terebinthaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 189.
- Terebrantia, insects, IX. 133.
- Terebratella, genus of mollusks, XV. 338—fossil, XVII 103.
- Terebratula, genus of mollusks, XV. 337.
- Terebratulidae, family of mollusks, XV 336.
- Terebratulina, genus of mollusks, XV 337—fossil, XVII 103.
- Teredina, genus of mollusks, XV 352—fossil, XVII 108.
- Tereido navalis, XV 353, 354; XI 224; VIII 77—in the Black Sea, IV. 741.
- Terek, river, XIX. 515.
- Tereitia, wife of Cicero, VI. 719.
- TERENTIUS AFRIC (Publius), comic poet, XXI 157—comedies of, VIII 141—poetry of, XVIII 104—Bentley's edition of, IV 659.
- Varro, VI. 295.
- Teres, worm in the horse, XXI. 569.
- Tergowen. See Gouda.
- Terms, genus of insects, IX. 65, 179; II. 218.
- Terms, academical, at Oxford, XXI. 458; Cambridge, 463; Dublin, 487; Queen's Universities, 490.
- clerical, VIII. 744.
- doctrine of, in logic, XIII. 578—the quantity of, 579, 583—signs of the distribution of common terms, ib.—development of the extension of, 581—of the comprehension of, ib.—law of, 582. See Logic.
- Terminal, in architecture, III. 513.
- TERMINI, town in Sicily, XXI. 158.
- of railways, XVIII. 766 See Stations.
- Termitina, family of insects, IX. 179.
- Termoli, Neapolitan town, XX. 243.
- TERNATE, island, XXI. 158.
- TERNI, XXI. 158; XII 424.
- Terna, birds, XVI. 818.
- Ternstroemia, nat. order of plants, V. 185—region of, 227; XVII. 627.
- TERODANT, town in Morocco, XXI. 158.
- TERPANDER, Greek poet, XXI. 158.
- Torschlore, XV. 699.
- Torra cotta, XX. 725—statues in, XIX. 814—remains of vessels composed of, XI. 21.
- DEL FUGO, XXI. 158. See Tierra del Fuego.
- DI LAVORO, in Italy, XXI. 158; XII. 696.
- japonica, VI. 382—used in preparing betel, IV. 685, 688—in adulterating tea, XXI. 87—used in tanning, XIII. 306.
- TERRAONA, in the Papal States, XXI. 158; XVII. 241.

TER—TET

- TERRANOVA, in Sicily, XXI 159; XX. 245.
- TERRASSON (Jean), XXI. 159.
- TERRE HAUTE, town in Indiana, XXI 159.
- Terrestrial serpents, XIX. 55.
- Terrible, steam-ship, account of two voyages made by, XX. 22—singing of, 23.
- Terrier, XI. 778.
- Territorial government, in the United States, XXI. 432.
- Territory, colonies for the sake of, VII. 140.
- Teior, Reign of, in France, X. 88.
- Tertiary epoch, in geology, XV. 195, 211—flora of, V. 237; XVII 641—fishes, XII 349, 351, 354, 355, XVII 640—ichthyodorulites, 117—shells, XV 403—corals, XVII 97—rocks, 587, 588, of New York, XVI. 215; Russia, XIX. 518; Spain, XX. 432.
- TERTULLIANUS (Q. S. F.), XXI. 159—his execration of the anatomical researches of Herophilus, II 751—on the theatre, VIII 142—on theology, XXI. 191 et seq.
- TERUEL, in Spain, XXI. 159.
- TERZETTO, in music, XXI. 159.
- TESCHKE, in Moravia, XXI. 159.
- Tessarops, genus of arachnides, III. 383.
- Tesseral system of crystallisation, XV. 41—combinations of, 43—twin crystals, 51.
- Tesseratoma, genus of insects, IX. 162.
- Test Act, passing of the, V. 426—attempts in 1787, 1790, 1791, to get it repealed, 522, 562, 588—repeal of, 652.
- objects for microscopes, XIV. 802.
- tube, in bleaching, IV. 763.
- Testa, in botany, V. 139.
- Testacea, family of mollusks, XV. 401—hermaphrodites among the, III. 171.
- Testacella, genus of mollusks, XV. 374.
- TESTAMENT, XXI. 159 See Wills.
- New Dispensation, See Gospel.
- New Scriptures, IV. 697—formation of the canon, ib.—canonical books of, 698—state of the text, 698, XIX. 835—various readings, IV. 698—for the blind, 782—translation of the word Testament in Scripture, I. 480, n. 2—always to be understood as a covenant, 481. See Bible.
- Old Dispensation See Mosaic Dispensation.
- Old Scriptures, IV. 694—history of the text, 695, XIX. 834—formation of the canon, IV. 696; completion of, ib.—canonical books of, 697—earliest known sculptors mentioned in, XIX. 846. See Bible.
- Teste (M.), corruption of, X. 228.
- Testi (Fulvio), poetry of, XVIII. 112.
- Testicles, III. 69.
- Testimony, credit due to, IX. 416—value of, XVIII. 590—application of the theory of probability to, ib., 608—argument from, XIX. 124.
- Testu's aerial voyage, II. 178.
- TETRUPO, military device, XXI. 159.
- genus of reptiles, XIX. 17—number of species, XVII. 634—fossil, 153. See Tortoise.
- Tetanocera, genus of insects, IX. 255.
- Tetanops, genus of insects, IX. 252.
- Tetanura, genus of insects, IX. 253.
- Tetanus, a disease, XVII. 700—in animals, XXI. 576.
- TETBURY, English town, XXI. 160.
- Tete, African town, XV. 670; XX. 405.
- Tetens (J. Nicholas), on the calculations of life assurance, XII. 403.
- Tétes-de-pont, IX. 800.
- Tetabranchiata, order of mollusks, XV. 390—fossil, XVII. 111.
- Tetradymite, mineral, XV. 118.
- Tetragynia, genus of arachnides, III. 381.
- Tetragonal system of crystallisation, XV. 44—twin crystals in, 52.
- Tetragoniaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 194.
- Tetragonolepis, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 384; XVII. 126.
- Tetragonopterus, genus of fishes, XII. 246.
- Tetragonurus, genus of fishes, XII. 292.
- Tetragra, section of insects, IX. 138.
- Tetrozo, genus of birds, XVI. 791.

TET—THA

- Tetraodon, genus of fishes, XII. 312, 313, 314—poisonous species, XIV. 439, XII. 331.
- electricus, VIII. 577.
- Tetraodontini, sub-family of fishes, XII. 314.
- Tetraphylline, mineral, XV. 101.
- Tetrapneumones, arachnides, III. 377.
- Tetraprostyle, in architecture, III. 513.
- Tetapterus, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 346.
- Tetrapturus, genus of fishes, XII. 297.
- Tetrarcha, Egyptian deity, XI. 386.
- Tetrarhynchus, genus of entozoa, XXI. 979.
- Tetrascopie, XIII. 39.
- Tetraspore, in botany, V. 147.
- Tetrastoma, zoophytes, XXI. 980.
- Tetrastoon, in architecture, III. 512.
- Tetrastyle, in architecture, III. 513.
- Tetrix, genus of insects, IX. 160.
- Tetrigomera, genus of insects, IX. 169.
- Tetrigonia, genus of insects, IX. 170.
- TETUAN, in Morocco, XXI. 160.
- TETZEL, XXI. 160—sale of indulgences by, XII. 378, XIII. 724.
- Teulue's lighthouse reflectors, XIII. 468.
- Teuta, queen of the Illyrians, XII. 384, 455.
- Teuthidia, family of mollusks, XV. 399.
- Teuthydide, or Teuthyoids, family of fishes, XII. 304.
- Teuthys, family of fossil fishes, XII. 341.
- TEUTONIA, XXI. 160—their war with the Romans, XIX. 319; V. 724.
- Teutonic knights, XIII. 115; XV. 408—in Prussia, XVIII. 648, 676.
- languages, XVII. 528.
- Teviot, river, XIX. 451, 452.
- TEWKESBURY, in Gloucestershire, XXI. 160; X. 682—iron bridge at, XII. 584, 586.
- TEXAS, XXI. 160, 419—wines of, 888—tribes of people belonging to, IX. 347—language of, XIII. 222—proposed separation of, from Coahuila, XIV. 713—asserts its independence, ib.—annexation of, by the United States, XXI. 441.
- TEXEL, island, XXI. 162.
- Textile fibres, XXI. 781, 782—quantities imported, ib.—processes, 783.
- Industry, statistics of, XXI. 701—legal regulation of, in factories, 790—growth of the various branches, 792—people employed in, ib.—exports, 791—of France, ib. See Cotton, Flax, Hair, Hemp, Silk, Weaving, Wool and Woollen Manufacture, &c.
- Textures, in physiology, morbid growths and degenerations of, XVII. 690—theory of their degeneration, 695.
- Teyus, genus of reptiles, XIX. 28.
- TENZA, or Taza, town in Morocco, XXI. 162.
- TEZUCO, or Tezoco, Mexican town and lake, XXI. 162; XIV. 722, 723.
- Tezozomoc, Mexican king, XIV. 700.
- Thackeray (W. M.), XIX. 283—on Hogarth, XI. 554—on Steele, XX. 673.
- Thaer (Albert), his improvements in agriculture, XVIII. 666.
- Thais, genus of insects, IX. 207.
- Thalamiflorae, sub-class of plants, V. 180.
- Thalamus, in botany, V. 118.
- Thalassicolleae, zoophytes, XXI. 1007.
- Thalassorhinus, genus of fishes, XII. 324.
- Thalberg (Mr.), on piano-fortes, XVII. 704.
- Thaler, German coin, X. 591.
- THALES, XXI. 162—his philosophy, III. 538—astronomy, 787—mathematical knowledge, X. 497—acquainted with the electrical properties of amber, VIII. 523.
- THALIA, XXI. 162; XV. 699—planet, IV. 91.
- Thallite, mineral, XV. 85.
- Thallogeneae, sub-class of plants, V. 217.
- Thallogenes, plants, V. 142.
- Thallus of lichens, V. 146.
- THAMES, town in Oxfordshire, XXI. 162.
- THAMES, river, XXI. 162; VIII. 716; XII. 601; XIV. 807; XVII. 647—source of, X. 680—sailing of the Dutch fleet up the, V. 428—navigation of, XIII. 661—bridges over, XIV. 808—

THA—THE

- mineral matters in its waters, XV 143
—sanitary condition of, XIX. 608
Thames Tunnel, XIII 676; I. 879—shield,
ib—completion of, 880; V 696.
Thamnophilus, genus of birds, XVI 748
THANE, XXI 163.
THANET (Isle of), XXI 163; XIII 66, 67
—Thanet Sands, XV 212
THANN, town in France, XXI 163.
THAPSACUS, XXI 163.
Thapsus, battle of, XIX. 326
Tharymbas I. and II, kings of Epirus,
IX. 217.
THASOS, island, XXI 163.
Thatting of stacks, II 314
Thathra, or Tatta, town in Oudh, XX. 305.
Thaumatrope, optical instrument, XVI
697.
Thavies' Inn, XII 885
THAXTED, town in Essex, XXI 163.
The, article, X. 750
Theatetus, geometer, X. 499.
THEATRINES, religious order, XXI 163
THEATRE, XXI 164—ancient Greek the-
atres, III 442, 463; VIII 135; IV
164—Roman, III 470; XIX 359—ac-
clamations and applauders in ancient
theatres, II 77; III 325—O. P. riots,
XIII 61—attendance of Scotch clergies-
men at, XIX. 230—monopoly of the
two great London theatres, VIII 168—
theatres in London, XIII 675—Paris,
XVII 284—Globe Theatre, XX 75, 85—
theatres of Pompeii, XVIII 287 See
Drama, Actor, Dublin, and other capital
cities.
Thebaic version of the Scriptures, IV 700;
XIX. 639
THEBES, in ancient Greece, XXI 176—
army of, III 628—taken and destroyed
by Alexander, XIII 786—war with
Sparta, XX. 501, 502.
—in Egypt, XXI 179—ruins of, III
435, 436, 437; VIII 506.
Thebith Ben Korah, III 794.
Theca, in botany, V. 142.
Thecadactyl, reptiles, XIX 36
Thecididae, family of mollusks, XV. 338.
Thecidium, genus of mollusks, XV. 338—
fossil, XVII 105.
Thecodontia, fossil reptiles, XVII 140
Thecodontosaurus, fossil reptile, XVII 140.
Thecosmilia, fossil corals, XVII 97.
Thecosmata, order of mollusks, XV. 358
Theft, morbid propensity to, XIV. 532.
Theine, IX. 757—in tea, XXI 82, 83—in
holly, V. 199.
Theism, XXI 185
THEISS, river, XXI 179; XII 10.
Theiphusa, genus of crustacea, VII 541.
Thelyphonus, genus of arachnides, III
384.
Themis, planet, IV. 91
Themison, XIV. 454
THEMISTUS, Greek orator, XXI 179.
THEMISTOCLES, XXI 179; IV. 199, 200,
201; III 530—his expedition against
Andros, 139—Athens fortified by, IV.
460.
THEMSCHÉ, town in Belgium, XXI 179.
Thenard on white-lead, XIII 802.
Thenardite, mineral, XV. 99.
THEOBALD (Lewis), XXI 179
Theocracy, I. 470, 479, XV 659
THEOCRITUS, XXI 180—poetry of, XVIII
103—Warton's edition of his works,
XXI 735.
Theodober, X. 5.
THEODOLITE, XXI 180—in surveying, 331,
347—theodolite-book, 348.
Theodore of Mopsuestia, XII 728; XXI
180.
THEODORETUS, XXI 180.
Theodoric, king of Metz, X. 4
—king of the Ostrogoths, XII 640;
VII 312; XX. 460—palace and mauso-
leum of, XVIII 812.
Theodorus, geometriean, XVII 786
—sculptor, XIX. 883.
THEODOSIA, XXI 180. See Kaffa.
Theodosian code, VI. 742; XVII 214.
Theodosius, ancient mathematician, X. 501.
—Roman emperor, XXI 180; VII.

THE—THE

- 310—reproved by St Ambrose, II
664—Antioch oppressed by, III 274—
roof of his tomb at Ravenna, XIX 390.
Theodota, XX. 374
Theodotion, his version of the Scriptures,
IV. 700; XIX. 840
THEOLOGUS, Greek poet, XXI 180
Theological education, in the Established
and Free Churches of Scotland, XVIII
494, 495—in the United Presbyterian
Church, 500.
THEOLOGUS, XXI 181—rational, XIV 606
—the real in, 619—Schleiermacher on,
XIX. 726—philology the key-stone of,
XVII 541—in Germany, X. 593. See
Religion, Jesus, Christ, &c.
—(Natural), XXI 181, 182—Paley
on, XVII 204—Sociates' admiration of,
XX. 389, 408—Epicurean errors of La-
maick, III 189, n—wonders disclosed
by the microscope, 197
Theon of Alexandria, X. 502.
—Greek painter, XVII 57.
Theophaetic mystics, XV. 755.
Theophanes, XIX 469.
Theophany, XXI 186
Theophilus, anatomist, II 754.
—bishop of Antioch, IX. 492.
—bishop of Alexandria, VII 310
—one of the compilers of Justinian's
Institutes, VI. 746
THEOPHRASTUS, XXI 220; III 535, 536
—his treatise on plants ascribed to
Aristotle, 550, n 2—on astronomy, 789
—on geometry, X. 500.
Theophylact, religious dramas introduced
by, VIII 143
THEOPOMPUS, XXI 220
THEOREM, XXI 220, X. 508.
THEORY, XXI 220.
THEOSOPHISTS, XXI 220, XV 755
Therapeutics, IV. 207, 209.
THERAPEUTIC, XXI 220.
Therapeutics, XIV. 463.
Therapon, genus of fishes, XII 277
Theraponidae, family of fishes, XII 276,
277
THERESIENSTADT, town in Hungary, XXI
220.
Thereva, genus of insects, IX. 232.
Theridion, genus of arachnides, III 380.
Therna, genus of insects, IX 257.
Thermal springs, XVII 601.
Thermo-dynamics, principles of, XX. 617
—laws of, 618.
Thermo-electricity, discovery of, I. 976,
XXI. 638, 649—conductibility of metals
for, 652—currents of, ib—piles of, ib;
Mellon's pile of, ib—chemical effect of,
ib—electric spark from the, 653—rotations
of, ib—Peltier's pincers of, ib—
its relation to molecular structure, 655.
Thermo-electrometry, VIII 590.
Thermo-multiplier, I. 955; XX. 221.
THERMOMETER, XXI 220; XI 260—inven-
tion of, I. 756; IV. 456, X. 375, n—
consequences of the invention, I. 760—
the differential thermometer used to
ascertain the mode of the propagation
of heat among various bodies, 767—
height of, in connection with atmo-
spherical refraction, IV. 148—successive
improvements on, 457—application of,
in barometrical measurements, 464—
oil thermometer, 457—different kinds
of, ib—chronometrical, VII 30—adjust-
ment of, VI 352—its depression from
saline mixtures, VII 104—its use in
meteorology, XIV. 645 *et seq*—register
thermometers, I. 763—Six's, XI. 724—
Traill's IV. 460—metallic, I. 763—electrical
air-thermometer, VIII 626
—(Differential). See Differential Ther-
mometer.
Thermonatrite, mineral, XV. 98.
THERMOPOLIS, XXI 225; XI. 12—defended
by Leonidas, XX. 500—amphitryony of,
II. 727.
Thermoscope, I. 941, XIV. 484; XXI 222
Thesaurum, or temple of Theseus, at Athens,
IV 162—dimensions of, 167, n. 1.
THESSEUS, XXI 225—reign of, IV. 192—
dance instituted by, VII 648.

THE—THO

- Thesiger (Sir Frederick), V 581
THESPIS, XXI 225—the Greek drama im-
proved by, VIII 134*.
THESSALONIANS (Epistles to the), XXI
225
THESSALONICA, XXI 226; XIX. 581.
Thessalus, physician, XIV. 454
THESSALY, XX. 226, XI 12—its affairs
settled by Philip, XIII. 764—gold from,
XV. 230—coinage of, XVI 370.
THETFORD, in Norfolk, XXI 226
Thethys, genus of mollusks, XV 371.
THETIS, wife of Oceanus, XXI 226.
—planet, IV 91
—genus of mollusks, XV 350, 371—
fossil, XVII 108.
THETURGE, XXI 227, XV 755
Thevart (Abraham), his improvements in
glass-making, X. 659
THIAN-SHAN, Asiatic mountains, XXI 227;
XVII 599.
THIBAUT (A. F. Justus), jurist, XXI 227.
Thibet. See Tibet
Thiblé (Madame), first female aeronaut,
II 177
Thiebaud (M.), his classification of books,
IV 715
Thiel, Swiss river, XX 888
THIELT, town in Belgium, XXI 227.
Thierr, X. 4, 5
THIERRY (J. N. Augustan), historian, XXI
227, XIX. 674
Thiors (M.), X. 196 *et seq*—his ministry,
212—on the Jesuits in France, 223—his
work on property, XVIII 228, n. 4.
—town in France, XXI 227.
Thigh, muscles of the, III 38
Thigh-bone, in man, III 34—in the mam-
malia, 82—birds, 86
Thing, Norwegian Assembly, XVI. 316,
317
Thinning woods, XXI 273.
THIONVILLE, town in France, XXI 227.
Thirlwall, his History of Greece, IV. 218
THIRSK, in Yorkshire, XXI 227.
Thirst, XVII 658.
Thirty Years' War, IV. 303; XVIII. 649.
Thirty-nine Articles, petition against sub-
scription to, V. 474
THISTLE, order of the, XXI 228—British,
XI 340; XIII 119—French, 120—
Russian, ib
Thistles of Buenos Ayres, XVII 770—of
the Pampas, 624.
Thistlewood (Arthur), his plot, V. 627—
execution, 628.
Tholabate, in architecture, III 513
Tholos, or Tholos, in architecture, III 513.
THOMAS, of Erceldoune, XXI 228
—(Geogeo), military adventurer, IV.
509, 691; XII 50.
—(M.), his Elogie on Descartes, I.
243, 247
—(Mr.), on Indian coins, XVI 390, 391.
—(St), island, XXI 228
—(Sr), island in the Gulf of Guinea,
XXI 229.
Thomas's (St), Hospital, XIII 673.
THOMASUS, or Thomas (Christian), XXI
229—his attack on the doctrine of
witchcraft, III 313.
THOMASTOWN, in Ireland, XXI 229.
Thomus, genus of arachnides, III 382.
THOMPSON (Sir Benjamin), Count Rumford,
XXI 229, I. 940, 941—on the impor-
tance of cookery, VIII. 25—on flannel
clothing, IX 654—on gunnery, XI 121,
122, 123—his photometer, XIII 455;
X. 428—importance of his opinions on
the nature of heat, I. 941—on heat, XI.
260, 261 *et seq*, I. 940, 941, 942—Royal
Institution established by, 941—prize
given by, ib.
—(J. and G.), of Glasgow, iron
screw-ship built by, XX. 200.
—(J. Vaughan), on the metamor-
phosis of crustacea, VII 539, 544; of a
species of barnacle, XV. 319—on
echinoderms, XXI 995.
—(WILLIAM), naturalist, XXI 232—
on the genus hyperoodon, XVI. 443
—his work on the Natural History of
Ireland, 829.

THO—THO

- Thompson's rope-machinery, XIX 409.
Thomson (Adam, D.D.), his exertions to
destroy the monopoly of Bible-printing,
IV. 704
—(ANDREW, D.D.), XXI 232—on the
Apocrypha question, IV 703
—(ANTHONY TODD), physician, XXI.
233
—(Dr), of Edinburgh, pointed out
the fact of second attacks of small-pox,
&c., in 1818, XXI 501
—(Dr), his Introduction to Meteorolo-
gy, XIV. 658
—(JAMES), poet, XXI 234—dramatic
works of, VIII 164—his poetry, XVIII.
124—his defective manner of reading,
XXI 172—his description of the spider,
III 375
—(Mr), on logic, XIII 585 n. 607
n, *et seq*—his Laws of Thought, 585, n.
—(Mr), on the source of the Jordan,
XVII 185.
—(Mr), his report on agricultural
implements, II 285
—(Dr R. Dundas), on the loss of
barley in malting, X. 823.
—(THOMAS), of Glasgow, chemist,
XXI 236—on sal-ammoniac, II. 719—
on barley, V. 320; its loss in malting,
323—his article on dyeing, in this work,
VIII. 272—on the specific gravity of
sea-water, IV 403
—(Dr Thomas), on the Himalayan
glaciers, X. 634—on the dhuns or val-
leys of the Himalayas, XI. 433; their
geology, 443.
—(Prof. William), on electrical im-
ages VIII 534, I. 900—on telegraphic
conductors, XXI. 98
Thomsonite, mineral, XV. 75
Thon (T.), his work on insects, IX. 16.
THONON, town in Savoy, XXI 236.
THOR, XXI 236.
Thoracic duct, II. 761, 803, III 63.
—fishes, their fins and pelvis, III.
90, 91.
Thorax, human, Galen's description of, II.
753—regions of, III. 1—bones, 9—
muscles, 38—nerves, 57—its structure
with reference to breathing, XVIII 662
—wounds in, XIV. 431.
—in mammalia, III 76—reptiles, 87
—insects, IX. 37.
THONDA, in Transylvania, XXI 236.
THORNIL, Swedish archer, XXI 236; XIX.
699.
Thorina, XV 65
Thorite, mineral, XV. 90.
Thorium, VI. 488.
Thoriadus, two Danish authors, VII 750.
Thorley (Mr), his hive, III 295—on the
management of hives, IV. 588
THORN, town in Prussia, XXI 236.
Thorn-apple, V. 202.
Thorn-boiges, II. 269.
Thornback, fish, XII 320; IX. 763; XVII.
119
THORNBURY, in Gloucestershire, XXI 236.
THORNE, in Yorkshire, XXI 236
—(Robert), on a north polar passage,
XVIII. 163.
THORNEY, in Cambridgeshire, XXI 236
Thornycroft's boiler-plate shears, XII.
562.
THORNHILL (Sir James), painter, XXI 236;
XVII. 77—daughter of, married to
Hogarth, XI. 554—interior of the dome
of St Paul's painted by, XIII 670.
—in Dumfriesshire, XXI 237.
—village in Yorkshire, XXI 237.
Thorns of plants, V. 79.
Thornthwaite (Mr), on the collodion pro-
cess in photography, XVII. 547.
THOROUGH BARS, in music, XXI 237.
—Pin, XXI 559.
Thorshavn, in the Faroe Islands, IX.
434.
THORWALDSEN (Albert), sculptor, XXI.
237; XIX. 864, 696—museum of, VII.
347.
Thoth, Egyptian deity, VIII 437; XI.
383; XV. 760. See Hermes.
Thothmes, Egyptian kings, VIII 460.

THO—THU

Thorpe (Chief-Justice), VIII 772
 THORP (J. Auguste De), historian, XXI 239—his table-talk, II 738.
 THORNS (Dupetit), admiral, X. 217, 221.
 Thought, XIV 560—form and matter of, 586—operations of, ib.—discursive, XIII 567, 570, 571.
 Thourer (M.), on mesmerism, XX 419.
 THOUBOURT, in Belgium, XXI 239.
 THURACE, XXI 239—gold produced in, XV 230—monarchy of, 414—coins, XVI 368.
 Thrale (Henry), his intimacy with Dr Johnson, XII 800.
 —(Mis) See Piozzi.
 THRAPSTON, in Northampton, XXI 239.
 Thrasher, in zoology, XIV 226.
 THRESHING, XXI 240—by steam, II 264; by fall, IX 73—thrashing-machine, II 282; portable, 281—invention of, 262; improved by Melkide, 282.
 Thrasylbulus, IV 209 *et seq*.
 Thrasylus, architecture of the choragic monument of, III 462.
 Thrasymenus (Lake), XVII 242, 474—battle of, VI 291; XIX 310 See Perugia, lake of.
 Thraustle, mineral, XV 90.
 Thread, spinning of, XX 508, 511—gold-thread, X. 703. See Weaving, Fibre, Silk, Cotton, and Woollen Manufactures—lace, XIII 142.
 —of the spider, III 376 See Spider.
 Three Bodies, problem of the, I 828, IV 105, III 809.
 —RIVERS, town in Canada, XXI 240.
 Thresher, fish, XII 222.
 Thrips, genus of insects, IX 171.
 Thriassonotus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 336; XVII 126.
 Thissops, genus of fossil fishes, XII 336.
 Thrombolite, mineral, XV 103.
 Thrombus, in animals, XXI 574.
 Throstle, VII 444, XX 511.
 Throat valve, XX 559, 599, 653.
 Throwing of silk, XX 281—throwing-machine, 284.
 Throwster, XX 281.
 Thrush, a disease of horses, XXI 502.
 —bird, XVI 761—ant, 763—glossy, 762—missel, 761, 762—pagoda, 764—song, 751.
 Thuanus (J. Augustus). See Thou.
 THUCYDIDES, historian, XXI 240—on the demoralising effects of a pestilence at Athens, I 460, 461—his account of an eruption of *Ætna*, II 133.
 Thugs of India, XII 466.
 Thule, X. 462.
 Thulite, mineral, XV 85.
 Thumb, opposition of fingers and, III 41.
 —in the quadrumanus, XIV 136. See Fingers.
 THUMMEL (M August Von), German author, XXI 241.
 Thurnmin, XVI 699.
 THUX, lake of, XXI 241; XX 889—its temperature, VI 777.
 —Swiss town, XXI 241.
 THUNBERG (Carl Petter), botanist, XXI 241—on the Japanese, XII 690—his entomological works, IX 8.
 THUNDER, XXI 242; XIV 662—sound of, II 107—an electrical phenomenon, VIII 527, 582—cause of the rolling of, 582—distance, ib.
 —steam screw-ship, machinery of, XX 668.
 Thunder-bolt, VIII 582.
 Thunder-rods, VIII 608.
 Thunder-storms, VII 39; XIV 663—distribution of, XVII 615.
 Thundering Legion, III 280, n.
 Thur, Swiss river, XX 888; XXI 242.
 THURGAU, Swiss canton, XXI 242; XX 882.
 THURAI, or Thurium, Greek city, XXI 242.
 Thuringia, in Germany, porcelain factory of, XVIII 436.
 THURINGIAN FOREST, XXI 242.
 THURLES, Irish town, XXI 242, 288.
 THURLOW (Edward), Lord, XXI 242; V.

THU—TID

515—removed from office, 548—Cowper's intimacy with, VII 471.
 Thursday, I 458, n.; VI 75.
 THURSO, town in Cuthness, XXI 243—great haul of salmon at, IX 589, n. 2.
 Thuthmosis, Egyptian king, XI 386.
 Thyellina, genus of fossil fishes, XII 342.
 Thylacinus, genus of mammalia, XIV 175—teeth of, XVI 447.
 Thylacoleo carnifex, XVII 175—teeth of, XVI 447.
 Thymalus, genus of fishes, XII 245, 244.
 —genus of insects, IX 114.
 Thyme, plant, V. 202, XI 745—oil of, XVI 496.
 Thymelæacea, nat. order of plants, V. 205.
 Thymotes, IV. 193.
 Thynnus, genus of fishes, XII 296—fossil, 345.
 —genus of insects, IX 195.
 Thyonidae, zoophytes, XXI 986.
 Thyteophora, genus of insects, IX 254.
 Thyris, genus of insects, IX 210.
 Thyroid cartilage, III 50.
 Thyristes, genus of fishes, XII 206.
 Thysodetina, sub-family of fishes, XII 231.
 Thyrsoidea, genus of fishes, XII 231.
 Thyrus, in botany, V 116.
 Thysanoura, order of insects, IX 26, 260.
 Tibaldi, painter, XVII 73, 74.
 Tibbmore, battle of, V 406.
 Tibbus, African people, II 213, 226.
 Tiber, river, XXI 243; XII 637; XVII 240, 242, XIX 294—source of, XXI 393.
 Tiberias, town, X. 374; XVII 186—Jewish patriarchate of, XII 775—battle of, VIII 481.
 —lake of. See Galilee, sea of.
 TIBERIUS (C. Nero Cesar), Roman emperor, XXI 243—reign of, XIX 334—his treatment of Sejanus, XX 36.
 TIBET, XXI 245; III 731, XI 439—climate, III 736—language, XIII 206—plateau of, X 483; XVII 598—height of mountains, 643—goat wool, XXI 906.
 —(Little). See Bulhi.
 —(Middle), XIII 149.
 Tibia, or shin-bone, in man, III 35, 37—in the mammalia, 82—birds, 86—reptiles, 88.
 TIBULLUS (Albius), Roman poet, XXI 247; XVIII 105.
 TIBUR, in Latium, XXI 248, 292.
 Tiburtine road, XIX 228.
 TICAO Isle, XXI 248.
 TICFIELD, or Titchfield, in Hampshire, XXI 248.
 Tichodioma genus of birds, VII 768.
 Tichon, river, XXI 248; XX 888.
 —Swiss canton, XXI 248; XX 882.
 Tichnus, battle of, VI 294; XIX 310.
 Tick in sheep, XXI 579.
 TICKELL (Thomas), English poet, XXI 249.
 Ticket-of-leave system, for convicts, XVIII 579—home tickets of leave, 580.
 Tickets, railway, arrangements for issuing, XVIII 767; for collecting, 769.
 TIDES, XXI 249; I 778, 779; XVII 580—explanation of, by Newton, I 679—discussions respecting the earth's figure led to an examination of the theory of, 778—theory of, 816—three classes of, 817—laws of, 818—Ary on, ib.—Kepler on the cause of, III 800—Laplace on, 812—singular phenomena of, in the Firth, VI 740—in reference to navigability, XVI 50—tide-currents, 66—tide basins, 79—to find the height of, 51—effect of, on waves, XI 217—abrasion by, XVII 565—in the Polar seas, XVIII 176—in the Shannon, XX 92—piscivory in, at Southampton, 453—in the Firth of Forth, IX 793—Mediterranean, XIV 470—scarcely perceptible in the Baltic, IV 408—tide-wave, XVI 64; propagation of, 74—length to which rivers are affected by, 87.
 TIDSWELL, in Derbyshire, XXI 284.
 TIDOR, or Tidore, island, XXI 284.

TIE—TIM

Tie-beam, strain on, VI 256—in carpentry, 373; XIX 383—level tie-beams in roofs, 393.
 TIECK (C Friedrich), sculptor, XXI 264—(LUDWIG), poet, XXI 264; XVIII 119—romances of, XIX 291, 292.
 TIEDEMANN (Dietrich), XXI 265—on the lymphatics, II 804—on zoophytes, XXI 992, 993—on the phosphorescence of the medusa, 998.
 Tiedemannia, genus of mollusks, XV 361.
 Tiemannite, mineral, XV 117.
 TIEN-TSIN, Chinese town, XXI 265.
 Tierney (Mr), his opposition to Pitt's navy bill, V. 562—his duel with Pitt, 563—on the expedition to Holland, 573—his motion for an inquiry into the state of the nation, 623.
 TIERRA DEL FUEGO, XXI 265.
 Tiers état, X 45, 46, 49 *et seq*.
 —part, X. 210.
 TIPLIS, XXI 265. See Teflis.
 Tiger, XIV 169; XVII 632—of Asia, III 739; Assam, 764; Hindustan, XI 211; Java, XII 704; Persia, XVII 423; Sindh, XX 304; Sumatra, 804—tiger-shooting, 211.
 Tiger-moth, IX 214.
 Tight, meaning of the word, VIII 12.
 Tigliath-pleser, III 778.
 Tigny (F. M G de), his work on insects, IX 21.
 Tigranes, king of Armenia, III 615; XV 284.
 Tigre, in Abyssinia, II 56.
 TIGRIS, river, XXI 265; IX 376; XVII 607, 647.
 TILBURY, in Essex, XXI 266.
 Tile-ore, XV 112.
 Tileacea, nat. order of plants, V. 185.
 Tiles, for paving, V 735—roofing, ib.; XIX 374—preparation of clay for, XVIII 439—enamelled, 431—encaustic, 441—pan-tiles, XIX 374—manufacture of, in Holland, XI 583—for drains, VIII 133.
 Tilius on the music of savages, XV 716.
 Tilestone, XV 198.
 Tiliacodite, mineral, XV 117.
 Tiliage, II 286 See Ploughing.
 Tillet, or Tillus (Jean du), his edition of the Theodosian Code, VI 744.
 Tillet's patent grate, XX 253.
 Tilley (Mr), his water-pressure blowpipe for glass-blowers, IV 703.
 TILICOLURARY, in Clackmannanshire, XXI 226—woollen factories at, VI 760.
 TILLISAREH, in Fezzan, sculptures at, IX 530.
 TILLOTSON (John), archbishop, XXI 266.
 Tilly (Count), his military operations against Gustavus Adolphus, XX 849—defeated and killed, 850—Heldelberg plundered by, II 633, XI 285.
 TILZIT, in Prussia, XXI 266—treaty of, X. 147; XIX 493, V. 602.
 Timanthes, paintings of, XVII 54.
 Timarcha, genus of insects, IX 150.
 TIMBER, XXI 267—anciently the principal material of houses, III 433—sawing of, V. 764—in construction, VII 322—destruction of, by the Limnoria terebrans, 542; XI 224—dry rot in, VIII 76, 77, 207; XVI 98, 99—common rot in, VIII 207—seasoning of, 209; XX 168, 169—winter-felled, VIII 210—effects of its immersion in sand, earth, or water, 211—its impregnation with foreign substances, 212—Pliny on the preservation of, ib.—examples of long duration, 213—imports of, into the United Kingdom, 738—supply of, for the navy, XVI 100; quantity required, 101—exports of, from Norway, 328; from Quebec, in 1854, XVIII 726; from Canada, VI 150—in ship-building, XX 166—different qualities of woods, ib.—means of preserving, 167—seasons of felling, 170—strength of, 171, 172—weight, 173—timbers of a house, V. 746 *et seq*.; of a ship, XX 184. See Building, Carpentry, Joinery, Planting, Strength of Materials.
 Tie-beam, strain on, VI 256—in carpentry, 373; XIX 383—level tie-beams in roofs, 393.
 TIECK (C Friedrich), sculptor, XXI 264—(LUDWIG), poet, XXI 264; XVIII 119—romances of, XIX 291, 292.
 TIEDEMANN (Dietrich), XXI 265—on the lymphatics, II 804—on zoophytes, XXI 992, 993—on the phosphorescence of the medusa, 998.
 Tiedemannia, genus of mollusks, XV 361.
 Tiemannite, mineral, XV 117.
 TIEN-TSIN, Chinese town, XXI 265.
 Tierney (Mr), his opposition to Pitt's navy bill, V. 562—his duel with Pitt, 563—on the expedition to Holland, 573—his motion for an inquiry into the state of the nation, 623.
 TIERRA DEL FUEGO, XXI 265.
 Tiers état, X 45, 46, 49 *et seq*.
 —part, X. 210.
 TIPLIS, XXI 265. See Teflis.
 Tiger, XIV 169; XVII 632—of Asia, III 739; Assam, 764; Hindustan, XI 211; Java, XII 704; Persia, XVII 423; Sindh, XX 304; Sumatra, 804—tiger-shooting, 211.
 Tiger-moth, IX 214.
 Tight, meaning of the word, VIII 12.
 Tigliath-pleser, III 778.
 Tigny (F. M G de), his work on insects, IX 21.
 Tigranes, king of Armenia, III 615; XV 284.
 Tigre, in Abyssinia, II 56.
 TIGRIS, river, XXI 265; IX 376; XVII 607, 647.
 TILBURY, in Essex, XXI 266.
 Tile-ore, XV 112.
 Tileacea, nat. order of plants, V. 185.
 Tiles, for paving, V 735—roofing, ib.; XIX 374—preparation of clay for, XVIII 439—enamelled, 431—encaustic, 441—pan-tiles, XIX 374—manufacture of, in Holland, XI 583—for drains, VIII 133.
 Tilius on the music of savages, XV 716.
 Tilestone, XV 198.
 Tiliacodite, mineral, XV 117.
 Tiliage, II 286 See Ploughing.
 Tillet, or Tillus (Jean du), his edition of the Theodosian Code, VI 744.
 Tillet's patent grate, XX 253.
 Tilley (Mr), his water-pressure blowpipe for glass-blowers, IV 703.
 TILICOLURARY, in Clackmannanshire, XXI 226—woollen factories at, VI 760.
 TILLISAREH, in Fezzan, sculptures at, IX 530.
 TILLOTSON (John), archbishop, XXI 266.
 Tilly (Count), his military operations against Gustavus Adolphus, XX 849—defeated and killed, 850—Heldelberg plundered by, II 633, XI 285.
 TILZIT, in Prussia, XXI 266—treaty of, X. 147; XIX 493, V. 602.
 Timanthes, paintings of, XVII 54.
 Timarcha, genus of insects, IX 150.
 TIMBER, XXI 267—anciently the principal material of houses, III 433—sawing of, V. 764—in construction, VII 322—destruction of, by the Limnoria terebrans, 542; XI 224—dry rot in, VIII 76, 77, 207; XVI 98, 99—common rot in, VIII 207—seasoning of, 209; XX 168, 169—winter-felled, VIII 210—effects of its immersion in sand, earth, or water, 211—its impregnation with foreign substances, 212—Pliny on the preservation of, ib.—examples of long duration, 213—imports of, into the United Kingdom, 738—supply of, for the navy, XVI 100; quantity required, 101—exports of, from Norway, 328; from Quebec, in 1854, XVIII 726; from Canada, VI 150—in ship-building, XX 166—different qualities of woods, ib.—means of preserving, 167—seasons of felling, 170—strength of, 171, 172—weight, 173—timbers of a house, V. 746 *et seq*.; of a ship, XX 184. See Building, Carpentry, Joinery, Planting, Strength of Materials.

TIM—TIP

TIMBUCTOO, in Africa, XXI 280; II 228; X. 476—visited by Major Laing, 477—Dr Barth's residence at, 479.
 TIME, XXI 281—views of philosophers regarding the nature of, I 142, n 1; XIV 562—measure of, IV 22—equation of, ib, 123—mean and true, 33—comparison of mean and sidereal time, 24—different kinds of, VII 4—characters of abbreviations of, V. 419—method of computing, among the Druids, VIII 186—in relation to navigation, XVI 34—mean and apparent solar, 38—sidereal, 35, 39—mode of finding mean time, 46—as symbolised in hieroglyphics, XI 401—in chronology, XVII 563.
 —in music, XXI 281; XV 717.
 Time-ball, VII 27.
 Times newspaper, XVI 187—its proceedings in reference to the continental forgeries of 1840, 188—steam-printing press of, ib—growth and circulation of, ib.—its correspondent's account of the battle of Alma, XIX 502; of the battle of Balaklava, 505, of Inkermann, 506—Stoddart's writings in, XX 707—establishment and circulation of, XXI 694.
 Timia, genus of insects, IX 253.
 Timmani language, XIII 226.
 Timmerman (Col), on artillery, III 691, 700.
 Timochares on astronomy, III 790.
 TIMOLEON, XXI 281—his military exploits in Sicily, VI 283; XX 900.
 Timomachus, Greek painter, XVII 57.
 TIMOX, XXI 281—scepticism of, XIX 707.
 TIMON, island, XXI 281—serpents of, XIX 54.
 TIMONARUS, Athenian general, XXI 282.
 TIMOTHY, XXI 282—epistles to, ib.
 TIMUR, or Tamelane, XXI 282; VIII 485, 486—his treatise on war, III 620, n. 1—conquests of, 746; XVII 438—his defeat and treatment of Bajazet, VII 320; XXI 368, IV. 376—his invasion of Syria, XIX 911.
 TIN, XXI 283; XV 66, 114—wood and stream tin, 109—Phœnician trade with Britain for, V. 376—its compounds with copper, 277; VI. 497—use of its oxides as mordants, VIII 279, 290, 317—its chlorides used in calico-printing, 316, 317—specific gravity of, XII 88—beating of, into thin leaves, X. 703—in galena, XIII 299—imports of, XV 241—dressing the ores of, ib—distribution of, XVII 621—its muricæ poisonous, XIV 434—cohesion of, IX 757.
 Tin-mines, in Devonshire, VII 763—Cornwall, 407; XV 240, 241—England, VIII 276—Europe, IX 387.
 Tin-ore, XV 109—distribution of, XVII 621.
 Tin-pyrites, XV 121—tin-stones, 219.
 Tinamous, birds, XVI 792.
 Tinamus, genus of birds, XVI 792.
 Tinea, genus of fishes, XII 256, 257—fossil, 246.
 Tinechura, battle of, VIII 670.
 Tinctures, in heraldry, XI 324.
 TINDAL (Matthew), XXI 283—his legacy to Eustace Budgell, V 726.
 —(NICHOLAS), XXI 283.
 Tinea, genus of insects, IX 218.
 Tineites, family of insects, IX 217.
 TINO-HAE, XXI 283.
 Tingia, genus of insects, IX 163.
 Tinkal, mineral, XV 98.
 TINNEVELLY, in India, XXI 288.
 TINTER, XXI 284—Abley, XV 499; in Wexford, XXI 848.
 TINTORRETTO, painter, XXI 284; III 710; XVII 71.
 Tinville (Fouquier), X. 89, 94.
 Tiphia, genus of insects, IX 195.
 TIPPURAH, in Bengal, XXI 284.
 TIPPURARY, XXI 284—population, XII 609—agricultural statistics, 515, 517—joint-stock bank of, XV 488.
 —town of, XXI 288.
 Tippoo Saib, XI 492 *et seq*.; XXI 818—war with, V. 639, 541—fall of, 567—defeat and death, XI 502—his sons sur-

TIP—TOB

rendered as hostages to Lord Cornwallis, 500—his library, XIII. 431.
 TIRROX, in Staffordshire, XXI. 288.
 Tipula, genus of insects, IX. 227.
 Tipularia, family of insects, IX. 224.
 TIRABOSCHI (Girolamo), XXI. 288.
 TIRAFIAS, Spanish dance-tunes, XXI. 288.
 TIRER, Scotch island, XXI. 288—maible of, III. 528.
 Tirhakah, Egyptian king, VIII. 464.
 TIRHOOT, in India, XXI. 289.
 TIRLEWONT, in Belgium, XXI. 289—battle of, V. 449—agricultural school at, IV. 622.
 TIRNOVA, town in Turkey, XXI. 289.
 TIRROESSE, waltz-tune, XXI. 289.
 Tiroite, mineral, XV. 108.
 Tiroon, in Borneo, V. 47.
 Tirso de Molina. See Tellez.
 TIRYNS, ancient Grecian city, XXI. 289.
 TISCHBEIN (John Henry), painter, XXI. 289.
 — (J. H. WILLIAM), painter, XXI. 289.
 Tischendorf (Dr), on the probable existence of old MSS in Constantinople, XIII. 386—fragments of the Bible published by, XVII. 209—on palm-pests, 210—his edition of the New Testament, XIX. 837—his rules for determining the various readings of the Scriptures, 841.
 Tisdale (Captain), his practice with the American rifle, XI. 101.
 Tissaphernes, IV. 207.
 Tissues of the human body, II. 778, 783—filamentous or cellular, 765, 786—adipose, 787—arterial, 789—venous, 792—erectile, 799—nervous, 806—muscular, 821—particular tissues, 818—dental, XVI. 410 *et seq.*—fibre tissues, XVII. 652—molecule tissues, 649—cell, 650—tube, 653—mode in which they are nourished, 663.
 — of animals, III. 171.
 — of plants, V. 65—cellular, 66—vascular, 69—contents of, 72—woody, 69.
 Titanic acid, VI. 494.
 Titanic iron, XV. 109.
 Titanite, mineral, XV. 110.
 Titanium, VI. 494; XV. 67.
 TITANS, XXI. 289.
 TITRES, XXI. 290—in England, VIII. 744—Scotland, XIX. 750—Ireland, XII. 531—Selden on, XX. 37—Incidence of, XXI. 63—injurious operation of, ib., 64—commutation of, 64.
 TITHING, XXI. 290.
 Tithous, XI. 387.
 TITIAN, painter, XXI. 290; III. 710, 716, XVII. 56, 57, 70—his estimation of the genius of Correggio, III. 368.
 TITICACA (Lake), XXI. 291; II. 668; III. 129; IV. 822.
 TITUL, XXI. 291.
 Titmouse, birds, XVI. 759.
 TITUMEN, town in Siberia, XXI. 292.
 Titus (Colonel), his work entitled *Killing no Murder*, V. 417.
 — companion of St Paul, XXI. 291.
 — VESPASIANUS, Roman emperor, XXI. 292; XIX. 340—arch of, III. 487—Jerusalem taken and destroyed by, XII. 774; XVII. 194.
 TIVERTON, in Devonshire, XXI. 292; VII. 764—lace manufacture at, ib.
 TIVOLI, XXI. 292—temple of Vesta at, III. 444, 474, 486—villa of Adrian near, 470.
 Tizard (Mr), on brewing, V. 319, 320—his plan of mashing, 325, 326—his objection to boiling wort, 327—on porter-brewing, 331.
 Tlascala, Mexican state, XIV. 725, 718.
 Tlaxelco, XIV. 701.
 TLEMCEST, or Tlemsen, African town, XXI. 292.
 Tmesisternus, genus of insects, IX. 145.
 Toads, XVII. 634; XIX. 79—embedded in wood and stone, 79, 80—their power of fasting, III. 180—vessels in the lungs of, II. 797.
 Toadstone, XV. 187, 245.
 TOBACCO, XXI. 293—plant, V. 201, 202—

TOB—TON

flower of, 124, 201—of New South Wales, IV. 280, Canada, VI. 147, Latakia, XIII. 246, France, X. 247—Greek, XI. 16—Indian, 453—Mexican, XIV. 717—of Virginia, XXI. 598—value of exports from United States, 426—proposal for warehousing, V. 457—management of the duty on, transferred to the Excise, 534—license paid by manufacturers of, XIII. 495—exorbitant duty on, XXI. 61—narcotic properties of, XIV. 498.
 TOBAGO, island, XXI. 297—culture of the bread-fruit in, V. 301.
 TOBARRA, town in Spain, XXI. 297.
 TOBERMORY, in Mull, XXI. 297.
 Tobol, Siberian river, XXI. 298.
 TOBOLSK, in Siberia, XXI. 297; XIX. 521—climate, XIV. 674.
 Tocantins, river, XVII. 647.
 TOCQUEVILLE (C. A. M. Clerel de), XXI. 298—on the moral condition of France, in 1848, X. 232—on American penitentiaries, XVIII. 571.
 Tocuyo, river, XXI. 536.
 Todawars, XI. 467.
 Todd (Col), on feudalism in Asia, IX. 521—on the Rajpoots, XI. 164, 165, 166—on the landholders of Rajasthan, 512, 514—on Hindu literature, 477.
 — (Dr), on senso-motory electricity, XVII. 671.
 — (HENRY JOHN), XXI. 301—notice from his life of Channing, VII. 481, 482.
 — (J. T.), on the torpedo, VIII. 578.
 — (R. Bentley), his *Cyclopaedia of Anatomy*, II. 74.
 Toddy-palm, V. 36, VI. 306—toddy, XX. 798.
 Todenes, XI. 467.
 Todleben (General), XIX. 507.
 TODMORDEN, town in Lancashire, XXI. 301.
 Todus, genus of birds, XVI. 773.
 Toes (human), bones of, III. 36, 37—muscles of, 39.
 — bones of, in quadrupeds, III. 82, 83; XIV. 134—birds, III. 86.
 Tofana, a Neapolitan poisoner, III. 323.
 Toga, XXI. 301; XVII. 220.
 Togru Beg, III. 774.
 TOKAR, town in Turkey, XXI. 301.
 TOKAR, town in Hungary, XXI. 301—wine, IV. 314; XII. 17; XXI. 885.
 Token, as coin, XVI. 288—in printing, XVIII. 545.
 TOLAND (John), XXI. 301.
 TOLEDO, in Spain, XXI. 302.
 — town in Ohio, XXI. 302.
 Toleration, degree of, among the Romans, XII. 772—favoured by the Independents, 372—Locke on, XIII. 547—the alleged tolerant spirit of paganism disputed, XX. 380.
 Toile, alum works at, II. 637, 639.
 TOLLENS, Dutch author, XXI. 303; XI. 591.
 Tolls, first act for collecting, on highways, II. 262.
 Tolly (Barclay de), X. 154, 155 *et seq.*
 TOLosa, town in Spain, XXI. 303.
 Tolstoy (M.), on the Russian forces in the late Turkish war, III. 648.
 Toltecks, or Toltecan, II. 653, 677, 678, 684, 695, 698; XI. 77; XIV. 698, 720, 721.
 Toluca, in Mexico, XIV. 723.
 TOMASZOW, in Russian Poland, XXI. 303.
 Tomato, V. 201.
 TOMA, XXI. 303—ancient Roman, III. 473—characters of abbreviations on tombstones, VI. 419—tombs of the kings, in Egypt, VIII. 612—in Persia, XVII. 432.
 Tombazite, mineral, XV. 116.
 Tombo, volcanoes of, XVII. 689.
 Tometes, genus of fishes, XII. 246.
 Tomicus, genus of insects, IX. 142.
 Tomkins on Jesus Christ, XXI. 212.
 TOMLIN, or Pretymann, XXI. 308. See Pitt (William).
 Tomlinson (C.), on ventilation of coal-pits, VII. 123.
 TOMSK, in Russia, XXI. 303; XIX. 521.
 TONADILLAS, Spanish dance-tunes, XXI. 298.

TON—TOR

TONALITY, in music, XXI. 303.
 Tone, in music. See Music.
 — (Wolfe), XII. 497, 498, 499.
 TONGA ISLANDS, XXI. 303.
 Tongataboo, II. 735.
 TONGRES, in Belgium, XXI. 303.
 Tongue, muscles of the, III. 39—anatomy of, 48—uses of, 49—comparative anatomy of, 100—contraction of the ligaments of, 123—papilla of, XVII. 677—action of, in sucking, XVIII. 76, in drinking, ib.—in the mamma, XIV. 133—diseases of the, in domestic animals, XXI. 564—of serpents, XIX. 47—of cry of hounds, XI. 769.
 Tongueing, in jomery, V. 750.
 Tonkin's diving apparatus, VIII. 58.
 TONNAGE AND POUNDAGE, XXI. 307.
 — of ships, XXI. 303; XX. 163—of the United States, XXI. 426.
 TONNEINS, town in France, XXI. 307.
 TONNERRE, in France, XXI. 307, 955.
 TONGVIN, XXI. 307, VII. 47—river, XVII. 647.
 Tonals, III. 48, 53.
 Tonson (Jacob), VII. 356; XVIII. 328.
 TONTRE, XXI. 307—the nominees in ton-tunes, III. 228—government schemes for raising money by, 280.
 TOOKER (John Horne), XXI. 307—his etymological riddles deduced from false principles, I. 61—charged with high treason, V. 553—trial and acquittal, 555—in grammar, X. 777 *et seq.*
 — (THOMAS), political economist, XXI. 310.
 Tools, in Russia, XIX. 521.
 Tooman Bay, VIII. 487.
 Toon-wood of India, XI. 444, 454.
 Toondras, in Russia, XIX. 515. See Tundras.
 Tooran Shah, VIII. 493.
 Tooth. See Teeth.
 Toothache-tree, XVII. 762.
 Toothwort, plant, V. 203.
 Topajoz, river in Brazil, V. 292.
 Topaz, X. 447; XV. 88; XVII. 623—its crystallisation, VII. 555, 563—its pyro-electricity, VIII. 559—electrical phenomena produced by its cleavage, 564—optical phenomena of Brazilian, XVI. 663, 690—system of rings in, 662, I. 913—in Brazil, V. 293.
 Tope, fish, XII. 322.
 Topham (Captain), his account of a meteorolite, XIV. 681.
 TOPHAT WORK, in gardening, XXI. 310.
 Topical colours, in dyeing, VIII. 316.
 Toplady, hymns of, XII. 189.
 TOPLITZ, town in Bohemia, XXI. 311.
 Topalls, how to take in, during a gale, XX. 19.
 TORHAM, in Devonshire, XXI. 311.
 Torbanehill gas-coal, VII. 118; XIII. 497.
 TORBAY, in Devonshire, XXI. 311.
 TORDENSKOLD (P. Wessel), Dutch admiral, XXI. 312.
 TORDESILLAS, town in Spain, XXI. 312.
 Toretta (G.), on the venereal disease, XX. 317, n. 2.
 Torelli, life and character of, I. 697 and n. 4.
 Toretto, sculptor, VI. 198.
 Torsus, XIV. 2.
 TORGAU, Prussian town, XXI. 312.
 Torgoch, angling for, III. 158.
 TORRES, XXI. 312—origin of the, V. 387—derivation of the word, 428.
 Tornado. See Whirlwind, Cyclone.
 Tornatella, genus of mollusks, XV. 372—fossil, XVII. 111.
 TORNEA, in Finland, XXI. 312.
 Torneo, river, XIX. 516—in Lapland, XIII. 284.
 TORO ARBUZALL, Spanish town, XXI. 312.
 TORONTO, in Canada, XXI. 312; VI. 134—climate, 130, 140—increase of population, 144—value of imports, 162—railway system of, 155—meteorological observations at, XIV. 686.
 Torpedinidae, family of fishes, XII. 227, 326.
 Torpedo, fish, XII. 226, 327—electricity of,

TOR—TOU

I. 738; VIII. 523, 530, 572; VII. 673; XVII. 636—Mr Cavendish's attempts to imitate its effects by electricity, I. 988; VI. 351—Ingenhousz's experiments on, XII. 380.
 Torpedo, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 342.
 TORPERZ, Russian town, XXI. 314.
 Torpidity, III. 180. See Hybernation.
 TORQUAY, in Devonshire, XXI. 314.
 Toquemada, inquisitor, XII. 388, 389.
 Torre (Della), on the brain, II. 818—on the muscles, 821.
 TORRE-DEL-GRECO, XXI. 315.
 Torregiano (Pièto). See Torrigiano.
 TORRENS (Lake), in Australia, XXI. 315.
 — (Mi), on the advantages of coined money, XV. 418.
 Torres, Spanish navigator, New Holland seen by, IV. 252, also Papua, 262; and the New Hebrides, 265.
 — NOVAS, town in Portugal, XXI. 315.
 — Straits, IV. 252.
 — VEDRAS, town in Portugal, XXI. 315—lines of, ib., V. 608, IX. 806, XXI. 707, 821, 823.
 TORIACELLI (Evangelista), XXI. 315—his invention of the barometer, IV. 450—on hydrodynamics, XII. 70, I. 596—on mechanics, 699—on pneumatics, XVIII. 24, 25.
 Torrid zone, X. 483.
 TORRIGIANO, sculptor, XXI. 316, XIX. 808, 806—his tomb of Henry VII., III. 449.
 TORRINGTON (Great), in Devonshire, XXI. 316.
 TORSBOT, or Torjok, Russian town, XXI. 316.
 Torsion (force of), Coulomb on, VII. 462.
 Torsion-balance, IV. 386; XIV. 4; VIII. 549—employed in determining the earth's density, I. 835.
 Torsk, fish, XII. 260.
 Tortoise, XIX. 17, XVII. 634—hybernation of, II. 52—bones of, III. 86 *et seq.*—case of one which lived six months without the brain, 176; of another which survived without the head, 177—then power of fasting, 180.
 Tortoise-encainte, XVII. 99.
 Tortoise-shell, XIX. 30.
 — ware, XVIII. 433.
 TORTOLA, island, XXI. 316.
 TORONA, Italian town, XXI. 316.
 TORROSA, Spanish town, XXI. 316.
 Tortrices, family of insects, IX. 215.
 Tortrix, genus of serpents, XIX. 55.
 Tortuga, bucaniers of, V. 707 *et seq.*
 Torture, XVIII. 675—indicted in English prisons, 568—in China, VI. 564.
 Torus, in botany, V. 118—in architecture, III. 468, 476, 513.
 Torwood, camp at, V. 414.
 TOSCANELLA, in the Papal States, XXI. 316.
 Tosorthros, Egyptian king, VIII. 454.
 Tostig, VIII. 668.
 Totanus, genus of birds, XVI. 805.
 Totila, chief of the Goths, Rome occupied by, XIX. 368.
 Totipalma, family of birds, XVI. 813.
 TORNES, in Devonshire, XXI. 316.
 TORONICAPAN, in Central America, XXI. 316.
 Tott (Baron de), on the catacombs at Alexandria, II. 479.
 TOTTERHAM, in Middlesex, XXI. 316.
 Tottenhoe limestone, XX. 712.
 Toucans, birds, XVI. 779; XVII. 683.
 Touch, sense of, XIV. 565; XVII. 677—in various animals, III. 178; XIV. 185—in bees, IV. 572; the crustacea, VII. 588; insects, III. 177; IX. 44; fishes, XII. 221—its acuteness in the blind, IV. 773, 777.
 TOUGH-NEEDLE, XXI. 316.
 TOUL, town in France, XXI. 316.
 TOULON, XXI. 317—events at, in 1793, X. 80—fire in the arsenal of, 227.
 TOULOUSE, XXI. 317; X. 405—Academy of Floral Games at, II. 61—battle of, V. 614; XXI. 827—population, X. 277—university of, XXI. 448.

TOU—TRA

Toulouse (Count of), V. 448
 Toulitcha, VII. 654
 Touraicos, birds, XVI. 784
 Touraine, in France, X. 277
 Tourinho (Pedro de Campo), V. 280.
 Tournahne, XV. 89—pyro-electricity of, VIII. 529, 557—optical properties of, XVI. 647, 648—dichroism in, 666—artificial, 648 and *n*
 Tourment, Cape, VI. 183.
 TOURNAMENT, XXI. 318; VI. 610 *et seq*; VIII. 230; XI. 321.
 TOURNAY, town in Belgium, XXI. 318—siege of, in 1709, V. 451
 TOURNEFORT (J. Pitton de), XXI. 318—on zoophytes and stalactites, III. 169.
 TOURNOUR (Pierre le), XXI. 319
 Tourniquet, XX. 825
 TOURNON, town in France, XXI. 319.
 TOURNUS, town in France, XXI. 319
 TOURS, town in France, XXI. 319—population of, X. 277
 Toutsoun Pasha, III. 365; VIII. 493.
 TOUSSAINT (Louvartine), XXI. 319; XII. 256—base treatment of, V. 691.
 TOWER HANDS, XXI. 319
 —in architecture, III. 513—of London, XIII. 670—of the winds in Athens, VII. 774; III. 139
 Townes (Mi), on shelter for gardens, XI. 698.
 —(Round), in Ireland, III. 284; VI. 240, 755; VIII. 216, XIII. 83, 86, XIV. 371, 877, XV. 410; XX. 331; XXI. 409.
 Townley (Richard), on the elastic force of the air, IV. 462; I. 729—his micrometer, XIV. 743.
 Towns, site and laying out of, III. 493; XIV. 443; town-gardens, III. 494—draining of, 495; VIII. 125—cause of the atmosphere of being deleterious to plants, V. 106, 107—fortification of, IX. 813. See Sanitary Science.
 Townsend (Mr), on language, XIII. 198 *et seq*.
 Towton, battle of, VIII. 691.
 Towy, river, VI. 52.
 Toxicology, XIV. 432, 403; XVIII. 127. See Poison.
 Toxoceras, fossil mollusks, XVII. 113.
 Toxophora, genus of insects, IX. 234.
 Toxotes, genus of fishes, XII. 301, 303—fossil, 345
 Toxotes, genus of insects, IX. 146.
 Tracery, in architecture, III. 513—of windows, XXI. 784—element of the, *ib.*—joints, *ib.*
 Trachea, in man, III. 66—in brutes, 102—surgical treatment of diseases of, XX. 832—its disorders in the domestic animals, XXI. 571.
 Tracheliaste, zoophytes, XXI. 982.
 Trachelidae, family of insects, IX. 133.
 Trachelium, in architecture, III. 513.
 Trachelochismus, genus of fishes, XII. 307.
 Trachelopterus, genus of fishes, XII. 262.
 Trachenchyma, tissue in plants, V. 70.
 Tracheotomy, XX. 833—in the domestic animals, XXI. 572.
 Trachichthys, genus of fishes, XII. 283.
 Trachinotus, genus of fishes, XII. 267—fossil, 345.
 Trachinus, genus of fishes, XII. 273.
 Trachyderes, genus of insects, IX. 144
 Trachelodermis, genus of fishes, XII. 282.
 Trachydolerite, XV. 138.
 Trachynotus, genus of insects, IX. 129.
 Trachypterus, genus of fishes, XII. 207, 303.
 Trachyrhamphus, genus of fishes, XII. 315.
 Trachys, genus of insects, IX. 105.
 Trachytes, rocks, XV. 132—their association with dolerites, 191.
 Traction, action of the muscles in, III. 40—line of, XX. 539.
 Tractors, Perkins' metallic, XX. 415.
 TRACTOR (A. L. C. Destutt de), count, XXI. 319—on metaphysics, XIV. 568, *n*. 5, 570—on political economy, XVIII. 244, *n*.; 229, *n*.
 Trade, errors respecting the balance of payments, IX. 435—profits of, with colonies, VII. 141—mode of conducting

TRA—TRA

it in China, VI. 590—of France, with foreign nations, X. 259. See Commerce, Political Economy.
 TRADE MUSEUMS AND SCHOOLS, XXI. 321.
 Trade-winds, XIV. 647; XVII. 577, 614—in South America, II. 671
 Trades, their effects on health, XIV. 442—list of those requiring license, XIII. 435—necessity of removing offensive trades from towns, XIX. 619—in London, XIII. 660; Paris, XVII. 284.
 Trades' House, Glasgow, X. 653.
 TRADITION, XXI. 325—mistaken traditions rectified by philology, XVII. 541—received by Papists as an addition to Scripture, XVIII. 337.
 TRAFALGAR, Spanish cape, XXI. 325—battle of, V. 593, VII. 128; XVI. 138, XXI. 725.
 Traffic, on railways, passenger, XVIII. 787, 789—goods, 788, 789—development and distribution of, 791.
 Triagacanth, gum, V. 190.
 Tragedy, Aristotle on, III. 559—meaning of the word, IV. 348—Greek, VIII. 138—Roman, 141—French, 149
 Tragi-comedy, French, VIII. 153.
 Tragoceras, genus of insects, IX. 145
 Triagopa, genus of insects, IX. 170
 Tragopan, genus of birds, XVI. 790.
 Triagos, fossil sponges, XVII. 93.
 Traill (James), of Ratter, his improvements in the agriculture of Caithness, VI. 62.
 —(Mr), his gardening in Egypt, VIII. 499, *n*. 3
 —(Prof), his account of an albino family, II. 448—on the ruins of Babylon, IV. 345—his register thermometer, 460—on ink, XII. 383—on the connection between the temperature and magnetism of the globe, XIV. 11—his outlines of Medical Jurisprudence, 424—his method of detecting mercury in cases of poisoning, 433—on the Cal'ing whale, 228—on the character of Roscoe, XIX. 419
 Training, VIII. 24—among the Greeks, XIX. 851; Spartans, XX. 503—of fruit-trees, XI. 697, 705, 709.
 Trains of mechanism, XIV. 400, 404—of wheelwork, 400—epicyclic, 401—in hydraulics, XX. 200.
 TRAJAN, Roman emperor, XXI. 325—reign of, XIX. 341—his war with the Parthians, XVII. 312—his pillar, XIX. 341—his bridge over the Danube, VII. 662; XVII. 641—Egypt under, VIII. 472.
 Trajanus Decius, reign of, XIX. 348.
 TRALEE, Irish town, XXI. 325; XII. 75.
 TRALLIANUS (Alex), XXI. 325; II. 406; XIV. 455, XX. 814.
 Tram-roads, XVIII. 752, 753—American, 764
 Trammel-net, IX. 636; XIX. 89, 91.
 Tramontini, his work on the silk-worm, IX. 23.
 Trance, XVII. 700.
 TRANENT, Scotch village, XXI. 325.
 TRANI, seaport, Naples, XXI. 325.
 TRANQUERBAR, in India, XXI. 325.
 TRANSCAUCASIA, XXI. 325; XIX. 551.
 Transcendental philosophy of Kant, XIII. 48.
 Transcribers of books, before the invention of printing, IV. 706.
 Transsept, in architecture, III. 513.
 TRANSFIGURATION, XXI. 325
 Transit instruments, IV. 152—circle at Greenwich, I. 850; III. 817.
 —of planets over the sun's disc, IV. 62.
 Transition cells, XVII. 550.
 —rocks, XVII. 587. See Geology.
 Transitive verbs, X. 722.
 TRANSIMINATION, XXI. 326—as understood by the Hindus, I. 468; XI. 470—the doctrine imported into India from Egypt, XV. 762
 Transom, in architecture, III. 513.
 Transparency, XIII. 451.
 Transpiration of leaves, V. 103.
 Transplanting, XI. 695.

TRA—TRE

TRANSPORTATION, punishment of, XXI. 326; VII. 139—penal servitude substituted for, 150; VIII. 750—numbers sentenced to, *ib.*—origin of, XVIII. 576—reaction against, 579—gradual abandonment of, 580—abolition of, 581—cessation of, to New South Wales, XX. 897
 Transporting machines, XIV. 415.
 Transposition, in languages, XIII. 189 *et seq*.
 TRANSUBSTANTIATION, XXI. 326; XVIII. 336—Gibbon's argument against, I. 154—Crammer on, VII. 484—first use of the term, XVII. 483.
 TRANSYLVANIA, XXI. 326; IV. 309; XII. 20—collection of gold in, V. 46—height of mountains in, XVII. 642—its alliance with Sweden, XX. 851.
 Trant (Captain), on the Turkish army, III. 657, *n*. 1
 Trap-rocks, XV. 134—classification of, 155—form and position, 187—distinction between intrusive and contemporaneous trap, 188—dykes and veins of, 189—absorbent property of, VII. 108—as building-stone, XX. 711
 TRAPANI, XXI. 326; XX. 245, 255
 Trapelus, genus of reptiles, XIX. 32.
 Tapezoid, X. 503—to find the area of, XIV. 503
 Trapozus, XXI. 327.
 Trass, or terrass, for mortar, XX. 714.
 TRAVANCORE, in India, XXI. 326—Nestorians in, XVI. 182.
 Traverses, in fortification, IX. 819—in railways, XVIII. 777.
 Trawl-net, IX. 636; XIX. 89, 92.
 Treacle, distinguished from molasses, XV. 310—microscope lenses made by, XIV. 769.
 Tread, in horses, XXI. 562.
 Tread-mill, XIII. 278; XVIII. 573—its effect on health, XIV. 445.
 TREASON, XXI. 326—punishment of, V. 514.
 Treasure, rates of conveyance of, in H. M.'s ships, XVI. 116
 Treasurer of the Royal Household, XI. 774.
 TREASURE-TROVE, XXI. 326; XVIII. 467.
 TREASURY, XXI. 326
 Treatics, commercial, VII. 195—importance of, in history, XI. 539—whether all treaties are annulled by war, V. 688—treaty of the three kings, IV. 303.
 Trebia, battle of, VI. 204; XIX. 810.
 TREBIZOND, or Trebisond, XXI. 326; IV. 744.
 Treble. See Music.
 Trecento, a style of architecture, III. 450.—age of Italian literature, III. 600.
 Trecul on the physiology of plants, V. 102.
 TREDEGAR, in Monmouthshire, XXI. 327.
 TREDEGOLD (Thomas), engineer, XXI. 327—on the strength of timber, &c., I. 876; of ropes, XIX. 402—his formula representing the relation of the temperature and pressure of steam, XX. 565.
 Tree of Life, I. 453; XXI. 197.
 Tree-climber, fish, XII. 289.
 Tree-ferns, V. 84, 85.
 Tree-frogs, XIX. 78.
 Tree-serpents, XIX. 57.
 Treonalls, oak, strength of, XX. 188.
 TRESES, XXI. 327; V. 78—dimensions of their stems, 101—age of, 168—fruit trees, XI. 702 *et seq*—nursery culture of, XVII. 760—producing substitutes for soap, XX. 386—when a tree should be cut down, XXI. 268. See Planting, Timber.
 Treffer (Florian), on the classification of books, IV. 715.
 Trefoil, seeds of, as a dyestuff, VIII. 297.—in architecture, III. 513.
 Tregellis (Dr), on palimpsests, XVII. 209, 210—his edition of the New Testament, XIX. 837.
 Treitschke (Frederick), his work on insects, IX. 15.
 Trollis girders, XX. 781.

TRE—TRI

Tremadoc, embankments at, VIII. 644, 647
 Tremadota, zoophytes, XXI. 979, 976, 978.
 Tiemandracea, nat order of plants, V. 138
 Trembley (M.), on the effects of electricity on the pulse, VIII. 602
 Tremtli islands, XX. 242
 Tromoctopus, genus of mollusks, XV. 401.
 Tremolite, mineral, XV. 81.
 Trenching, II. 289—trenching folk, 274.
 Trendelenburg on logic, XIII. 577, *n*. 578, *n*. *et seq*.
 Tiegrouse (Mr), on the use of rockets in shipwreck, XIII. 441
 TRENT, Austrian city, XXI. 327
 —COUNCIL OF, XXI. 328, XVIII. 825, 826—summary of its decrees, 336—on predestination, 179—concerning the Vulgate, IV. 701.
 —river, XXI. 327; XVI. 338, 340; XX. 529, XIII. 491—warping on the banks of, XII. 618—iron bridge, 558, 559—Trent and Masey Canal, VII. 754.
 TRENTON, in New Jersey, XXI. 328—military operations at, 751
 Trepang, XXI. 985, IV. 300, XVII. 100.
 Triaphine, use of, XX. 826, 827
 Trierow (New), town in Prussia, XXI. 328.
 Tricshaw, Danish author, VII. 750.
 Tricssure, XI. 830
 Tret, in commerce, III. 595.
 Tretosternon, fossil tortoise, XVII. 153
 Trevelyan (W. C.), on the aurora borealis, VIII. 589.
 —(Mr), his experiments on electric currents, XXI. 632
 TRAVES, town in Prussia, XXI. 328—massacre of the Jews at, XII. 778—government of, XIX. 145.
 Trevigno. See Rovigno.
 Trevisanus on the brain, II. 820, 821.
 TREVISO, Austrian town, XXI. 328
 Trevithick (Richard), I. 882—his locomotive engines, *ib.*, XVIII. 779—his departure to America, I. 882
 TREW (O Jacob), XXI. 328.
 Trezza (la), town in Sicily, XX. 244.
 Triacanthus, genus of fishes, XII. 313.
 Triamphorus, genus of entozoa, XXI. 978.
 Triakis, genus of fishes, XII. 324
 Tial by battle, VIII. 230. See Ordeal.—jury. See Jury.
 TRIANGLE, XXI. 328; X. 507 *et seq*—to find its area, XIV. 503.
 Triangulation, IX. 555, XXI. 334, 335, 336.
 Triascope, XIII. 39.
 Triassic period, in geology, XV. 205—fishes of, XII. 349, 350; XVII. 125, 640—ichthyodermatites, 117—in Spain, XX. 483.
 Tribe, Irish, XII. 523—the twelve tribes, XVII. 192.
 Tribonian, one of the compilers of Justinian's code, VI. 745.
 Tribunal, international, XIII. 289.
 TRIBUNE, XXI. 328; XIX. 299—military, 302; III. 681.
 Tribute, derivation of, from colonies, VII. 140.
 Tricala, Turkish town, XXI. 350.
 Trichechus, genus of mammalia, XIV. 173.
 Trichlastia in animals, XXI. 677.
 Trichides, family of insects, IX. 127.
 Trichinopolis, in India, XXI. 323; XI. 485.
 Trichites, fossil mollusks, XVII. 106.
 Trichitrus, genus of fishes, XII. 296.—electrics, VIII. 677.
 Trichius, genus of insects, IX. 127.
 Trichocephalus, genus of entozoa, XXI. 974.
 Trichocera, genus of insects, IX. 228.
 Trichoda, animalcules, III. 202.
 Trichodon, genus of fishes, XXI. 273.
 Trichoglossus, genus of birds, XVI. 781.
 Trichomycterus, genus of fishes, XII. 263.
 Trichonotus, genus of fishes, XII. 307.
 Trichophorus, genus of birds, XVI. 752.
 Trichoptera, genus of insects, IX. 180.
 Trichopus, genus of fishes, XII. 290.

TRI—TRI

- Trichosoma, zoophytes, XXI. 981.
 Trichotropis, genus of fossil mollusks, XVII 110.
 Triclaste, XV. 89.
 Triclinohedric system of crystallisation, XV. 49—twin crystals in, 53.
 Tricocephalus, zoophytes, XXI. 981.
 Triconodon, genus of fossil mammals, XVII 161.
 Tridacna, genus of mollusks, XV. 349.
 Tridacnidae, family of mollusks, XV. 349.
 Tridactylus, genus of insects, IX. 158.
 Tridax, XXI. 329.
 Triestre, XXI. 329.
 Triewald's diving-bell, VIII. 62.
 Trigger of a gun, XI. 99—hair-trigger, 1b.
 Trigla, genus of fishes, XII. 280, 282.
 Tringopsis, genus of fishes, XII. 282.
 Trigno, river, XX. 238.
 Trigona, crustacea, VII. 541.
 —fossil mollusks, XVII. 108.
 Trigones, insects, IX. 203.
 Trigonia, genus of mollusks, XV. 349, 347—fossil, XVII. 106.
 Trigonidae, fossil mollusks, XVII. 106.
 Trigonoccephalus, genus of serpents, XIX. 67.
 Trigonoceras, fossil mollusks, XVII. 112.
 TRIGONOMETRICAL SURVEY, XXI. 330.
 —canons, XIII. 595.
 TRIGONOMETRY, XXI. 338—spherical, 343—introduction of, I. 551—improvement in, during last century, 701—characters of abbreviations in, VI. 419.
 Trigonosemus, fossil mollusks, XVII. 108.
 TRIKALIA, Turkish town, XXI. 350.
 Trillaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 210.
 Trilobites, VII. 543, XVII. 101, 102.
 TRIM, Irish town, XXI. 350.
 Trimora, section of insects, IX. 151.
 Trimmers, in carpentry, V. 743.
 TRINCOMALEE, in Ceylon, XXI. 350, VI. 391.
 Trineura, family of insects, IX. 258.
 Tringa, genus of birds, XVI. 803.
 TRINIDAD, West India island, XXI. 351—patch lake in, XVI. 100, XVII. 602.
 TRINITY, XXI. 193—Howe on, XI. 789—Dr Samuel Clarke on, VI. 757—punishment of the denial of the, IV. 754—doctrine of the, not held by Quakers, XVIII. 716.
 —College, Dublin, XII. 592; XXI. 485—Cambridge, 406—Oxford, 459.
 —House, London, XIII. 662.
 —Oxford term, XXI. 458.
 TRINO, Italian town, XXI. 352.
 Trinucleus, trilobite, XVII. 101, 102.
 Trio, or Terzetto, in music, XXI. 352.
 Trionyx, genus of reptiles, XIX. 21—fossil, XVII. 153.
 Triphane, mineral, XV. 72.
 Triphylline, mineral, XV. 101.
 Triphyllus, genus of insects, IX. 142.
 Triplax, genus of insects, IX. 151.
 Triplet microscope, XIV. 775.
 Triplate, mineral, XV. 101.
 Tripod, VII. 709.
 Tripodes in ancient Athens, IV. 164.
 TRIPOLI, in Barbary, XXI. 352; II. 223—silk of, XX. 277—weights and measures, XXI. 814. See Barca.
 —in Syria, XXI. 354.
 —mineral, XV. 69—composed of infusoria, XVII. 94.
 TRIPOLITZA, town in Greece, XXI. 354—sacking of, in 1821, XI. 25.
 Truema, XX. 117.
 Trisection of angle, III. 143.
 Trismegistus. See Hermes.
 Trissino, his tragedy of Sophonisba, VIII. 147.
 Tristan (General), IV. 832.
 Tristernagh, in Westmeath, XXI. 340, 341.
 Tristoma, zoophytes, XXI. 980.
 Tristychius, genus of fossil reptiles, XII. 389.
 Tritoma, genus of insects, IX. 151.
 Tritomite, mineral, XV. 91.
 Triton, genus of mollusks, XV. 345—fossil, XVII. 110.
 —reptile, XIX. 88.

TRI—TRO

- Tritonia, genus of mollusks, XV. 390—ova, 389.
 TRIUMPE, XXI. 354—triumphal arch, III. 418—road, XIX. 228.
 Trumvirate, first Roman, XIX. 324—second, 326; III. 283.
 Truridaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 215.
 Trivia, fossil mollusks, XVII. 110.
 Trivium, in ancient schools, XXI. 444.
 Truxa, genus of insects, IX. 248.
 Troad, courage of, XVI. 375.
 TROAS, XXI. 354.
 Trochanters, III. 34.
 Trocheta, genus of annelides, XI. 307.
 Trochidae, mollusks, XVII. 110.
 Trochilus, genus of birds, XVI. 769.
 Trochoceras, fossil mollusks, XVII. 112.
 Trochocyathus, fossil corals, XVII. 97.
 Trochotoma, fossil mollusks, XVII. 109, 111.
 Trochus, genus of mollusks, XV. 382.
 Troglodytes, in Arabia, III. 357.
 —genus of mammals, XIV. 137—dentation of, XVI. 456, 457.
 —genus of birds, XVI. 756.
 Trogon, bird, XVI. 779.
 Trogontherium, fossil animals, XVII. 173.
 Trogonidae, family of insects, IX. 143.
 Troglus, genus of arachnides, III. 387.
 TROGUS POMPEIUS, Roman historian, XXI. 354; XIII. 29.
 Trolling, a mode of fishing, III. 158.
 Trombidium, genus of arachnides, III. 387.
 Trombone, XV. 713.
 Tromp (M. H. Van), Dutch admiral, XXI. 355, V. 415, 422, XI. 574 *et seq.*
 Trompe, or water-bellows, XII. 183.
 TROON, or TROOD (S6), town in Belgium, XXI. 355.
 —weight, XXI. 800.
 Trona, mineral, XV. 98.
 —Lakes of Pezzan, IX. 531.
 Tronchet (M.), X. 74.
 TRONDHEIM, in Norway, XXI. 355—climate of, XVI. 328.
 Trondhøy, one of the Shetland islands, XX. 113.
 Tronto, river, XII. 638.
 Troon, in Ayrshire, XXI. 355—harbour of, IV. 333—railway to, XIII. 88.
 Troop-horse, XI. 657.
 Troostate, mineral, XV. 100.
 Tropaeolaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 188.
 Tropes, in rhetoric, XIX. 132, 133.
 Trophon, fossil mollusks, XVII. 110.
 Tropic-bird, XVI. 815.
 Tropical hot-houses, XI. 729.
 Tropics, IV. 11; X. 481.
 Tropidia, genus of insects, IX. 241.
 Tropidonotus, genus of serpents, XIX. 58.
 TROOPPAT, in Austrian Silesia, XXI. 355—congress at, V. 631.
 TROSCACS, in Perthshire, XXI. 355.
 Trotsman's anchor, III. 118, 119; X. 24.
 Trotter (Mr.), charges against, as paymaster of the navy, V. 599, 600.
 —(Mr.), on poultry, II. 356.
 Trotting of horses, XI. 656, 675.
 TROUSADOURS, XXI. 355; IV. 536—era of, XIV. 458—subject of their poetry, XVIII. 107.
 Trough galvanic battery, XXI. 610 *et seq.*
 Troughton (Mr.), his astronomical instruments, III. 808—transit instruments, IV. 152, 153—mural circle, 1b.—wire micrometer, XIV. 743.
 Trouin (Duguay), French admiral, V. 282.
 Trou-de-loup, IX. 799.
 Trout, common, XII. 242, IX. 763—sea, XII. 240—bull, 1b., 242; IX. 617—great lake, III. 156.
 Trout-fishing, III. 152, 156.
 Trouvères, literature of the, XVIII. 148, 115.
 Trouveurs, VII. 536.
 Trowbrides (Sir Thomas), admiral, XXI. 355; XVI. 184, 185.
 —in Wiltshire, XXI. 355.
 Trowers, V. 313.
 Trox, XXI. 356—Bryant's opinions on, V. 706.
 —town in America, XXI. 359.

TRO—TUB

- TROY-WEIGHT, XXI. 359; III. 584—origin of the name, XXI. 807—table of, 808—Scottish, 809.
 TROYES, town in France, XXI. 359—population, X. 277.
 Truck, or barter, IV. 478.
 Trudane's burning lens, VI. 14.
 Truffies, V. 217, 146—of Dordogne, VIII. 107—of Charente, VI. 421.
 TRUMAN (Joseph), theological writer, XXI. 360.
 TRUMPET, XXI. 360; XV. 712—articulate trumpet, XXI. 360, II. 106; IV. 454.
 Trumpet-flower, order of plants, V. 200.
 Truncatipennis, insects, IX. 81, 83, 84.
 Trundles, XIV. 396.
 Trunk, of the elephant, III. 100, XIV. 194—of the human body, regions of, III. 1—osteology of, 4—muscles of, 39.
 Trunk-drainage, VIII. 130.
 Truran (Mr.), his description of a hot-blast furnace, XII. 545, 546, 551.
 TRURO, town in Cornwall, XXI. 361.
 Truss, in architecture, III. 513—in carpentry, V. 749, in roofs, XIX. 381—trussing in ship-building, XVI. 97, XX. 181, 182.
 Trustees, Scottish Board of, VIII. 396—of roads, XI. 433.
 Truth, the progress of, I. 120—Dr Beattie on, IV. 531—influence of, XIII. 368—relations of logic to, 576—a duty to our fellow-men, XV. 566—necessary truths, XIV. 597.
 Truxalis, genus of insects, IX. 159.
 TRUXILLO, town in Honduras, XXI. 362; XI. 612.
 —in Peru, XXI. 361; XVII. 474.
 —in Spain, XXI. 361.
 —in Venezuela, XXI. 361.
 Trygon, genus of fishes, XII. 327—fossil, 342.
 Trygonidae, family of fishes, XII. 327.
 Trygonoptera, genus of fishes, XII. 328.
 Trygonorhina, genus of fishes, XII. 327.
 Trypauchien, genus of fishes, XII. 306.
 Trypeta, genus of insects, IX. 252.
 TRYPHODORUS, Greek poet, XXI. 362.
 Tryphon, genus of insects, IX. 188.
 Trypoxylon, genus of insects, IX. 196.
 Trystichus, genus of fossil fishes, XVII. 117.
 Trythings, II. 481.
 Tsabasm, in Egypt, XV. 764.
 Tsana, lake. See Demba.
 Tsarskoe-selo, town in Russia, XXI. 368.
 Tschadda, affluent of the Niger, II. 214; XXI. 266.
 Tscherkask, VII. 423.
 TSCHERNHAUSEN (E. Walter Von), XXI. 362—his burning mirror, VI. 2, 10, 13.
 Tsebaeth, (El), name of God, XXI. 189.
 Tsetse, African fly, II. 218—its limited distribution, XVII. 630.
 Tshudish language, XIII. 215.
 Tsientang, river, bore in, XVII. 581.
 Tso Moriri, lake, XI. 440.
 TUAM, Irish town, XXI. 362—castle of, X. 391.
 Tuaricks, II. 219.
 Tuart, timber-tree, XXI. 278.
 Tub-wheels, XII. 169.
 Tubellaria, zoophytes, XXI. 982.
 Tubercles, XVII. 690.
 Tubergite, mineral, XV. 80.
 Tubers of plants, V. 79.
 Tubes, quantity of water discharged by, XII. 115—strength of wrought-iron tubes, XX. 178—for thermometers, XXI. 221—stronger than solid rods containing the same quantity of timber, XX. 763.
 Tubicenus, genus of insects, IX. 188.
 Tubicola, order of annelides, XI. 294.
 Tubina, fossil mollusks, XVII. 100, 111.
 TUBINGEN, in Württemberg, XXI. 362—Academy of History at, II. 69—university, XXI. 492.
 Tubular zoophytes, XII. 607.
 Tubulariades, zoophytes, XXI. 1006.
 Tubulibranchiata, order of mollusks, XV. 878.
 Tubuliflorae, nat. order of plants, V. 197.

TUC—TUR

- Tuch (Prof.), XVII. 535.
 TUCKER (Abraham), XXI. 362—Dr Paley's opinions of his writings, I. 114, n—character of his mind, 386—somewhat resembled Montaigne, 387—works of, 1b, 388.
 —(JOSIAH), dean of Gloucester, XXI. 362—on the Naturalisation Bill, XVIII. 259, n. 2—on taxation, XXI. 42.
 Tucker's locks, XIII. 540.
 Tuckey (Captain), his African expedition, II. 210; VII. 245, 246.
 TUCCMAN, XXI. 363, XVII. 779.
 TUDELA, Spanish town, XXI. 363.
 Tuesday, I. 458, n., VI. 75.
 Tuft, calcareous, XV. 92, 143.
 Tuft, XV. 133.
 Tuilleries, palace of the, XVII. 281.
 Tuke (Sir Brian), first postmaster-general, XVIII. 402.
 TULA, in Russia, XXI. 363.
 Tulip-tree, XVII. 761, 627, V. 180.
 Tulips, V. 212—culture of, XI. 751—tulipmania, IV. 440.
 Tull (Jethro), his system of husbandry, II. 259, 260, 373—revived by Mr Smith of Lons Woodon, 293, 308.
 TULLAMORE, Irish town, XXI. 363; XIII. 93.
 TULLE, town in France, XXI. 363.
 Tullia, daughter of Cicero, VI. 719.
 Tullin (C. Brauman), Danish poet, XIX. 693.
 TULLUS HOSTILIUS, XXI. 363; XIX. 296.
 Tumble lock, XIII. 533.
 Tummel, Scotch river, XVII. 455.
 Tumours, XVII. 690—surgical treatment of, XX. 853.
 TUN, XXI. 363—gyle-tun, V. 328.
 Tunaborg copper-mines, XVII. 621.
 TUNBRIDGE, in Kent, XXI. 363; XIII. 66, 67.
 —or TONBRIDGE WELLS, XXI. 363—mineral waters of, XV. 88.
 —sandstone, XX. 711.
 TUNDRA, XVII. 610; XXI. 298.
 TUNE, in music, XXI. 364—physiological faculty so named, XVII. 563.
 Tungsten, in chemistry, VI. 494—in mineralogy, XV. 66.
 Tungsten-oxide, XV. 112.
 Tungstic acid, VI. 404.
 Tungria, IX. 345.
 TUNUSIANS, XIV. 260—language of, XIII. 217.
 Tunicata, class of mollusks, XV. 330, 322.
 TUNIS, in Barbary, XXI. 364; II. 233; IV. 431; VI. 288—Babe's attack on, IV. 752—weights and measures, XXI. 814.
 Tunkin, III. 735. See Tonquin.
 TURNER, XXI. 365—blasting of, IV. 755—Brindley's, V. 364—construction of, VII. 325—on railways, XVIII. 760—Thames tunnel, XIII. 676. See Thames Tunnel.
 Tunny, XII. 203; IX. 766—fishery, XX. 246.
 —(Mr.), his application of photography to porcelain, XVII. 551.
 Tupac Amaru, insurrection of, in Bolivia and Peru, IV. 891.
 Tupala, genus of mammalia, XIV. 151.
 Tupinoquins, Brazilian tribe, V. 280.
 TURANIAN LANGUAGES, XIII. 217; XVII. 535—classification of, 536.
 Turanians, IX. 344.
 Turbinated bones of man, III. 23.
 Turbine wheels, XII. 76, 169, 170, 171; I. 889, 890.
 Turbinella, genus of mollusks, XV. 389.
 Turbinolia, family of mollusks, XV. 382.
 Turbinolia, fossil corals, XVII. 97.
 Turbinolide, zoophytes, XXI. 1005.
 Turbo, genus of mollusks, XV. 382—fossil, XVII. 110.
 Turbot, XII. 271—as food, IX. 764—fishery, 634, 648.
 Tureomans, III. 751; XXI. 378—of Bukhara, V. 758.
 Turreno, X. 34; IX. 871.
 Turf, as fuel, X. 313—in France, 251.
 Turgite, mineral, XV. 109.

TUR—TUR

- TURGOR (A. R. J.), XXI 365, X 38—meaning attached by, to the word *physics*, I 9—on M. de Gournay, VIII 874, 375—his account of the death of Queen Margaret, XIX 748; and on her influence over her husband, *ib.* n 3—on the Corvée system, XXI 43.
- TURIN, XXI 366, XIX 640—Royal Academy of, II 63—Academy of Painting at, 68—discovery of part of the Theodosian code at, VI 744—Prince Eugene's victory at, IX 369—treaty of, in 1703, XII 652—papyrus in the museum of, XVII 263, 264—university of, XIX 639; XXI 366, library of, XIII 417.
- TURKESTAN, XXI 367 See Bukhara.
- CHINESE, XXI 367.
- TURKER, XXI 368, IX 403—army of, III 656—war with Austria, IV 303—war with Britain, in 1806, V 603—war with the Greeks, 651; XI 22 *et seq.*—battle of Navarino, 30—war with France, in 1799, VIII 488—mountains of, IX 383—French trade with, X 250—Jews in, XII 783—libraries, XIII 427—coins, XV 442, 445—monarchy, 414—wars with Russia, XIX 476, 482 *et seq.*, V 538; X 144; XX 855 *et seq.*—last war with Russia, XIX 500 *et seq.*—Charles the Twelfth's retreat to, XX 534, his singular conduct there, 855—production of silk in, 277—navy, 198—destruction of his fleet at Sinope, 308—conquest of Syria by Mohammed Ali, 911—weights and measures, XXI 814—tobacco of, 294—wines, 836—maps of Turkey in Europe and Turkey in Asia, XXI Plates. See Turks.
- bird, XVI 786, XVII 623; IX 762.
- Company, XII 818.
- Turkey-blue, dyeing of, VIII 303.
- Turkey-buzzard, XVI 739.
- Turkey-olitone, XI 614.
- Turkey-red, dyeing of, VIII 292, 318.
- TURKS, IX 344—African, II 218—tribes of, III 744—their conquest of Algeria, II 568—allegiance to, thrown off by the Algerines, 569—origin of their hatred towards the Persians, III 862—their conquests in Arabia, 368, 365; and in other parts of Asia, 744—appear to be encamped rather than settled in Europe, IV 173, n 2—siege of Athens by, 171—their baths, 506—beards, 527—mouths, VI 674—carpets, 270—their invasions of the eastern empire, VII 314 *et seq.*—their first appearance in Europe, 310—Constantinople taken by, 321—invasion and conquest of Egypt by, VIII 487—character of, 490, n 4—language, IX 389; XIII 216—geometry of, X 503—their invasions on Hungary, XII 12 *et seq.*—in Greece, XI 14; attempts to throw off their yoke there, 22 *et seq.*; sympathy felt for these attempts, 27—their attack on Malta, XIV 114—conquest of Palestine by, XVII 196—in Syria, XX 909.
- TURMERIC, V 211—dyestuff, VIII 297.
- TURNA, in Wallachia, XXI 385, VII 653.
- TURNAT, in Bohemia, XXI 385.
- TURNBULL (William), bishop, founder of Glasgow College, X 646; XXI 476.
- TURNESEUS (Adrian), XXI 385.
- TURNER (Dr.), on gas-burners, X 425—on the effect of the atmosphere of towns on plants, V 108.
- (Sir James), V 428.
- (J. M. WILLIAM), landscape painter, XXI 385.
- on romance, XIX 266, 267.
- (R.), roof at Liverpool constructed by, XIX 398.
- (SHARON), historian, XXI 380—his character of Richard I., VIII 674—on the reign of Edward III., 682.
- (Sydney), his reformatory at Red Hill, XV 202—on reformatory schools in Scotland, 205.
- TURNER'S account of Bootan, V 33, 34.
- TURNERACEAE, nat. order of plants, V 193.
- TURNOUV, town in Belgium, XXI 390.

TUR—TWY

- TURNING, art of, XXI 390—elliptic, VIII 639.
- TURNIPS, when first given to sheep in England, II 259—Tull on the culture of, 560—Dawson's culture of, 263, XI 740—culture and varieties of, II 317—manures for, 264, 317 (see Guano)—thinning of, 318—preserving for sheep, *ib.*—diseases, 319—organic matters in, 384—composition of the ash, 387—albuminous matters in, 419—dills, 275—cutters, 284—seed, 336—first introduction of, into Norfolk, XVI 289.
- TUNIP-DY, IX 151, II 319; XI 740; XXI 549.
- TUNNPIKE roads See Roads.
- weighing machine, XXI 797.
- TURNSTONE, bird, XVI 804.
- TURN-TABLES, on railways, XVIII 769, 777.
- TURPENTINE, XXI 392, XIX 87, 88—oil of, XVI 496—much used in oil-varnishes, XXI 526.
- (valley of), XII 736.
- TURQUOIS, mineral, XV 74—Persian mines of, XVII 422.
- TURRIET, in architecture, III 514—clocks, VII 18—shells, XV 383.
- TURRETIN (Francis), theologian, XXI 392—on theology, 181 *et seq.*
- TURRIFF, in Aberdeenshire, XXI 392.
- TURRILLUS, genus of mollusks, XV 394.
- TURRTOLLA, genus of mollusks, XV 383, XVII 110, 113.
- TURRTITHELLA, family of mollusks, XV 383.
- TURTLE DOVE, XVI 793—its inseparability to pain, III 178.
- TURTLES, XIX 18; XVII 634—as food, IX 763—fossil, XVII 168.
- TURTUKAI, VII 654.
- TUSCAN order of architecture, III 451—modern Italian, 477—school of painting, XVII 61.
- TUSCANS, IX 355 See Etruscans.
- TUSCANY, XXI 392—French trade with, X 259—coins of, V 442, 445—straw hats of, XI 243—postal system of, XVIII 424—railway statistics, 787—weights and measures, XXI 814.
- TUSCULUM, ancient city of Latium, XXI 398.
- TUSK, fish, XII 269; IX 764—fishery, 648.
- TUSKS, III 38, XVI 478. See Elephant, &c.
- TUSSAC GRASS, II 330; IX 475.
- TUSSAH silk-worm, XX 288, 289.
- TUSSER on agriculture, II 256.
- TUTORS at Oxford, XXI 465, 460.
- TUTTLINGEN, in Württemberg, XXI 398.
- TUTULLA, island, XVIII 277.
- TUXTIA, volcano, XIV 714.
- TUX, Spanish town, XXI 398.
- TUZLA, salt lake in Asia Minor, III 758.
- TYBER, in Russia, XXI 398; XIX 591.
- TWEED, XXI 398, XX 41—source of, XVII 360—valley of, XIX 790—produce of, in salmon, grise, and trout, IX 606—tent of the fisheries, *ib.*—fisheries on, 607—close time, 613.
- TWEEDDALE, XXI 399; XVII 360.
- (Marquess of), his steam-ploughing, II 367—brick-making machine, V 346—his tile-making machine, VIII 138.
- TWEEDMOUTH, XXI 399.
- TWEEDS, kind of cloth, XXI 906, 918.
- TWENTY-FOUR PEGGONNAINS, in India, XXI 399.
- TWESTEN on logic, XIII 592 n., 597 n., 628.
- Twice (William), his treatise on hunting, XII 84.
- TWICKENHAM, in Middlesex, XXI 399.
- Twilight, IV 10, 179—how to find the length of, 113.
- Twilled, or figure-weaving, XXI 785.
- Twinkling of the stars, IV 10.
- Twins, weight of, III 2.
- (The) constellation, X 447; IV 80.
- Twiss (Horace), XXI 399.
- Twisting, strain produced by, XX 755, 777.
- Twyte, bird, XVI 761.

TYA—TYT

- TYAS (Sir Franco), XIII 113.
- TYCHO BIAHE See Brahe (Tycho).
- TYCERSON (O. Gerhard), orientalist, XXI 399.
- Tyler (Wat), insurrection of, VIII 684.
- TYLODE, genus of insects, IX 140.
- TYLOSTOMA, fossil mollusks, XVII 111.
- TYMPANS and tympan sheet, in painting, XVIII 546.
- Tympanum of the ear, III 46, XVII 679—comparative anatomy of, III 98— in architecture, III 514—water-raising wheel, XII 183.
- TYNDAL (Prof.), on the motion of glaciers, XV 139, n.
- TYNDALE, or Tindale (William), XXI 399—his translation of the Bible, IV 702.
- TYNDALL (Dr.), on diamagnetism, XIV 30, 31.
- TYNE, English river, XXI 400; XVI 166, 299—Improvement Act, XVI 163—coal measures of the district of, XV 203—Scotch river, XI 177.
- TYNEMOUTH, XXI 400; XX 115.
- TYRE-FOUNDING, XXI 400—Caslon's improvements in, VI 310; Baskerville's, IV 486; XVIII 539. See Types.
- Types for printing, first printing with moveable, XVIII 524—invention of casting, 528—character of those first used by the early printers, 529—Caslon's, 536—first introduction of Roman, IV 708—specimen of the different kinds, XXI 403.
- organic, in chemistry, VI 504.
- in numismatics, XVI 353.
- TYPHACEAE, nat. order of plants, V 214.
- TYPHUS, fossil mollusks, XVII 110.
- TYPHLOPS, genus of serpents, XIX 41.
- TYPHON, Egyptian deity, VIII 438—Bryant on, VII 714.
- TYPHOON, XVII 616—in the Philippine islands, 512 See Cyclone.
- TYPHUS fever, IX 526.
- TYPOGRAPHY, IV 707—early, 624 See Printing.
- TYRANNIA, III 596.
- TYRANNUS, genus of birds, XVI 749.
- TYRANT, thirty tyrants of Athens, IV 208—the thirty Roman, XIX 349. See Despot.
- TYRCONNEL (Lord), V 441.
- TYRS, XXI 404, X 168, XVII 182; XX 269, 301 *et seq.*—era of, VI 672—commerce of, VII 186—dye of, VIII 272—destroyed by Saladin, 481—destroyed by Alexander, XIII 767—coins of, XVI 379—navigation of, I.
- TYRE of wheels, XVIII 762.
- TYRHOOT, XXI 406. See Tirhook.
- TYRIO (David), execution of, for treason, V 504.
- TYRINTHUS, near Mycenae, cyclopean structures at, III 440.
- TYRITA, mineral, XV 110.
- TYRROT, XXI 406; IV 311, 809—heights of its mountains, XVII 642, 643.
- TYRONE, Irish county, XXI 406—agricultural statistics of, XII 516, 517.
- (Earl of), his rebellions in Ireland, XII 470, 478.
- TYRROPOON, valley of, XII 796.
- TYRO'S shorthand writing, XX 675.
- TYRREL (Walter), VIII 669.
- TYRRELL (Mr.), his work on Cumberland's Law of Nature, VII 579.
- TYRRHENIAN coast of Italy, XX 240.
- TYRREUS, Greek poet, XXI 409.
- TYRWHITT (Thomas), XXI 400—his edition of the Canterbury Tales, VI 438.
- TYSON (Edward), his researches in comparative anatomy, II 763.
- TYTLER (William), XXI 410.
- (ALEXANDER FRASER), Lord Woodhouselee, XXI 410—on Ramsey's Monk and the Miller's Wife, VIII 250—on Dr Dolg, 81.
- (PATRICK FRASER), XXI 412; XI 548—his Life of the Admirable Crichton, VII 497 *et seq.*—on Sir Thomas Craig's work on the Union, 478—on the supposed escape of Richard II. to Scotland, VIII 680, n.

TZA—UMB

- TZANA, lake. See Demben.
- TZETZES (Joannes), Greek grammarian, XXI 415—his tale about Belshazzar, IV 627—on the burning-glasses of Archimedes, VI 4.
- U
- U, letter of the alphabet, XXI 416—in abbreviations, II 20.
- UBALDI (Guido), X 375—on mechanics, I 590—sector supposed to have been invented by, XX 30.
- UBEDA, town in Spain, XXI 416.
- UBIQUITARIANS, XXI 416.
- UCOLI on ornithology, VII 728.
- UDALLAND, IX 522, n 4—in Norway, XVI 326.
- UDALL (Nicholas), XXI 416—his comedy, 160.
- Udder, inflammation of, XXI 571.
- UDINE, in Austrian Italy, XXI 416.
- UGENEPH, Egyptian king, VIII 416.
- UGFA, in European Russia, XXI 416.
- UGLEICHI, in Russia, XXI 416, XVII 24.
- UGRIANS, IX 345, 388—language, 389; XII 216.
- UHLAND (Ludwig), German poet, XVIII 119.
- UIST (South and North), XXI 416; XI 273.
- UKRAINE, XXI 417.
- UKSUR (el). See Luxur, temple of.
- ULADIAS, kings of Poland so named, XVIII 139 *et seq.*
- ULANA, in Turkey, XXI 381.
- ULCATION, XVII 690.
- ULCERS, surgical treatment of, XX 827.
- ULHABORG, in Finland, XXI 417; IX 584, 585.
- ULCULOTA, genus of insects, IX 143.
- ULIDA, genus of insects, IX 263.
- ULLAGE of a cask, XIV 521.
- ULLAMITE, mineral, XV 116.
- ULLANGE, or measuring of cloth, XXI 916.
- ULLON (Don Antonio de), his secret report to the Spanish government, IV 850—on the Peruvian Indians, *ib.* 831—his measurement of an arc of meridian, IX 549.
- ULLSWATER, English lake, VII 577—trout of, III 167, n.
- ULM, XXI 417—battle of, V 599—surrender of, to the French, X 138.
- ULMACEAE, nat. order of plants, V 206.
- ULNA, in man, III 32—in the mammalia, 81; birds, 86; reptiles, 88.
- ULOBORUS, genus of arachnides, III 381.
- ULOCURUS, genus of insects, IX 138.
- ULPHILAS, Gothic alphabet of, II 615—Gothic Bible of, IV 701; X 729; XIII 211, XX 840—his version of the Gospels, and Epistle to the Romans, XVII 210—Lord's Prayer, as translated by, X 720.
- UPLAN Library, at Rome, XIII 385.
- ULPIANUS (Domitius), jurist, XXI 417—on Insurance, XII 394.
- ULRICA Eleonora, XX 857.
- ULSTER, Irish province, XXI 417—colonisation of, by English and Scotch settlers, V 886; XII 479—massacre of the English in, V 399—Remonstrant synod of, XII 532—linen manufacture, XIV 284.
- Usher's office of arms, XI 321.
- Ultima Thule, X 462.
- ULTRAMARINE, a colour, VIII 775.
- ULUGH-BEIGH, astronomy cultivated by, III 795—his catalogue of stars, IV 80.
- ULULA, genus of birds, XVI 746.
- ULVERSTONE, in Lancashire, XXI 417.
- ULXESSES, XXI 417; XII 452—character of, XVIII 101.
- Umbel and umbellules, in botany, V 114.
- Umbelliferous plants, V 155—region of, 227; XVII 627—poisonous species, XIV 438.
- Umbilical cord, III 72.
- arteries and veins, III 72.
- Umbo, in bivalve shells, XV 841.

UMB—UNI

Umbra, in astronomy, IV 45.
 — genus of fishes, XII 251.
 Umbrella, genus of mollusks, XV 372.
 Umbrina, genus of fishes, XII 285.
 UMBREROPOORA, in Burnah, XXI 418; IV 322.
 Umzimkulu, river, XIII 82.
 Unalaska, island, II 465.
 Unau, in zoology, XIV 190—its stomach, III 108—intestines, 110.
 Unctes, fossil mollusks, XVII 103, 104.
 Unction, in baptism, IV 424—extreme unction, IX 458; XVIII 396—one of the corruptions of Christianity, I 520.
 Undercliff, Isle of Wight, XXI 862.
 Undershot water-wheels, XII 163.
 Understanding, Aristotle on, III 549—Kant's categories of the, XIII 47.
 Undertakers, Irish party, XII 495.
 Underwriters, XIII 530, XII 419—their liability in case of collision, VII 181—limitation of their liability, XII 422.
 Urdina, genus of fossil fishes, XII 336.
 Urdination, of waves, XII 162—of air, XVIII 68 *et seq* See Acoustics, Waves.
 Undulatory theory of light, VI 662; XIII 450.
 UROHVAR, town in Hungary, XXI 418.
 Unguents, for reassembling friction in machinery, XIV 408, 408.
 Ungulculata, II 774.
 Ungulata, II 774.
 Ungulina, genus of mollusks, XV 350.
 Ungurutus, in Bornou, Richardson's death at, X 478.
 Unicorn, in heraldry, XI 334, 335.
 — sea, XIV 229.
 Unigenitus, bull so called, X 35.
 Unio, genus of mollusks, XV 349, 347—*fry* of *U. littoralis*, 354.
 Union, XXI 418.
 — Canal, XIX 808—viaduct over, at Falkirk, XVIII 763.
 — Islands, XVIII 278.
 — (The), of Britain and Ireland, XXI 418; XII 500—proposal for, V 566—effected, 572—agitation for repeal of, 669.
 — (The), of England and Scotland, XXI 418; V 381, 449; VIII 393; XVII 291—attempts to dissolve it, V 452—DeFoe's mission to Edinburgh respecting it, VII 696.
 Umonide, family of fossil mollusks, XVII 106.
 Unions for administering the poor-laws, VIII 719; XVIII 314.
 UNITARIANS, XXI 418, XII 764; XVIII 489—their places of worship in England and Wales, VIII 745; in Scotland, XIX 891.
 United Brethren. See Moravians.
 — Presbyterian Church, XVIII 496, 500—proportion of adherents in Scotland, XIX 801.
 — STATES of North America, XXI 419; II 706—literature of, I 203 and *n* 2—American Academy of Sciences, II 66—agriculture and population, 707—climate, 674—Indian population, 677, 693—natural bridge in Virginia, III 130—army, 661—voting by ballot, IV 400—barrows, 478—war of independence, V 469, 476 *et seq*; XXI 749 *et seq*—war with Britain in 1812, V 615—bad effects of the mercantile policy of Britain towards, 617—bookselling in, 31, 32—Chalmers' Political Annals of, VI 402—treaty with the Chinese, 597—coal in, VII 126, 127—commerce, 190 *et seq*—conduct of, in regard to international copyright, 800—law of copyright, 359—corn-trade, 404—cotton manufacture in, 468—growth and consumption of cotton in, 455; dependence of Britain on, for supplies of, XIV 291—reprinting of British books in, VII 360—designs on Cuba, 563, 569—docks of, VIII 75—emigration to, 652; XVIII 329—hardware manufacture, VIII 728—exports and imports, IX 498—federal government of, 498—conduct of France towards, X 38—rate of interest in, XII

UNI—URA

432; XXI 75—Jews, XII 782—recent intercourse with Japan, 698—libraries, XIII 423—schools of medicine in, XIV 464, XXI 493—proportion of insane, XIV 536—hostilities with Mexico, 713—cons of, XV 442, 445—population, 605, 608; XVIII 339—gold region of, XV 232—metallic produce of, 248—education in, 820—banking, 491—newspapers, XVI 192, 195—buds of, 733 *et seq*—paper-making, XVII 260—height of mountains, 645—limited liability in, 323—post-office, XVIII 418; statistics of, compared with those of Britain, 420, packet service, 427; ocean mail service, 426—substitution of gold for silver currency, 474—reformed churches, 492—early printing, 533—locomotive engines, 780—railway statistics, 787—prison discipline, 571—penitentiaries, 572, 586—savings-banks, XIX 671—locomotive steam-engine used in, XX 615—navy, 138—maple-sugar, 798—Story on the constitution of, 737—experiments on steam, 558—introduction of steam-navigation by Fulton, 638—imports of tea into, XXI 91; VI 591—Tocqueville on, XXI 299—colleges, 493—theological schools, 494—weights and measures, 814—Wilson on the ornithology of, 878—wines, 888—trade with Buenos Ayres, V 726; Chile, VI 551, China, 691; Britain, VII 190, VIII 732, 733; France, X 280, Holland, XI 681—Maps, XXI Plates.
 Unties of the drama, observance of, by the French, VIII 149, 156—their merit considered, 149—frequently disregarded by Shakespeare, 153; and by later dramatists, 163.
 Unity of God, XXI 192—ancient mysteries supposed to teach the doctrine of, XV 754.
 — of the Church, XVIII 484.
 — of the Gospel Dispensation, I 486—how to be understood, 487—what it consists in, 488.
 Univalve shells, XV 365, 366 *et seq*—fossil, XVII 108 *et seq*.
 Universality of the Gospel Dispensation, I 484.
 Universals, in Aristotelian philosophy, III 548, 539.
 Universe, cause of, according to Plato, XVII 803—opinions of the Druids respecting the, VIII 185.
 UNIVERSITIES, XXI 443—chancellor of, VI 412—foundation of, XIV 468; XVII 621. See the different kingdoms and cities, particularly Paris, Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c.
 University College, London, XXI 470.
 Unklar-Skelessi, treaty of, XIX 498.
 Unst, Shetland Island, XXI 494; XX 113.
 UNTERWALDEN, XXI 494; XX 882.
 Unzer on the nerves, XVII 676, 677.
 Upas tree, its poisonous principle, III 270—in Ceylon, VI 334.
 Upeneus, genus of fishes, XII 279.
 Upis, genus of insects, IX 130.
 Upolu, island, XVIII 277.
 URSAL, or Upsala, in Sweden, XXI 495—university, 492—library of, XIII 497.
 UPTON-UPON-SWERN, XXI 495.
 Urupe, genus of birds, XVI 771.
 URAL Mountains, XXI 495; III 734; IX 382; XVII 597; XIX 514—height of, XVII 644—gold mines of, XV 280, 281—silver and platinum mines, 286.
 — river, XIX 515.
 Uralite, mineral, XV 81.
 Uralorthite, mineral, XV 90.
 URALSK, in Russia, XXI 495.
 Uran mica, XV 104.
 — vitriol, XV 98.
 Uranea, lake, deposit of infusoria at, XVII 94.
 Urania, a muse, XV 699.
 — genus of insects, IX 209.
 Uranite, XV 104.
 Uranium, VI 496; X 66—its discovery by Klaproth, XIII 106.
 Uranium-ochre, XV 112.

URA—URU

Uranoscopia, family of fishes, XII 272.
 Uranoscopus, genus of fishes, XII 219, 273.
 Uranotantalite, XV 109.
 Uranus, planet, IV 72, 98—discovery of, I 840, III 807—satellites, I 840, 860, IV 75, 93—perturbations of, I 828; IV 107—principal inequality, I 832—Delambre on the motions of, VII 702—Robison on its orbit and motions, XIX 239. See Adams, Leverrier.
 — (Nixephorus), VII 313.
 Urao, mineral, XV 98.
 Uaptera, genus of fishes, XII 327.
 URATITE, town in Bokhara, XXI 495.
 Urate, II 407.
 Urban IV. (Pope), XX 257.
 — (Sir Benjamin), his proceedings against the Kafirs, XIII 34.
 URANO, in the Papal States, XXI 495—university of, 492—legation of, XVII 243.
 URB (Dr Andrew), chemist, XXI 495—his analyses of barley, V 324—his experiments on sugar as a substitute for malt in brewing, 336—on Bavarian beer, 335, 336—his detonating eudiometer, VIII 625—on iron, XII 638—on caoutchouc, VI 203—on soap-making, XX 306—his experiments on steam, 557, 558—his galvanic experiments on a dead body, XXI 634—on the fineness of wool, 905.
 — river, XXI 957.
 Urea, VI 511; XVII 608.
 Urethra, III 68, 70—erectile tissue of, II 799—surgical treatment of structure of, XX 831.
 Urtah, town in Turkey, XVI 708.
 URUK (Ionom d'), XXI 495; XIX 269.
 Ur, Swiss canton, XXI 495; XX 842—lake of, 889.
 Uria, genus of birds, XVI 810.
 Uric acid, VI 523; XVII 666, 667.
 Urim and Thummim, XVI 699.
 Urinals, at railway stations, XVIII 770.
 Urinary organs of man, III 68—in brutes, 113—concretions, XVII 691—diseases of, in the domestic animals, XXI 670. See Calculus, Lithotomy.
 Urine, II 782; III 68, VI 523; XVII 666—use of, in agriculture, II 402—sulphated, 407—detergent property of, IV 769, *n*—coloured rings produced in, by voltaic electricity, XXI 633.
 Urmia. See Urumiyah.
 Urmatella, zoophytes, XXI 1002.
 Urocerata, family of insects, IX 184.
 Uroconger, genus of fishes, XII 232.
 Urolophus, genus of fishes, XII 235, 238.
 Uromastix, genus of reptiles, XIX 31.
 Uronemus, genus of fossil fishes, XII 387; XVII 125.
 Uropoda, genus of arachnides, III 388.
 Uropterygius, genus of fishes, XII 232.
 Urosphen, genus of fossil fishes, XII 344.
 Urquhart (Sir Thomas), his account of the Admirable Crichton, VII 498, 500—said to have died in a paroxysm of laughter, VIII 192, *n* 1.
 Urquiza (General), XVII 781.
 Urrey (General), defeat of, V 406.
 Ursa, constellations, IV 79.
 Ursidius, VII 807.
 URSINUS (Fulvius), XXI 496.
 — (Benjamin), on logarithms, XIII 553.
 — (Zacharias), Gorman divine, XXI 496.
 Ursula, VII 307.
 — town in the Azores, IV 386.
 Ursus, genus of mammals, XIV 163—dentition of, XVI 462.
 Urticaceae, nat. order of plants, V 206.
 URUGUAY, South American state, XXI 496.
 — river, XXI 497; XVII 603, 782.
 URUMIYAH, town in Persia, XXI 497; XVII 421.
 — Persian lake, XVII 421.
 Urus, genus of mammals, XIV 214; IX 887.

URV—VAG

Urville (Captain Dumont d'), his antarctic expedition, X 475.
 Usbecks, III 751; IV 396—of Bukhara, V 768.
 Ushak, carpets of, XXI 384.
 USILAN, island, XXI 497.
 USHER (James), archbishop, XXI 497—date assigned by, to the Creation, VI 669—his MSS in Trinity College, Dublin, XIII 404—assisted Walton in publishing the Polyglott Bible, XXI 695.
 — (M), his steam-cultivator, II 367.
 Usia, genus of insects, IX 234.
 Usk, Welsh river, V 312—vale of, *ib*.
 USKUR, in Turkey, XXI 497.
 Ustaiz on the duties on provisions in Spain, XXI 72.
 Usteropitn, VII 761.
 Ustaca, island, XX 246.
 USTING, town in Russia, XXI 498.
 USURY, XXI 498—argument of Calvin respecting, I 233, XII 427, *n* 2—Benjamin on, I 398.
 Usury-laws, XII 427—committee of 1818 on, 430—repeal of, *ib*; benefits from that measure, VII 199.
 UTAH, XXI 498; XVII 594—Mormon settlement at, XV 599—language of, XIII 222. See Salt Lake.
 Utero-gestation, limits of, XIV 426. See Gestation, Pregnancy.
 Uterus, III 71—Dr Hunter on the anatomy of, XII 27, 31.
 UTICA, an ancient city of Africa, XXI 498—taken by the Romans, VI 300.
 — a town of the United States, XXI 498.
 Utilitarian theory of morals, XV 551, 553.
 Utility, the principle of, proclaimed by Bentham, I 395; fully discussed by Hume, 445—considered in relation to morals, 398, 417; IX 273.
 UTRECHT, XXI 499—university of, 492; XI 690—library of, XIII 422—political movements at, in 1784, V 525.
 — (Peace of), V 452—provisions of, in reference to Spain, XI 741.
 UTRERA, town of Spain, XXI 499.
 Urtroxez, in Stafford, XVI 499.
 Uvea in various animals, III 97.
 Uvula, III 48.
 Uwarowitz, mineral, XV 85.
 USBRIDGE, in Middlesex, XXI 499.
 Usual, runs at, II 697.
 Uz, a region and tribe mentioned in the Bible, XXI 499.
 Uzbecks, people of Bukhara, V 768.
 Uzhs, a town of France, XXI 499.
 Uzziel (Jonathan Ben), his targum, XIX 889.

V

V, letter of the alphabet, XXI 500—in abbreviations, II 20.
 Vacarius, XXI 462.
 VACCINATION, XXI 500—Jenner's discovery of, and researches into, XII 720, 729—attempts to introduce it into Persia, XVI 480—Extension Act, XX 006.
 Vacciniaceae, nat. order of plants, V 198.
 Vaccinag, Caledonian tribe, VI 74.
 Vacuum, ancient opinions regarding, IV 448, 449; VII 726—passage of electrical spark through, VIII 545—nature's supposed abhorrence of, XVIII 24—rush of air into, 68—in the steam-engine, XX 619—apparatus in some animals for producing a vacuum, III 101.
 — gauge, XX 689.
 — valves, XX 689.
 VAGA (Perino del), a Florentine painter, XXI 503.
 Vagh Ujhely, town in Hungary, XVI 165.
 Vagina, III 71.
 Vaginella, fossil mollusks, XVII 110, 111.
 Vaginulus, genus of mollusks, XV 374.
 Vagrancy, restraint of, XVIII 289—diminution of, 301.

VAI-VAL

- VAILLANT (Jean Foy), French numismatist, XXI 503.
 Vair, in heraldry, XI 325.
 Vaisyas, a Hindu caste, VI 318; XI 471.
 Vantapu Islands, XVIII 278.
 Val (Camille J du), his works on insects, IX 24.
 VALAIS, Swiss canton, XXI 504; XX 582.
 Valbonais (Bourchemé de), IV 779.
 VALCKENAE (Ludwig Kaspas), XXI 505—(Jan), XXI 605.
 VALDAI, XXI 505—mountains, XIX 514.
 Valdemar II and III of Denmark, VII 739.
 VALDENSES, or Waldenses, XXI 505; II 446.
 VALDEPENAS, town in Spain, XXI 510.
 Valdez (General), IV 833.
 VALDIVIA, in Chili, XXI 510, 547; VI 547.
 VALDO or Waldo (Peter), Lyonesse reformer, XXI 510.
 VALENCIENNES, French town, XXI 513.
 VALENCIA, Spanish province, XXI 512; XX 493—silk, 278.
 —town, XXI 513—university, 492.
 —town of Venezuela, XXI 513.
 VALENTIGNES, French town, XXI 513—lace, XIII 149—siege of, in 1793; X 79.
 —(M.), assist's Cuvier in a work on fishes VII 605—on fishes, XII 235 *et seq.*
 Valens, Roman emperor, VII 309.
 VALENTIA, XXI 513—Island, XIII 73—longitude of, 687.
 Valentiné, Andrea, a Roscruscan, XV 757.
 —(Basil), on sal-ammoniac, II 720—on brewing, V 318.
 Valentini on medical jurisprudence, XIV 423.
 Valentinian, Roman emperor, VII 309.
 VALENTINIANS, a Gnostic sect, XXI 513.
 Valentinité, XV 112.
 Valentinus, founder of Gnostic sect, X 688.
 Valerian, reign of, XIX 348; V 196.
 —Greek, V 200.
 —order of plants, V 196.
 Valerianaceae, nat. order of plants, V 196.
 Valerianus Magnus, discovery in pneumatics claimed by, XVIII 25.
 Valerius Corvus, XIX 303.
 —Flaccus, XXI 513. See Flaccus.
 —Lucas, X 504.
 —Maximus, his account of an enormous serpent, XIX 63.
 —(Poplicola), XIX 298.
 Valery on libraries, XIII 415, 416 *et seq.*
 Valasco de Taranto, surgeon, XX 817.
 Valeriana, II 738.
 Valerius Henrius. See Valois, Henri de.
 VALETTA, XXI 513; XIV 115, 116.
 Valette, La, XIV 114.
 Vallin (Mons), on collisions at sea, VII 131.
 VALLA (Lorenzo), or Laurentius, Latin scholar, XXI 513.
 Vallack (M.), his binocular telescope, XXI 134.
 VALLADOLID DE MEXICOACAN, XXI 514. See Mexico.
 —, in Spain, XXI 514—university of, 492.
 Vallancy (General), on Irish cromlechs, III 433.
 Vallée (General), II 575.
 Valley, great central valley of Syria, XX 902—relation of valleys to rivers, XIX 207.
 Vallneria, plant, V 69.
 Vallanieri (Antonio), his works on insects, IX 3.
 Vallombrosa, mountains of, XXI 502.
 VALLS, Spanish town, XXI 514.
 Valmy, battle of, XIII 69.
 VALOIS (Henri de), great French scholar, XXI 514.
 Valonia, Vallonea, or Valona, IV 330; XI 16—its use in tanning, XIII 306.
 Valparaiso, in Chili, VI 542, 548, 547; XXI 547.

VAL-VAR

- Valsalva, anatomist, II 764.
 Value of commodities, XVIII 210—by what regulated, 247—no fall in value of the precious metals, 477; but would be advantageous, 475—taxes estimated by value, XXI 38.
 Valve of steam-engines (cylinder), XX 551, valve-gear, 582 *et seq.*; expansion-valves, 585, 654; slide-valves, 596, 654 (see Slide-Valves)—stop-valve, 589—throttle-valve, ib., 599—valve-chest in steam-engines, 589, XXI 519.
 Valz, his micrometer, XIV 758.
 Vampire, XIV 148.
 Vampire-bat, XVII 632, XVI 452.
 VAN, town of Asiatic Turkey, XXI 514.
 —Diemen, Dutch governor of India, X 474.
 —DIEMEN'S LAND, XXI 520. See Tasmania.
 —DYCK (Sir Anthony), painter, XXI 520; III 711; XVII 56, 70, 75.
 —Elfen, Dutch author, XI 591.
 —Haen, (William and Onno), Dutch authors, XI 591.
 —Maum, his electrical machine, VIII 538—on the fusion of wires by electricity, 592—on the chemical agency of electricity, 595, its magnetic effects, 600; its influence on the pulse and on perspiration, 602, 603—on the electricity of melted bodies, 565—the effect of electricity on oaks, 602—his electrifying machine, 604.
 Vanadinite, mineral, XV 106.
 Vanadium, VI 404; XV 66.
 VANBRUGH (Sir John), architect and dramatist, XXI 515—his style of architecture, III 455—his dramatic works, VIII 162; XXI 173.
 VANCOUVER ISLAND, XXI 519, XVII 39—climate of, 612—gold-deposits in, XVIII 464.
 Vandals, X 577—monarchy of, XV 414—their irruption into Spain, XX 459—Rome occupied by, XIX 363.
 Vandelia, a genus of fishes, XII 253.
 Vander Hoeven, his work on insects, IX 15.
 Vander Vyck, XI 563.
 Vandermonde, on equations, IX 308, 314.
 Vanderlint (Jacob), on political economy, XVIII 218.
 Vanderveide (Captain), on fortresses as a means of defence, XXI 701—on the battle of Montebello, 712.
 VANDERVELDE (William) the younger, marine painter, XXI 520, 587, 588, 589.
 VANE (Sir Henry), XXI 522; V 404, 416—his mission to Scotland, 404.
 Vanceya, XI 92.
 Vanellus, genus of birds, XVI 797.
 Vanessa, XX 874. See Vanhomrigh.
 —genus of insects, XI 207.
 Vanga, genus of birds, XVI 748.
 Vanhomrigh (Miss Esther), IV 684; XX 874.
 Vanilla, V 211—its culture in Mexico, XIV 717—in Guatemala, XI 76.
 Vanity, monomania of, XIV 532.
 VANLOO (John Baptist and Charles Andrew), Flemish painters, XXI 522.
 VANMANDER (Charles), XXI 522.
 VANNES, French town, XXI 522.
 Vansittart (Mr), his financial operations, V 635—his alteration of the sinking fund, X 330, 331, 332.
 VANVITELLI (Louis), architect, XXI 522.
 Vaporization, XI 270.
 Vapour, XI 270; XX 563—in the atmosphere, IV 182—latent heat of, I 926—Dalton's researches on, 934—acts as a moving power in the atmosphere, XIV 646—precipitation of, 652—distribution of aqueous vapour in atmosphere, 657—vapour-tension, 675—air and vapour not uniformly mixed, XVIII 40—vapour-bath, IV 507. See Dew, Evaporation, Steam.
 VAR, in France, XXI 522.
 Varages or Varangians, XIX 469.
 Varanes, kings of Persia, XVII 435.
 Varanides, serpents, teeth of, XVI 433.

VAR-VAU

- Varanus, reptile, XIX 28.
 VARENIUS (Bernhard), first physical geographer, XXI 523.
 Variable stars, I 862.
 VARIATION, in music, XXI 523.
 —of the compass, XXI 523.
 —of the magnetic needle, XIV 2, 49; I 990 (see Needle), changes in it, XIV 51; annual, 52; diurnal, 53—causes of, 54—variation-charts, 49—compass, 80—transit, 81.
 —of parameters, I 810.
 VARIATIONS (calculus of), XXI 523. See Calculus.
 Varieties of animals, what, III 174—pilo-lic union among, 182—in plants, V 175.
 Vaignon (M.), I 609, 651—his defence of the new calculus, IX 676—on hydraulics, XIX 184, 185.
 Variscite, mineral, XV 74.
 Varley (Cornelius), on aquatinta engraving, VIII 802.
 —(C. F.), on electric telegraph, XXI 108, 111.
 VARNA, a seaport town of European Turkey, XXI 523—port of, IV 742—French and British troops at, XIX 502.
 VARNHAGEN VON ENSE (K. A. L. F.), XXI 524.
 —Rahel, XXI 524.
 VARNISH, XXI 526—Copal, VII 348—Florence, VIII 812—for lithographic printers' ink, XIII 518—use of, in etching, VIII 811, 812—for paper maché, XVII 261—varnishes on leather, XIII 910.
 Varolius (Constantius), or Varoli (Constantino) of Bologna, anatomical discoverer of, II 759.
 VARRO ATACINUS (P. T.), XXI 529.
 —(MARCUS TERENTIUS), XXI 527.
 Varus (Quintilius), X 378—his disaster in Germany, XIX 333.
 Varvacite, mineral, XV 111.
 Vasa (Gustavus). See Gustavus.
 VASARI (Giorgio), XXI 529—his opinion of Mommi, XIV 491—of Sebastiano, XX 29; XVII 67, 68—on painting, 49 *et seq.*
 Vasco (Gran), Portuguese painter, XVIII 809.
 Vascular system of the human body, II 806.
 —tissue of plants, V 65, 69.
 —system of leaves, V 88.
 Vase, Etruscan, IX 359; XVII 48—Greek, XVIII 431.
 VASILLI (Ivanovitch), XIX 473.
 VASRAL, XXI 529.
 VASTRO (U), town of Naples, XXI 529.
 Vat, immense size of, V 331.
 Vater (Abraham), on nervous papillae, II 816.
 —(JOHANN SEVERIN), XXI 529—on American languages, II 680—on the Pentateuch, XVIII 401, 402.
 Vatican, XIX 369, 367—library, 410—Mss. library of, XII 96.
 VATICANUS, circus, VI 734.
 —Codex, XIX 638.
 VATREI (Emmerich de), XXI 529—on the balance of power, IV 387, 388.
 Vattermæ (Alexander), on international exchanges of works, XIII 876.
 VAUBAN (S. le P. de), XXI 530—on fortification, IX 815—his first system, 817—his second and third systems, 820—on sieges, 822.
 VAUGANSON (Jacques), XXI 530—his automatic flute-player, III 137—his artificial duck, IV 320—museum formed by, XXI 322.
 VAULUSSE, in France, XXI 530—fountain of, VI 768; XVII 408.
 VAUD, Swiss canton, XXI 530; XX 582—population of, XV 602.
 VAUDOIS, XXI 531.
 Vaughan's blowing machine, IV 797.
 VAULX, XXI 531; III 514.
 Vaults, spherical, XX 780—arched, which intersect each other, or groins, 731—de-

VAU-VEL

- scending vaults, 732—medieval, 734—fan-vaulting, 735.
 Vauquelin's analysis of cerebral matter, II 817—of the yolk of wool, XXI 905.
 Vauquelinite, XV 106.
 Vauxhall Bridge, XII 583; XIII 676.
 Veal, XI 762.
 Veauromel (M. Caulet de), his work on Mesmerism, XX 419.
 Vecchia (Citta), in Malta, XIV 116.
 Vecht, river, XI 211.
 Vedanta philosophy, XVII 230.
 VEDAS, XXI 531; XI 468.
 VEGA CARRIO (Lope Felix de), XXI 531; VI 71—his plays, VIII 146—novels, XIX 286.
 —mathematical talents of, I 700—his murder, ib., n 2.
 Vegetable poisons, XIV 436—(see Poisons)—vegetable oils, XVI 494 (see Oils)—vegetable productions of Europe, IX 385, 386.
 Vegetables, electricity produced by, VIII 570—effects of electricity on, 608—monstrosities, XV 504—worship of, in Egypt, 765—Ingenhousz's experiments on, XII 380—their influence on the animal creation, 1b—action of poisons on, XVIII 134. See Botany, Plants, Timber, Trees, &c.
 Vegetation, a chemical process, VI 523.
 —physiognomy of, in different parts of the globe, V 223—statistics of, 224—zones of, ib., 226; zones of maine, 229—of the polar regions, XVIII 178.
 VEGETIUS-REXATUS (Flavius), XXI 532—on the Roman armies, III 629, 623, n 5.
 —(Publius), XXI 532.
 VEGLIA, island, XXI 532.
 VEHMIC, or Fehmle Counts, of Germany, XXI 532.
 VERR, an ancient Etrurian city, XXI 532.
 VERNIS in anatomy, II 792; III 65; XVII 653—their valves, II 794—origin and termination of, ib.—calibre and area, 795—mutual communications, 796, 795—generally accompany arteries in their course, 795, but not always, 1b—are they more superficial and less sheltered than arteries? 796—surgical treatment of dilatation of the, XX 829.
 —mineral, XV 177, 219, 220, 221—granite, 186—trap, 189—contents of, 192—of lava, 191—system of, 220—their affinities for particular rocks, 221—gold veins become attenuated downwards, 231—lead veins, 244—metals almost always found in, XVII 621—Werner on the formation of, XXI 884.
 VELASQUEZ (D. R. de S. J.), Spanish painter, XXI 533; III 712; XVIII 75—compared with Murillo, XV 694.
 Velatidae, zoophytes, XXI 1001.
 VELEZ BLANCO, XXI 534.
 —(MALAGA), XXI 534.
 —(RUBIO), XXI 534.
 Vella, genus of insects, IX 164.
 Veller, genus of fishes, XII 283.
 Velleius, Paternulus, XXI 243, 244.
 VELLETRI, Italian city, XXI 534—legation of, XVII 243.
 VELLORE, Hindu town, XXI 534.
 VELLUM, XXI 534—early printing on, XVIII 530. See Parchment.
 Velocipedes, XVIII 754.
 Velocity, VIII 344—principle of virtual and actual, I 651—scale of, VIII 852—of electricity, 543—of discharged bullets, XI 115 *et seq.*—of running water, 141, 142; XIX 188—of machinery, XIV 404—of air, XVIII 58, 59—rivers, XIX 182, 201; XVII 601—of ships, XX 6, 7—of light, XIII 460; XVI 552—of wind, XIV 651—law of virtual velocities, XX 548—relation of power to, in steam vessels, 663.
 Velocius (G. H.), his intended edition of Edris's Geography, VIII 412.
 Veltheim (Count), on cross-breeds of horses, XI 635.
 VELVET, XXI 534—method of dyeing it black, VIII 806.

VEL—VER

Velvet cotton, manufacture of, in France, X. 252.
 Vena contracta, XII 103, 104
 Venables (Col. R.), on pike-fishing, III 159—on angling, 163
 Venasson, French province, X. 277
 Venation of leaves, V. 88
 Vendace, fish, XII 243—in Dumfriesshire, VIII 238
 VENDOR, XXI 534—war in, X. 81; XXI 700
 Vendetta, XII 449.
 VENDOME, in France, XXI 537
 Venecomtes, Caledonian tribe, VI 74.
 VENEERING, XXI 535—in making encaustic tiles, XVIII 441—veneer-saws, XIX 677
 Venema, on imputed sin, XXI 205
 Veneration, XVII 562.
 Venereal disease, introduction into Europe, XX. 817—early writers on, *ib.*, *n.* 3—treatment of, 894
 Veneridae, family of mollusks, XV 350.
 Venerupis, genus of mollusks, XV 350—fossil, XVII 108.
 Venesection, XX 830 See Blood-letting
 Venetus (Paulus), XIV. 2
 VENEZUELA, in South America, XXI 535—height of mountains in, XVII 645.
 VENTOR, XXI 537; XII 651—Cosmographical Academy at, II. 62—war with the Algerines, 570—whether the parent of Gothic architecture, III 446, 447—church of St Mark, 448—school of painting, 710—siege of Athens, IV 173—government of, XIII 644, 645—commerce, causes of its incense, VII 186—glass manufacture, X. 659—libraries, XIII 416—rise of newspapers in, XVI 202—Bank of, XV. 488—early printing at, XVIII 522, 532—her power advanced by the Crusades, VII 530—rivalry with Genoa, X. 454—early navigation of, XVI 2—shipping, use of, XX 118, 124—invaded by Napoleon, 791—overthrow of the Republic by Napoleon, XV. 791—Venice white, XIII 302—defence against the Austrians, in 1850, XII 659—weights and measures, XXI 806—war with the Turks, 369. See Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom.
 Venison, IX. 762.
 VENIO, or VENTIO, in Holland, XXI 539
 VENOSA, a town of Naples, XXI 539
 VENTILATION, XXI 539—of collieries, &c., VII 123—of mines, XV 225—of hot-houses, XI 725, 756—bee-hives, IV. 574—by means of gas, X. 427—conducive to health, XIV. 440—ventilating shafts in the streets of London, III 497—its importance for the preservation of timber, XXI 279—in ships, 280—failure of Davy in attempting to ventilate the House of Commons, VII 670.
 VENTON, in Isle of Wight, XXI 542, 562
 Ventricles, of the brain, III 53—of the heart, 63; XVII 661.
 Ventriculites, fossil sponges, XVII 93.
 VENTRILOQUISM, XXI 542, XVII 680
 Venturi (Prof.), on hydrodynamics, XII 73, 117, 119, 120, 181—on the viscosity of water, I. 887.
 VENUS, goddess, XXI 543—nativity of, XV 764—of Paphos, XVII 261—a temple of, in Sicily, XX. 245.
 — de Medici, IX. 666
 — fly-tap, plant, V. 108.
 — genus of mollusks, XV. 850, 847.
 — PLANET, XXI 543; IV. 65, 90—phenomena of, 51—variations of its orbit, 106—atmosphere of, 66—transit of, 62, 63—perturbation of the earth by, I. 825. See Astronomy
 VERA, town in Spain, XXI 543.
 — Cruz, Mexican State, XXI 543; XIV. 725, 718—city founded by Cortes, VII 418—plundered by the buccaneers, V 711.
 Veracity of the Deity, XXI 191.
 — in a historian, XI. 546.
 Verary (Signor), on mollusks, XV. 327.

VER—VER

VERAQUA (Santiago de), XXI 543.
 Verado (Charles), on historical plays, VIII 145
 Verat, work of, on animal magnetism, XX. 445.
 Verberna, V. 202—oil of, XVI 497—re-garded with superstition by the Druids, V 202
 Verbenaceae, nat order of plants, V. 202
 Verbruggen, XXI 174
 Verbs, X. 761, 790—inflection of, XIII 189—in Egyptian grammar, XI 424, 427
 VERCELLI, in Sardinia, XXI 543; XIX 640
 VERDE, Islands of Cape, XXI 543; II. 229—antique, XV 92.
 Verdegins, VII 351.
 VERDEN, XXI 546.
 VERDUN, French city, XXI 546.
 Veie (Sir Francis), XI. 572
 VERENA, Russian city, XXI 546
 VERELIUS (Olaus), XXI 546
 Veretelliformes, zoophytes, XXI 986
 VERGE, in law, XXI 546.
 VERGES, XXI 546.
 VERGILIUS (Polydorus), XXI 546
 Veigmand, X. 82, 83
 Vermego, river, IV 823
 Vermetus, genus of mollusks, XV. 383—fossil, XVII 101
 VERMORELLI, XXI 546, XIII 758.
 Vermicularia, fossil mollusks, XVII 101.
 Vermiculite, mineral, XV 80
 Vermiformes, zoophytes, XXI 986.
 Vermigrada, zoophytes, XXI 984.
 VERMILION, XXI 546, VI 498.
 VERMIN, XXI 546—on the domestic animals, 579.
 VERMONT, American state, XXI 550, 419—wine of, 888.
 Vernation, V 86.
 VERNET (C. J.), painter, XXI 551.
 — (Horace), III 719.
 Verneul (M de), on the geology of Spain, XX 484, 485.
 VERNON (Edward, Admiral), XXI 551—his expedition against Portobello and Cartagena, V. 458
 — French city, XXI 551.
 — (Mount), Washington's residence, XXI 753, 761, 764.
 Vermauyden, an embanker, VIII 643
 VERONA, in Italy, XXI 551—Academy of Sciences at, II 62—amphitheatre, 731—ancient painters of, XVII. 69—Congress of, in 1822, X. 184.
 VERONSE (Paul), painter, XXI 552; VI 59; III 710; XVII. 71. See Caplani
 Veronica, legend of her handkerchief, XII 765.
 Veronella, genus of mollusks, XV 374
 Verres, impeachment of, XIX. 322—Cicero's oration against, VII 717.
 Verri (Count de), on political economy, XVIII 222.
 Verradino (Andrea), painter and sculptor, XIX 861
 Verrucca, fossils, XVII 101.
 VERSAILLES, XXI 552—aqueduct from Marly to, III. 336—palace of, 453—population of, X. 277—accident on the railway of, 219
 Verse, in poetry, XIX. 254.
 VERSETZ, Hungarian city, XXI 552.
 VERT, in heraldry, XXI 552; XI 324.
 — and venison, XX. 209.
 Vertebrate, human, III 4, 5, 6, 7, 8—muscles of the, 38—of mammalia, 75; of birds, 83; of reptiles, 86; of fishes, 89; of serpents, XIX. 43.
 Vertebrate, II. 771, 772; IX. 59; XII. 205; characteristics of, III. 185, 192—classes of, 192—fossil, XVII. 115—number known, 681
 Vertical, in astronomy, IV. 1.
 Vertigo, disease, in the domestic animals, XXI. 574.
 VERTOR (René Aubert de), XXI 552.
 VERTUE (George), XXI 553.
 Vertumen (Francis), his Scaligeriana, II. 787.
 VERULAM, XXI 553. See Bacon.
 VERN (Lucius), XIX. 344.

VER—VIC

Vervain, order of plants, V 202—esteemed by the Druids, VIII 188
 VERNIERS, in Belgium, XXI 553
 VESALIUS (Andreas), XXI 553, XX. 817; II 758—his character of Dubois or Sylvius, 757—his anatomical discoveries, 758
 Vespa, genus of insects, IX. 197
 VESPASIAN, Roman emperor, XXI 553, XIX. 339—his war with the Jews, XII. 773; VIII 472—Egypt under, *ib.*—Colosseum built by, II 730
 VESPER, XXI 553
 Vespertilionidae, XIV 146.
 Vespertilio, XIV 149.
 Vespurnia, insects, IX 196
 VESPUCCI (Amerigo), navigator, XXI 553—first published an account of the New World, X. 472—his voyages to Brazil, V 279.
 Vessels of plants, anatomy of, V. 69, spinal, 70; laciferous, 71, 72, physiology of, 71
 VESTA, XXI 554
 — match, XIV 352.
 — planet, IV. 69—discovery of, *ib.*; III. 808
 VESTALS, XXI 554.
 VESTIBULE, XXI 554.
 — of the ear, III 46
 VESTRY of a church, XXI 554.
 Vesuvian, mineral, XV. 85.
 VASUVIUS, XXI 554, 505; XX. 237, 240—electricity of the air on, VIII. 578—eruption which destroyed Herculaneum and Pompeii, XI. 344—height of the mountain, XVII 643, XII 637
 VESZPRIM, or Wespriin, town in Hungary, XXI 554
 Vetches, culture of, III 312, 328—folding sheep upon, 329
 Veterano, VII. 303.
 VETERINARY SCIENCE, XXI 554; XI 671; II 357
 Veto Act, V 669; VI 405
 Vettori (Francisco), Machavelli's letter to, XIII 781.
 VEVAY, Swiss town, XXI 580.
 Vexillum, in botany, V. 124
 Viadana (L.), XV. 720.
 VIADUCT, XXI 580, XII 597—over Tweed at Berwick, IV 582—Crumlin, XII 597—on railways, XVIII 762
 VIANA, in Portugal, XXI 580.
 VIABOGGIO, XXI 580.
 VIATKA, XXI 580, XIX. 521.
 VIZAMA, XXI 580
 Vibration of musical instruments, II. 107, 109—of a musical string, XV. 702—of air, XVIII. 70.
 Vibrio, genus of animalcules, III. 200.
 Viburnum, genus of plants, XVII. 704.
 VICAR, XXI 580; VIII. 743; XVII. 309
 Vicary (Thomas), II. 760.
 Vicar on mortars, XX. 714
 Vico, Aristotle on, III. 565—according to Socrates, a mistake of the judgment, XX. 398, 401.
 Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, XXI 550.
 VIENNA, XXI 580.
 VIOIR, XXI 581.
 Vichy, mineral waters of, XV. 39.
 Vici on hydraulics, XII. 74; VII. 2.
 Vick (H. de), his clock, VII. 2.
 Vico (G. Battista), XXI 581—on the growth and decay of nations, XI 544 *et seq.*
 — lake, XVII 242
 Vico D'Azyr on the brain, II. 762, 820.
 Vicramaditya, Indian king, XVII 519—era of, VI 676.
 Victor Amadeus, Valdonese persecuted by, XXI 500.
 — (CLAUDE PIERRE), marshal of France, XXI 582; X. 154.
 — (J.), his works on insects, IX. 22.
 — meannic patient, XX. 422, 423.
 — (SEXTRUS A.), Latin historian, XXI. 582.
 Victoria, XIV. 711, 712.
 — and Albert, steam-yacht, described, XX. 665.
 — Bridge, at Montreal, XV. 522.
 — Docks, London, XIII. 661.

VIC—VIL

Victoria Falls, in the Zambesi, XVII 608.
 — in Hong-Kong, XI 615.
 — Land, X. 475, XVII 581.
 — Park, London, XIII 608
 — planet, IV. 91
 — Port, in New Zealand, XVI 235
 — or Port-Philip, XXI 582—history of, IV 286—gold discovery in, 289—produce of the gold-fields, 290—population and immigration, 291—commerce, 292—Times newspaper on the recent progress of, *ib.*—geological survey of, XV 205—gold-fields of, 292—tin from, 241—yield of gold in, 463, 464 See Australia.
 — town in Mexico, XIV. 728
 — water-lily, V. 181—discovery of, XI 82.
 — president of the Mexican republic, XIV 711, 712
 — Queen, the accession of, V. 665; marriage, 667, visit to Glasgow, X. 647, Eu, 226; Paris, 238, and Jersey, XII 730
 Victualing establishments, at Deptford, VIII 80, at Chatham, 82; Portsmouth, XVIII 379, Plymouth, VIII 84, XVIII 20, late Victualing Board, VIII. 86.
 Vieuna, IV 823, 824, XVII. 473.
 VINA (Marco Giuliano), XXI 582
 Vidi (M.), his aneroid barometer, IV. 459.
 Vidua, genus of birds, XVI 761
 Vidusta, river, XII 755
 VIELLE, instrument, XXI 583
 Viollet on birds, XVI 729, 730, 731.
 Vien (J. Marie), painter, XXI 583.
 VIENNA, XXI 583—Academy of Surgery, II 63; of the Fine Arts, 68—university, IV 318; XXI 492—libraries, XIII. 417, 419—newspapers of, XVI. 201—porcelain factory, XVIII. 436—provisions made by the Congress of, V. 614—conferences of, in 1855, XIX. 507—besieged by the Turks, XXI. 369, 370—measures, 806—weights, 807.
 VIENNE, in France, XXI 586
 — (HAUTE), in France, XXI 586;
 XII. 626
 VIERZON, French city, XXI 587.
 VIETA (Francis), XXI 587, X. 504—his improvements in algebra, I. 568, II 485, 486, 505—in trigonometry, I. 559, 560—his Apollonius Gallus, III. 302
 Vieussens (Raymond), anatomical discoveries of, II. 763, 764.
 Vigora (J. P.), V. 282
 VIGAN, town of France, XXI 587.
 VIGIER (François), XXI 587.
 VIGEVANO, in the kingdom of Sardinia, XXI. 587
 VIGGIANO, town in Naples, XXI 587.
 VIGILANTIUS, reformer, XXI 587.
 VIGNOLA, architect, XXI. 588; III. 452.
 Vigny (Alfred de), French poet, XVIII. 117—his Cinq Mars, XIX. 290.
 VIGO, town in Spain, XXI 588.
 Vigogna, in zoology, XIV. 205.
 Vigors (Mr), his classification of animals, III 173—of birds, 191, *n.* 2—on generic divisions of animals, XVI. 736
 VIKINGER, VIII. 657; XIX. 745.
 Villet's burning mirrors, VI. 9, 10.
 Villa, Roman (modern), XIX. 369.
 — (A.), entomologist, IX. 18.
 — (FRANCO), XXI. 588—peace of, in 1859, XIX. 645.
 Villa-Real, in Spain, XXI. 588.
 Villa-Rica, climate of, V. 293.
 VILLARVOVSA, in Spain, XXI. 588.
 VILLALON, in Spain, XXI. 588.
 Villaponda on Solomon's temple, III. 430.
 Villaret-Joyeuse, French admiral, V. 554.
 VILLARS (L. II., Duke of), marshal, XXI. 588; V. 451.
 Villarsite, mineral, XV. 80.
 Ville (A. de), on fortification, IX. 814.
 — (de la), on Persian stones, VI. 566.
 Ville-Franche, X. 405; meteorolite found near, XIV. 661.
 Villagagnon (St. D. de), V. 281.
 Villegas, poetry of, XVIII 115.
 VILLIE (M. de), X. 188—fall of his ministry, 194.

VIL—VIN

- VILLENA, a Spanish city, XXI 589
 VILLENAGE, XXI 589—a species of slavery, XX 321.
 Villeneuve (Admiral), XVI 138; X 136
 Villot (Marshall de), his campaigns against the Duke of Marlborough, V 448 *et seq*
 VILLES (C F D de), XXI 589
 —on balance of power, IV 390
 Villi of the ileum, III 60—of the mucous membrane, XVII 660.
 Villiers (Charles), his fictitious work on mesmerism, XX 424
 —(Charles de), his work on insects, IX 7.
 —(F), his work on insects, IX 17.
 —(George), Duke of Buckingham, XXI 589—his visit to Spain with Prince Charles, V 387—impeachment of, 390—war with France excited and mismanaged by, 391—assassination of, 392—Bacon's letters to, IV 354, 356—his connection with Bacon, 354
 —(George), second Duke of Buckingham, XXI 589—his rehearsal, VIII 161, 202.
 —and Bowring's Report on our commercial relations with France, X 253, extract from, 258
 VILLOIS (J B G D'Anse de), XXI 589
 VILNA, or Wilna, XXI 589, 590; XIX 521
 VILVOORDEN (F. Vilvoorde), town in Belgium, XXI 590
 Vimera, battle of, V 663; XXI 821, 708, 713
 Viminal Hill, XIX 356, 357.
 Vimont (Dr), his collection of skulls, XVII 563—on the skulls of animals, 565—on the varied size of the frontal sinus, 567, n
 Vinago, genus of birds, XVI 704.
 VINAROS, town of Spain, XXI 590.
 Vince (Dr), great atmospheric refraction observed by, XVI 601
 —(Mr), his experiments on hydraulics, XII 148, 161, 162—on the resistance of fluids, 161.
 VINCOENNES, in France, XXI 590
 Vincent (Bory de), on lizards, XIX 28—his division of the indigenous Americans, II 676.
 —(Dr), on the Greek verb, VIII 92 and n. 1.
 —(Dr), on the periplus of the Erythraean Sea, II 206.
 —(Earl St), XXI 590; XVI 134; V 559.
 —(J. C. Maria), VIII 374
 Cape, battle of, V 559, XII 718;
 XVI 134—Rodney's victory at, V 493.
 Gulf of, XXI 590.
 —(St), island of, XXI 590—culture of the bread-fruit in, V 301.
 VINCI (Leonardo da), XXI 590—first distinctly stated the principle of the effects of oblique force, I 718—his character as a painter, III 709, XVII 63, 72—on experiment, X 377, n. 1—on pictorial invention, XV 737—his anatomical knowledge, XIV 458—his fresco of the Last Supper, XV 3
 VINCULUM, in algebra, XXI 591.
 Vindingius (Paul), on anonymous books, IV 711.
 Vine, order of plants, V 187—grape-vine, ib—dwarf-vine, XII 445.
 —culture and variety of, XI 707—in the Two Sicilies, XX 248—France, X 247—Palestine, XVII 190—Spain, XX 489—Portugal, XVIII 897—Russia, XIX 520—mode of training in Lombardy, XIII 656—in Madeira, 708—vine disease, X 246 n. 247. See Oldium, Vineyards.
 Vinegar, IX 760, 765—making of, 767—for preserving vegetables, 768.
 —Bible, XVIII 543.
 —oil, III 200
 —Hill, XII 499
 —plant, V 217.
 Vinery, XI 727—kinds of vines for, 708.
 VINET (A. R.), XXI 591—his hymns, XII 190

VIN—VIS

- Vineyards, ancient Egyptian, VIII 427—in the Cumea, VII 508—in New South Wales, IV 280—in Prussia, XVIII 668. See Vine, Wine
 Vinland, II 698
 VINNITZA, Russian town, XXI 592.
 Vinovium, VIII 267.
 VINTRIGLIA, Italian town, XXI 592
 VIOLA, musical instrument, XXI 592, V 709—d'Amore, XXI 592—di Gamba, ib.
 Violaceae, nat. order of plants, V 183.
 Violet, dyeing of, VIII 311
 —order of plants, V 183.
 Violette (M), on the preparation of charcoal for gunpowder, XI 154, n
 VIOLIN, XXI 592, XV 709—Cicmona violins, VII 491
 VIOLONCELLO, XXI 592, XV 709
 VIOLONE (or Double Bass), XXI 592
 VIOTRI (G B), XXI 592.
 Vipoi, XIX 70—Fontana on the poison of, IX 753—used as a remedy for consumption, 763—poison of, XIX 45—flesh as diet, 49—distribution of, 52—poisonous bite of, XIV 440
 Vipera, genus of serpents, XIX 70
 Virae, a town of France, XXI 593.
 Virey, his definition of animal and plant, III 169—his classification of animals, 184—on spiders, 377—on the instincts of insects, IX 55.
 VIRGIL, XXI 593—translation of, by Gavin Douglas, VIII 118, 119—poetry of, XVIII 95, 104—patronised by Maecenas, XIII 807—his description of the horse, XI 633—on breeding horses, 636—Warton's edition and translation of the Eclogues and Georgics, XXI 733—Pitt's translation of the *Æneid* compared with that of Dryden, XVIII 721—Cunningham's editions, VII 587—on dew, 765
 —(Polydore). See Vergilius.
 Virgilia lutea, XVII 762.
 Virgum (General), his system of fortification, IX 356.
 —Islands, XXI 599
 —Gorda, island, XXI 599
 VIRGINIA, XXI 597; 419—dolt of, 428—colonisation of, 432—wines, 884—pine timber of, 275—tobacco, 293, 294—newspapers of, XVI 195.
 —Roman virgin, XIX 300.
 Virginit, signs of, XIV 428.
 Viriathus, insurrection of, XX 458.
 Virility, XIV 425
 Virot on the Deists, VII 701.
 Virtue, Aristotle on, III 558, 562, 563; XV 558—conditions of, 560—principle of, 561—principles concurrent with, 564—measure and practical rule of, ib—Socrates on, XX 378.
 Vis inertia, VIII 330—vis insita, ib 323.
 Viscidity, XX 749, 750—of water, XIX 197.
 Visconti, Italian family, XII 650; XVII 497, 499.
 Viscosity of fluids, I 887.
 Viscoux, XXI 600; XI 336.
 Viscous or plastic theory of glacial motion, X 639.
 Visdell's account of the Chinese book, Y-king, VII 243.
 VISEU, Portuguese city, XXI 600.
 VISHNI, or Vishmon, XXI 600; V 723; VII 716; XI 463; V 762.
 VISHNEV-VOLATOK, town in Russia, XXI 600.
 Visigoths, X 8, 727, 728.
 Vision, XIV 565; XVII 677, 678—observations on the new theory of, I 65—a fallacy in Berkeley's work on, 244—chief aim of Berkeley's work, 164—misapprehensions of the ancients on this subject, ib—Voltaire's explanation of, 166, n—progress made previously to Berkeley, 167—Dr Young on the physiology of, 900—Wheatstone on, 925—acute in the Arabs, III 348—Aristotle on, 549—single vision with two eyes, XIV 678; XIII 469; XVII 678—field of vision, XIV 572—binocular

VIS—VOL

- vision, XX 688—erect vision by inverted image, XIV 574—organs of vision in fishes, XII 291—in mollusks, XV 323—myriapoda, 747—bees, IV 575—sense of, in man, XIV 565, XVII 677. See Apparitions, Blind, Eye, Optics.
 Vision (The), clipper-ship, XX 198
 VISTULA, river, XXI 600, XVII 605, 647, XIX 516; XVIII 662.
 Vitaceae, nat. order of plants, V 187
 Vital phenomena, XVII 655—vital statistics, XVIII 886
 VITEBSK, in Russia, XXI 600.
 Vitellio on optics, XVIII 158—on light, XIII 440; XVI 523
 Vitellius, Roman emperor, XIX 339
 VITERBO, in Italy, XXI 600—delegation, XVII 243.
 Vitigis, king of the Goths in Italy, XII 641
 VITORIA, Spanish city, XXI 601; II 440—battle of, V 613; XXI 826
 VITRÆ, a town of France, XXI 601.
 Vitreous humour of the eye, III 44; XVII 678
 —electricity, VIII 535, 537—discovery of, 525
 Vitruvian forts. See Forts
 Vitruva, molluscs, XV 373
 Vitulol, green or non-red, blue, white, cobalt, XV 97, 98
 VITRUVIUS POLLIO (Marcus), XXI 601—as an architect, III 431—on architecture, 432—on the origin of the Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian orders, 441, 442—little merit of his works, 450—modern followers of, ib, 477—revival of his architectural rules in Italy, 451—on dial, VII 774—on encaustic painting, XVII 52—his description of Roman baths, IV 505. See Architecture, *passim*.
 VITRY-LE-FRANÇAIS, XXI 601.
 VITRORIA, in Sicily, XXI 601.
 —in Spain. See Vitoria
 Viverra, in zoology, XIV 166
 Viverride, dentation of, XVI 460
 VIVIANI, XXI 601
 VIVEX (J. L), or Ludovicus, XXI 601; I 15—ancients and moderns, compared by, 30.
 —a disease in cattle, XXI 564
 Vivian (Andrew), his connection with Trevithick, I 882.
 Viviani, III 301; IV 450—his restoration of the conies of Apollonius, XX 300.
 Vivianaceae, nat. order of plants, V 184.
 Vivianite, mineral, XV 100.
 Viviparous animals, II 772
 VIZAGAPATAM, XXI 601, 602.
 VIZETELLY, his patent for plates for printing surfaces, XVII 553.
 VIZIR, Turkish, XXI 379.
 Vlaeg (Adrian), on logarithms, XIII 554
 VLADIMIR, in Russia, XXI 602; XIX 621—university of, 592.
 —king of Russia, XIX 471.
 Vlaming, his discovery of the island of Amsterdam, IV 268
 VLSINGEN (or Flushing), Dutch town, XXI 602.
 Vocation, or calling, in theology, XXI 218.
 VOCATIVE CASE, XXI 602; X 749.
 Vochniaceae, nat. order of plants, V 191
 VOCHT (Gisbert), XXI 602—his emulsi to Descartes, VI 279.
 —(John), XXI 603.
 —(J. E.), his works on insects, IX 6.
 Vogel (Dr), his expedition to Africa, X 479—his description of the Trona Lukes of Fezzan, IX 581—on the botany of Fezzan, ib.
 VOGHERA, in Sardinia, XXI 603.
 Vogt (M), on the mollusca, XV 387.
 —on rare books, IV 709.
 Voice, XVII 679—in man, III 8, 50—in brutes, 101—mechanism of, XV 708—compasses of voices and instruments, 714.
 VOITURE (Vincent), XXI 603.
 Volborhtite, mineral, XV 104.
 Volcanic rocks, XV 181, 185—form and positions of, 180—origin of, 192—vol-

VOL—VOL

- canic districts of Italy, XII 636—volcanic formations, XVII 587, 589—linear arrangement of, ib—number of, ib—on the coast line of the Pacific, 590.
 VOLCANOES, XXI 603—of Arabia, III 357—Europe, IX 384—Iceland, XII 198, 201—Japan, 689—Java, 709—in Hawaii, XVIII 271—in Kamtschatka, XIII 40—Mexico, XIV 714—Nicaragua, XVI 244—Sumatra, XX 802—San Salvador, XIX 623—theory of meteoric stones projected from, XIV 633—ejection of ash by, XII 260—great age of volcanoes, XV 218—distance to which volcanic ashes have been carried, VI 774—antiquity volcano, X 475—Dolomieu on, VII 95, 96—Lavery on, VII 672—volcanic products as materials for mortars, XX 714—mud volcano of Macallaba, III 394; X 632; of Iceland, XII 202; Java, 703, New Zealand, XVI 252, small ones near Modena called Salzes, III 293. See Vesuvius, &c
 VOLGA, river, XXI 607, IX 384; XVII 606, 647; XIX 615
 VOLHYNIA, in Russia, XXI 607; XIX 521.
 Volition, XIV 582—power of, in overcoming pain, XX 416, XIX 111, 112—laws of, 118. See Will.
 VOLNEY (C F C, Comte de), XXI 608—on Idumea, XII 358, 359—on the Druses, VIII 197, 199.
 VOLOGDA, XXI 608; XIX 521.
 Vologoses, XVII 312.
 VOLSCI, XXI 608.
 VOLTA (Alessandro), XXI 608; I 737 and n. 2, 961—his early experiments, ib—his electrophorus and condenser, ib—his straw electrometer, 962—on atmospheric electricity, ib—his electrometer, ib—practical character of his inventions, 963—his invention of the pile known by his name, 739, 961, VIII 530, XXI 609—his letters to Cavallo, I 963—Copley Medal conferred on, ib—his theory of electro-motion, 964—his description of the pile, ib—distinctions conferred on, 965—death and scientific character, ib, 966—contrasted with Galvani, 968—experiments of, VIII 531—his theory of hail, 686—his electrophorus, 606—condensing electrometer, 614—flame electrometer, 622—electric lamp, 625—electric pistol, 626—his discoveries, XXI 609
 Volta-electric induction, I 979.
 Voltaic battery, its use in blasting, IV 757
 —ELECTRICITY, XXI 609; VIII 530, I 963 *et seq*—progress of, 966—decomposition by means of, VII 608, 609—resuscitation of drowned persons by, VIII 183. See Pile of Volta, and Volta.
 —lights, in lighthouses, XIII 480.
 —pile, XXI 609. See Volta, and Pile of Volta.
 VOLTAIRE (F. M. A. de), XXI 606—his estimate of Montaigne, I 63—of La Rochefoucauld, 64—on innate ideas, 251—clearly understood Berkeley's theory of vision, 165, n. 1—Madame de Staël's division of his literary life into two epochs, 377—advocated liberty at one time and necessity at another, 278—on the force of a moving body, 656—helped to establish the Newtonian philosophy in France, 693—his character of La Buzyère, V 704—his Commentary on Boccaccio, IV 567—his visit to Congreve, VII 248—his History of the Crusades, 627—on the Italian opera, VIII 147—his improvement of theatrical costume, ib—his dramatic works, ib—on Dryden, 203—on the moral doctrines of Christ, XII 762—his opinion of Machiavel, XIII 781—poetry of, 117—romances of, XIX 288—his character of John Bernoulli, IV 674—his opposition to sacerdotal power, XI V 402—on Rollin's Ancient History, XIX

VOL—WAA

- 251—his opinion of Pope, XVIII 324—
of Massillon, XIV. 344—his friendship
with Frederick the Great, XVIII 654
—on the Abbé Dubois' work on Poetry
and Painting, VIII 228—on Racine's
Tragedies, XVIII 745—on the Man of
the Iron Mask, XII. 537.
Voltaite, mineral, XV 97.
Voltameters, I 984; XXI 619.
Volta-type, I 987; XXI 636. See Electro-
type.
VOLTERRA, XXI 670.
VOLTURNO, XXI 670, XII. 638, XX.
287.
Voltzine, mineral, XV 131.
Volucella, genus of insects, IX 242.
VOLUME, XXI 670
Voluntary Controversy, XVIII 500.
—system of supporting ministers, I
542.
Volunteer armaments, XXI 700—volun-
teers of 1803, V 597.
Voluspa, XV 767.
Voluta, genus of mollusks, XV 385
VOLTURA, in architecture, XXI 670; III.
514—Ionic, 465, 515.
Volutidae, family of mollusks, XV 384—
fossil, XVII 110.
Volvaria, genus of mollusks, XVII 110,
111.
Volvox, genus of animalcules, III 199.
Vomer, bone of the head, III 23
—fish, XII 287—fossil, 345.
Vondel, Dutch dramatist, XI 591.
VONDER, XXI 670.
Voorhies (W. Van), on the population of
California, VI 98.
Voicacy, cases of, VIII 23—of the pike,
III 158.
VORONOV, in Russia, XXI 670, 671; XIX.
521
VORISMARTY (M.), Hungarian poet, XXI
671; XII 20
VORST (Conrad), XXI 671.
Vorticella convallaria, XV 321.
Vos (Martin de), Dutch painter, XXI 671.
—(Simon de), XXI 671
VOSGERS, in France, XXI 671; XIX 143.
Voss (J. Heinrich), XXI 672.
Vossius (Gerard John), German scholar,
XXI 672—on the extent of the Deluge,
VI 722.
—(Isaac), XXI 673—on Apollo, III.
299
Vouet (Simon), painter, XVII 76
Voussiers of right arches, XX 728.
Voting by ballot, IV 399, 400.
Vowels, pronunciation of, XVII 679—in
Egyptian language, XI 414—vowel-
points, XVII 521—in short-hand writ-
ing, XX 676.
Voysey on diamonds, VIII 2.
VULCAN, XXI 673.
VULCANO, island, XXI 673; XIII 502;
XX 246.
Vulgar fractions, III 597
VULGATE, XXI 673; IV 701, XIX 840
—inaccurate edition of, XVIII 543.
Vulliamy (M.), on clock-making, VII 19,
21, 22.
Vulpinite, minerals, XV 96.
Vulsella, genus of mollusks, XV 347, 348.
Vultur, genus of birds, XVI 738.
Vulture, XVI 738; XVII 633—bearded,
740; black, 739—Californian, 738—cane-
reous, ib.—fulvous, ib.—gingi, 740—
king, 739—vultures in Egypt, VIII 433.
—Mount, XX 236.
Vulturidae, family of birds, XVI 738.
Vulva, III 71.
Vyneck (Vander), History of Flanders, XI.
563.
Vyse (General), his discoveries, XI 370,
411; VIII 500—value of his re-
searches, 502.

W

W, letter of the alphabet, XXI 674.
Waagen (Dr) on Kup's pictures, XIII.
137.

WAB—WAL

- Wabash, river, XII 362, 373
WACE (Robert), poet, XXI 674
Wacke, rock, XV 135
Wad, mineral, XV 112.
Wadan, IX 528
WADDING (Luke), XXI 674.
Wade (Thomas) on dry rot, VIII 207,
208, 209, 212
Waders, order of birds, XVI 794
Wadham College, Oxford, XXI 459.
Wadi Doan, in Arabia, III 357.
—Tuamak, XVIII 819
WADSTROM (Carl Berns), XXI 674
Wady, Arabian guardian, III 352
Wagers, law of, X 394
WAGES, XXI 674—acts regulating, VII
376, n—their increase reduces the pro-
fit of stock, 380—effect of high prices
of provisions on, ib—effect of their
fluctuation on value, XVIII 248—taxes
on, XXI 47—variations in the natural
rate of, ib—supply of labour not
speedily accommodated to these varia-
tions, 48—advantages of a rise of, 48—
disadvantages of a fall, ib—raised by
taxes on raw produce, 64—combina-
tions to raise, VII 160—act of 1350
regulating, 161—increased in propor-
tion to taxation, XXI 41—in Dumfries-
shire, VIII 237—in California, XVIII
466—in Australia, 467—rise of owing
to emigration, ib—in United States,
XXI 425—of woollen manufactures,
919
WAIRS, XXI 680
Waggons, for railways, XVIII 781, 782,
788
Wagon steam boiler, XX 615, 587.
Wagler on birds, XVI 793
Wagnerite, mineral, XV 74
Wagram, battle of, X 152; XXI 711
Wagtail, bird, XVI 756.
Wahabyz, III 363; VIII 498
Wahlenberg on the vegetation of Lap-
land, XIII 235
Wailes (Mr) on the geological relations of
insects, IX 72.
Waitemata, in New Zealand, XVI 283,
284
Wako (Mr), his account of a defence against
the sepoy insurrection of 1857, XVI
211
WAKEFIELD (Gilbert), XXI 680—Her-
mann's character of, VII 580, n. 7.
—in Yorkshire, XXI 680; battle of,
VIII 690.
—(Mr), on the corn laws, VII 385.
WAKES, XXI 682.
WALACHIA, XXI 682—language of, IX.
391, XI 22; XIII 214—weights and
measures of, XXI 814. See Moldavia
Walachians in Hungary, XII 11—in Tur-
key, XXI 378
WALCH (J. Georg), German divine, XXI.
684.
—(J. B. IMMANUEL), XXI 684.
—(C. W. FRANZ), XXI 684.
—(KARL FRIEDRICH), XXI 684.
WALCHEREN, Dutch Island, XXI 684—
British expedition to, V 607.
Walchowite, mineral, XV 124.
Walckenaer (C. A.), his works on insects,
IX 18—on spiders, III 390.
Walckenaer de St. Amand, his electrical
machine, VIII 605.
WALDECK, in Germany, XXI 684
WALDENBERG, or Valdenses, XXI 685. See
Valdenses.
Waltheim (G. F. de), his works on insects,
IX 14.
Waldheima, genus of mollusks, XV 338.
WALDO, XXI 685. See Waldo.
Waldstatter See, XX 889.
WALDES, XXI 685—extent in square miles,
VIII 715—cattle, II 842—invalued by
Egbert, VIII 557—annexed to the
English crown, 680—Owen Glendower's
insurrections, 687—population, 755—
iron manufactures of, XII 574—Silu-
rian rocks in, XV 196—carboniferous
rocks, 201, 208—gold in, 233—load
mines of, 244—friendly societies in, X
810—arms of, XI 828—Calvinistic me-

WAL—WAL

- thodists, XIV 693—Welsh language, V.
374
WALLS (Prince of), XI 386, XIX 456
—(New South), XXI 685. See Aus-
tralia
Wallerdin's thermometers, XXI 224, 225
Walker on the revival of the drama in
Italy, VIII 143, 148
—on the orbit of Uranus and Nep-
tune, I 832
—on the discharge of the Tay, XVI.
88
—(Sir Baldwin), surveyor to the
navy, IX 137
—(Francis), his works on insects,
IX 14
—(Dr), professor of natural history
in the University of Edinburgh, XII.
684.
—(Rev George), XII 480, 490.
Walker's rope machine, XIX 410
Walking, muscles employed in, III 42
Walks, garden, XI 747—edgings of, 743.
Wall (Dr), on electricity, VIII 525, 526
WALLACE (Sir William), XXI 685, XIX
755.
—(WILLIAM), professor in University
of Edinburgh, XXI 687—on catena-
rian curves, I 870—his expression for
the reciprocal of an arc, II 560—his
eudography, VIII 518—on the loss of
weight in beef by roasting, IX 765.
—(Mr), of Berwick Mains, his mode
of cultivating potatoes, II 816.
—(Robert, of Kelly), on the quantity
of spawn in salmon, IX 616, n.
—(Mr), his character of Hector
Boyce, V 254
Wallachia. See Walachia
Wallachs, XI 15.
Wallenberg (Jacob), Swedish author,
XIX 699.
WALLENSTADT, lake of, XXI 687; XX
889.
WALLENSTEIN (A. W. E.), Duke of Meck-
lenburg, XXI 687; XX 850
WALLER (Edmund), XXI 688—poetry of
XVIII 122—quotation from, on tea,
XXI 88
—(Sir William), V 431.
Wallenius, IV 602
Wallflower, V 117, 136, 137, 140, 141.
Wallin (Archbishop), Swedish author,
XIX 699
WALLINGFORD, in Berks, XXI 691
WALLIS (John), XXI 691; I 705, n. 3—
his arithmetic of infinites, 634; IX.
671—was the first who founded a sys-
tem of statics on the equality of the
opposite momenta, I 661—on conic
sections, VII 250—on the quadrature
of the circle, XX 528
—(Captain), Tahiti discovered by,
XVIII 289
Wallo, XX 51.
Wallon language, places where spoken,
IV 601, 615.
Walls, of Athens, IV 160, 171—of Rome,
XIX 862—rubble walls, V 738—retain-
ing, VII 325—thickness of, 328—on
farms, II 260—earthen, for embank-
ments, VIII 644—forms of, for tidal
harbours, XI 220—garden walls, 609—
hot walls in gardens, 700—river-walls,
XVI 71—pressure of earth, &c., against,
XX 719—resistance of, 720—construction
of, 721—arches in oblique walls,
729; in circular, 730—measurement of,
V 736, 740.
—one of the Orkney islands, XVI.
718
WALLSEND, English village, XXI 691—
gas from the coal of, X 414
WALMER, village in Kent, XXI 691—
castle, XIII 68; death of the Duke of
Wellington at, V 672; XXI 690.
Walmesley (Dr Charles) completed the
Newtonian theory of the moon, I 780—
notice of his life, ib. n.
Walnut, order of plants, V 208.
—tree, XVII 764—culture of, XI.
717—wood of, XXI 278; gun-stocks
made of, XI 100—walnut-oil, XVI 496

WAL—WAR

- Walnuts, XVI 395
Walnut-peel, as a dye-stuff, VIII 307
WALPOLE (Sir Robert), Earl of Orford,
XXI 691—his plan for lessening the
national debt, V 456—his excise scheme,
457, XXI 42—his resignation, V 458—
his quarrel with Pulteney, XVIII 684.
—(HORACE), XXI 692—Walpoleana,
or literary conversations of, II 739—
patronised pointed architecture, III
457—his *Mysterious Mother*, VIII 166—
romances of, XIX 276—anecdote of
Fielding related by, IX 641, n. 1—on
Hume in Paris, XII 4
Walrus, XIV 173—its skull and teeth,
XVI 463—tusks of, as ivory, XII 663
—in Greenland, XI 43
WALSLEY, in Stafford, XXI 694; XX 581
—railway connected with, ib
WALSH (William), critic, XXI 694
—(Mr), on the electricity of the tor-
pedo, I 738, VIII 672; and gymnotus
electricus, 575.
WALSINGHAM (Sir Francis), XXI 694;
VIII 636
—abbey, in Norfolk, XVI 291.
WALTER (John), XXI 694—establishment
of *The Times* by, XVI 187
—(T. G.), of Berlin, on parts of struc-
ture without nerves, II 813
WALTHAM ABBEY, town in Essex, XXI
695.
—Cross, XI 360
—in Massachusetts, XIV 341.
Walther, astronomer, III 796
WALTON (Brian), XXI 695—his Polyglot
Bible, IV 698, 707; XVIII 296.
—(ISAAC), XXI 695—on angling,
III 149 n, 152, 155 n, 161—editions of
his *Complete Angler*, 168—on George
Herbert, XI 843—on Hooker, 621—his
Life of Sir H. Wotton, XXI 693.
—naval officer, XX 241, and n
—(John), his papers on insects, IX.
22.
Walworth (Sir William), XIII 110; VIII.
684.
Wamba, king of the Gohs, XX 400
Wanderer, species of monkey, XIV 141.
Wandle, river, XX 437.
WANDSWORTH, in Surrey, XXI 696—the
orders of, XVIII 488
Wangunheim (General), anecdote of Ber-
nollet and, VII 669.
Wanlockhead, in Dumfriesshire, lead
mines of, VIII 238—yield of lead in
1854, XV 246—apparatus for conden-
sing lead fumes at, XIII 300.
WANTAGE, in Berks, XXI 696.
Wants, in coal beds, VII 116.
Wapenshawings, XV 8
Wapentakes, II 481.
Wapiti, in zoology, XIV 207.
WAR, XXI 697—the principal cause of
mankind degenerating into a savage
state, I 452—use of balloons in, II 189,
184—among the North American In-
dians, 682—manner in which it en-
hances prices, III 199—history of, 619
—effects of the invention of gunpowder
on, VI 624—oblivion impaired by the
civil wars in France and England, ib—
colonies a grand source of, VII 146—
power of governments strengthened by,
147—effects of war expenditure on the
price of commodities and income of in-
dividuals, 190—bad effects of, 194—pe-
nicious to trade, 198, 200—Machiavelli
on the art of, XIII 779—rights of na-
tions in time of, 285—what is requisite
to make a war just? ib.—what are just
modes of carrying it on? ib.—articles
contraband of, XVI 156—articles of
war, 107—appointment of a secretary
of state for, XVII 298—establishments
for, in France, X 270—regarded as
anti-Christian by Quakers, XVIII 717
—seven years' war, XI 878; XVIII.
652; XIX 482—wars of auge, III 265;
of bees, IV 582. See Army, Artillery,
Tactics, Thirty Years' War, Fortifica-
tion, &c.
War-horses, XI 656.

WAR—WAR

War-taxes, X 338
 WARASDIN, in Austria, XXI 728
 Warbeck (Poikin), VIII 696—his proceedings in Ireland, XII 474—his visit to Scotland, XIX 764
 Warblers, birds, XVI 756
 Warbles, in the horse, XXI 579
 WARBURTON (B B George), XXI 728.
 — (William), XXI 728—his opinion of Malebranche's talents, I 80, n 2—his hostility to Dr Clarke, 146, n 1—on the Jewish ignorance of a future state, VI 687—on Gibbon's descent into hell, X 611—Gibbon's attack on, ib—his connection with Hurd, XII 49—his friendship with Pope, XVIII 384—on mysteries, XV 754—on ancient punctuation, XVIII 688—his work on the Doctrine of Grace, XXI 835.
 WARD (Seth), XXI 731—astronomical system of, I 611
 — (Commander), his life-belts, XIII 440
 — (Mr), on the policy of Spain to her American possessions, II 701.
 Warde (Mr), his hounds, XI 707.
 WARDEIN, XXI 731. See Grosswardein
 Warden (Joseph), his work on bees, IX 3
 — of the Cinque ports, VI 728.
 Warden cases for plants, V 107.
 WARDLAW (Ralph, D.D.), XXI 731—on the utilitarian view of moral rectitude, XV 554—on theology, XXI 194 *et seq*
 — (Henry), bishop of St Andrews, XXI 472.
 Wardle (Col.), his charge against the Duke of York, V 605.
 WARE, in Hertford, XXI 731
 Ware, island, IV 658.
 WAREHAM, in Dorset, XXI 731.
 Warehousing system, XXI 41.
 WARGENTIN (M.), astronomical labours of, III 806—on the rate of mortality in Sweden, XV 603.
 WARREN, town in Germany, XXI 731.
 WARENDORF, in Westphalia, XXI 732
 Warham (Archbishop), VII 481
 Waring (Edward), I 712, and n. 2.
 Warrington (Mr), on aquaria, XV 328.
 — (Mr), on green and black tea, XXI 80.
 WARKWORTH, in Northumberland, XXI 732.
 Warlike (Mr), on the chemical influence of electricity, VIII 594.
 WARNOING, XXI 732—of buildings, XIX 618—of hot-houses, XI 720. See Stove.
 WARMINSTER, in Wilt, XXI 732
 Warnery, on the qualifications of military officers, XXI 609—on Cæsar's invasion of Britain, 700—on war, 703.
 WAROWS of South America, IX 349.
 WAAR, XXI 732, 730, 733—cotton, VII 448—and weft, in lace-making, XIII 143—machine, 144. See Weaving.
 Warping and waipling mill, in weaving, XXI 733.
 —, fertilization of land by, II 803—advantages of, XII 619—as practised on the Humber, II 804
 Warrant officers of the navy, XVI 102—warrants for opening letters in the post-office, XVIII 412.
 WARRANTY, in law, XXI 732.
 WARREN (Sir T. Borlase), V 617.
 — (Dr), on stammering, XX 585.
 —, XX 210, n.
 WARRINGTON, XXI 732—railway bridges at, XII 599.
 Warrior, steam-frigate, description of, XX 666.
 WARSAW, XXI 732—libraries in, XIII 425—taken by Charles XII., XX 838—grand duchy of, XVIII 153.
 WARTA, or Wartha, river, XXI 733; XIX 516.
 Wartburg, castle of, VIII 519—Luther at, XIII 728.
 Wart-bog, dentition of, XVI 468.
 Warthmann on the influence of electricity on plants, V 170.
 WARWON (Joseph), XXI 733—his charge

WAR—WAT

of plagiarism against Dr Conyers Middleton, IV 637
 WARTON, (Thomas), XXI 734—on the scarcity and value of books in the middle ages, V 11—on Rowley's poems, VI 431—on Dunbar's poetry, VIII 247—on English minstrels, XV 252
 Warts on the domestic animals, treatment of, XXI 579
 WARWICK, English town, XXI 736
 —, earl of, VIII 690. See Dudley (Sir R.)
 — (Sir Philip), his notice of Cromwell, VII 510
 WARWICKSHIRE, XXI 737—population and value of property, VIII 754.
 WASBI (The), XXI 739
 —, in distilling, VIII 49.
 Washing establishments, in London, XIX 603
 WASHINGTON (George), XXI 740; II 129, XXI 434 *et seq*—his administration, 438—his British ancestors, XVI 298—monument to, at Baltimore, IV 405
 —, territory in United States, XXI 766
 —, capital of United States, XXI 766—captured by the British in 1814, V 617—library of Congress at, XIII 480—Smithson's library at, ib—meteorological observations at, XIV 638.
 —, in Rhode Island, XIX 147.
 Wash-leather, XIII 310
 Wasps, IX 197—endeavour to bite and sting after decapitation, 177—hostile to the bee, IV 588—instincts of, XII 391—their sting poisonous, XIV 440.
 Waste lands, cultivation of, II 358
 —, book, in book-keeping, V 28.
 WATCH, XXI 768; VII 27—regulation of, 28—repeating watches, 34—keyless, ib—fusee of, 28—escapements, 32—electro-gilding of watch-cases, X 620—Mr Atwood on balances, IV 231—watch-making in Switzerland, XX 890—Geneva, X 449—Nuremberg, XVI 153—improvements in, XIII 636.
 Watchman's clock, VII 18.
 Water, compressibility of, I 723; II 101, 102, VI 201; XII 77—viscosity of, I 887—maximum density of, 941—transmission of sound by, II 99, 102—in the atmosphere, 376—absorbed by the roots of plants, 378—decomposition of in plants, 383—composition of, I 929, 930; VI 352, VIII 594—chemical character of, VI 458, 459—its great solvent power, 460—eruption of, from Mount Aetna, II 196—scarcity in Arabia, III 344 *et seq*—temperature of boiling water applied to the measurement of heights, IV 407—water of crystallisation, VII 545—as a remedy in fever and other diseases, 594—hard and soft water, VI 460, 473—modes of cooling it, VII 100 *et seq*—congelation of, 103; XI 209—artificial congelation, 271, 275; VII 104—loses its air in the act of freezing, 103—Dr Wollaston's experiments and electrical apparatus for the decomposition of, VIII 595—embankments against, 643—alimentary qualities of, 20; IX 765—difficulty of breathing caused by the pressure of, VIII 60—in gardening, XI 608—heating hot-houses, &c., with, 721—mechanical powers and properties of, XII 69—pressure and equilibrium of, 78—specific gravity of, 84—water in motion, 103—jets of, 130—machines for raising, 174—discharge of, 112, 115—its flow over weirs, &c., 121—its motion in pipes, 131; XVIII 61; in canals, XII 136—water-bellows, 138—traffic in water in Lombardy, XIII 648—London's water companies, 664; supply of to London, ib., 665—importance of supply of potable water, XIV 443—a non-conductor, 643—evaporation and condensation of, 645; IX 405—of the Mediterranean, XIV 469—in mineralogy, XV 125—composition of sea-water, XVII 572; XX 649; specific gravity of, XVII

WAT—WAT

572—colour of, 574—in landscape gardening, 772—ebullition of in air-pump, XVIII 40—air combined with, 50—how obstructed in moving along canals, 62—circles formed by dropping a pebble in, 71—why rendered scarce by frost, 72—its importance for sanitary purposes, XIX 609, 616—distilled water for the navy, XX 24—decomposed by galvanism, XXI 638—ordreal by, XVI 701. See Aqueduct, Deluge, Evaporation, Filter, Fluids, Hydrodynamics, Irrigation, Mineral Waters, Pipes, Pump, Sea, River, Steam, Water-works, Wave, &c.
 Water in the brain, XXI 575. See Hydrocephalus
 Water-barometer, IV 452, and n.
 Water-battery, XXI 619.
 Water-bean, order of plants, V 181
 Water-chestnut, V 192.
 Water-clock, VI 763; VII 564—Amontons on the, II 724
 Water-colours, drawing in, VIII 174
 Water-column machines, XII 173
 Water-cranes, on railways, XVIII 777.
 Water-cure. See Hydropathists, Fraissnitz
 Waterfalls, in Europe, XVII 605—in Norway, XVI 321—of the Rhine, XIX 144; the Zambesi, XVII 608; Missouri, 604—in California, ib—in Cardigan-shire, VI 233—fall of Niagara, 135; XVI 241—of Tequendama, III 131; IV 808.
 WATERFORD, Irish county, XXI 768—XII 508, 515, 517.
 —, city, XXI 771—besieged by Cromwell, XII 484
 Water-gas, X 427; XIX 616.
 Water-glass, surface of stones protected by, XX 735.
 Water-hens, XVI 806, 807—shooting of, XX 218.
 Waterhouse (G R), his contributions to entomology, IX 21—his enumeration of ruminants, XVII 632
 Watering places. See Mineral Springs
 WATERLAND (Daniel, D.D.), XXI 771—on the Athanasian creed, IV 158—on the abuse of demonstrations, XIV 602.
 Waterlandians, XIV 501.
 Water-lily, order of plants, V 181.
 Water-lines, in ship-building, XX 184, 163.
 Waterloo, battle of, V 620, X 172; XXI 828—illustrative plan of, 717—Blucher at, IV 798—conduct of the British infantry at, III 607.
 Waterloo-bridge, London, V 363; XIII 676; XIX 12—opening of, XXI 829
 Water-meadows, XII 612—management of, 616—advantages of, 619—Cato and Columella on, 621. See Irrigation.
 Water-ouzel, bird, XVI 763.
 Water-pepper, order of plants, V 184.
 Water-pitcher, order of plants, V 182.
 Water-plantain, order of plants, V 214.
 Water-pot shells, XV 350.
 Water-rail, bird, XVI 807
 Water-retting of flax and hemp, IX 656; XI 312.
 Water-shield, order of plants, V 181.
 WATERSTOWN, XXI 771; XIV 684—electrical origin of, VIII 586—in Orkney, XVI 721.
 Waterton (Mr), on the sloth, XIV 100—on the armadillo, 191—large serpent killed by, XIX 61, n. 2—on the alligator, 27—on birds, XVI 732, 750, 759
 Water-vole, teeth of, XVI 454.
 Water-wheels, XII 163—defects of common kinds, I 890—principle of greatest advantage in, 899.
 WATERWORKS, XXI 772—Crawley, VIII 405—connected with Glasgow, X 649—Greenock, XI 47—London, XIII 664—of the crystal-palace, Sydenham, XX 892. See Aqueduct, Hydrodynamics, Pipes.
 Water-wort, order of plants, V 213.
 WATERWOOD, town in Herts, XXI 772.
 Watkins (Francis), on electro-magnetism,

WAT—WAV

XIV 75, 76—his rotatory magnet, XXI 639—his revolving battery, 640—his revolving helices, ib—his thermo-electric pile, 653
 Watling Street, IV 666; XI 350
 WARSON (Richard), bishop, XXI 772
 — (George), his Hospital, VIII 402.
 — (John), his Hospital, VIII 402
 — (Dr Joseph), on the education of the deaf and dumb, VII 676, 678, 682 *et seq*.
 — (Sir William), on electricity, VIII 526, 543.
 — (H C.), on the distribution of British plants, V 230; XIX 795
 — (Dr Forbes), on the raw material of textile manufactures, XXI 907
 WATT (James), XXI 773; X 648, I 865—first to study the properties of steam as a philosopher and practical mechanist, 865—estimate of his genius, ib—his birth and early history, ib—his connection with Dr Black, 867, IV 739—his obligations to Dr Black, I 867, and n 5—his position in Glasgow college, 867—his first experiments on steam, ib—his principle of separate condensation, 868; XX 576—personal character, I 869, 870—close of his life, 870—his intimacy with, and character he gives of Prof Robison, 871, 873—Arago's eulogy of, 911—his behaviour in reference to Cavendish as the discoverer of the composition of water, 929, 930—introduced into Britain the use of chlorine in bleaching, IV 758, 759, 760—his connection with Mr Boulton, V 246—on the application of the steam-engine to cotton spinning, VII 446—on the effects of heat in converting water into steam, XI 271—on the Cornish mines, XV 227, n—his experiments on the elastic force of steam, XX 557—his history of his improvements on the steam-engine, 576, 577—illustrations and details of those improvements, 577—his pumping-engine of 1768, ib—his engine of revolution, 590—his description of the Albion Mill engines, ib—his expansive engine, 579—his steam-boiler, 587—his invention to secure parallel motion, 592, 593, XIV 402—his governor, XX 595—his crank for steam-engines, 581—his mode of estimating horse-power, 602—his patent for preventing smoke in furnaces, 353, 355—application of his steam-engine to navigation, 637—his use of the term duty, 612—Watt's approximate, XIV 402.
 — (Robert), XXI 773.
 — (R.), executed for high treason, V 555.
 — (Dr Robert), on the mortality of children, XV 612.
 — (Gregory), on the structure of basalt, XV 166.
 Watt's retting process, II 333.
 Wattle bird, XVI 765.
 — bark, in tanning, XIII 806
 WATTS (Dr Isaac), XXI 778—his hymns, XII 189.
 — (Thomas), on the English Mercury of 1688, XVI 180.
 Wauchope (General), VIII 492.
 Waugh (Dhondin), Wellington's operations against, XXI 818.
 WAVRE, town in Belgium, XXI 779
 Waves, XVII 580—experiments on, I 888, 889—force of, XI 216—relation between their height and depth of water, 218—height of at Lybster, in Caithness-shire, 224—their impulse against a pier, 220—reduction in height after entering harbour, 222—oscillation of waves, XI 71, 72, 74—individuals by whom the subject has been investigated, 74, 75, 76 undulation of, 162—tidal wave of estuaries, VI 64; laws of its propagation, ib.—tide-wave, XVII 580—breadth and velocity of waves, 582—of air and water, in some respects similar, XVIII 71—force of, on a ship in motion, XX 180

WAV—WED

wind-waves, XVII 561—wave-surface in optics, XVI 548, n 1
 Waves (atmospheric), XIV 650 See Atmosphere.
 Wavelite, mineral, XV 74—Sir H Davy on, VII 668
 Waveney, river, XVI 289.
 Wax, XXI 779, II 381, IV 572—of the ear, III 46; XVII 679—bleaching of, IV 771—in plants, V 73—produced by insects, IX 173—gilding-wax, X 626—use of, in modelling and casting, XIX 844—wax-candles, VI 171—specific gravity of, XII 88—in painting, VIII 654—sealing-wax, XXI 779.
 Wax myrtle, V 207
 Wax-paper process, in photography, XVII 549.
 Wax-wing, bird, XVI 750
 Way, permanent, in railways, XVIII 758—in the Great Western, 755
 Way-leaves, XVIII 752.
 Way-faring tree, XVII 764.
 Way (Prof.), on soils, II 396.
 Wazirabad, town in the Punjab, XVIII 621
 Wealden rocks, XV 209—in Surrey, XX 886—Sussex, 889—weald clay, XV 209; in Kent, XIII 64—flora of, V 237.
 Weales' Engineer's Pocket-book, XX 779, 780.
 Wealth, defined, XVIII 210—production of, 224—distribution of, 239—consumption of, 256—an evidence of superior good conduct, XXI 41.
 Weaning of lambs, II 353
 Weapon-shavings, XIX 758. See Wapen-shavings
 Weapons, stone, III 421.
 Wear, river, dredging of, XVI 69—physical characteristics of, 88.
 Weardale, lead mines of, VIII 266.
 Weymouth, iron bridge at, V 358, 360; XII 677, 678
 Weasel, quadruped, XIV 157.
 Weather See Atmosphere, Climate, Meteorology, Rain, Wind, Temperature, &c.
 Weatherby's Stud-book, XI 645
 Weather-glass, IV 453; XVIII 26; XXI 221. See Barometer.
 Weather-helm, XX 160.
 Weaver, river in Cheshire, VI 529; XIX 582—salt carried on, 585.
 Weavers, health of, XIV 442—foreign weavers in Norwich, XXI 780—exiled by Charles I. in—French weavers in Britain, 1b—their petition in 1715, 781—attacks of, on the East India trade, 1b
 Weaving, XXI 780—of tapestry, 20—of wool, 228—by power, VII 450. See Cotton manufacture, Design, Silk manufacture, Woollen manufacture.
 Webb (Captain) on the Himalaya mountains, XI 450—his expedition to the sources of the Ganges, X 400
 —(Barker), on the botany of the Cape Verde islands, XXI 544
 WEBER (Carl Maria Von), XXI 794
 —(E. Heinrich and Wilhelm), on waves, I 888; XII 75.
 —(Prof.), of Göttingen, on electric telegraphs, XXI 98, 97.
 —(F.), his works on insects, IX 8.
 —(M.), on romance, XIX 265.
 Web-footed birds, XVI 808. See Palmipedes.
 Webs, of spiders, III 374.
 Webster (Daniel), American statesman, XXI 795, 441.
 —(John), dramatist, XXI 796.
 —(Noah), XXI 796.
 Weddle (Thomas), his mathematical rules, XX 142, 143.
 Wedemeyer on the capillaries, II 799.
 Wedge, in mechanics, XXI 796.
 Wedging, in carpentry, V 747—fox-tail wedging, VI 268.
 Wedgwood (Joseph), XXI 798; XVIII 488; XX 580—his pyrometer, I 768; XVIII 708—importance of his inventions in pottery, V 508.

WED—WEL

Wedgwood (Thomas), his photographic experiments, XVII 544; I 922.
 WEDNESBURY, in Stafford, XXI 797—manufactures of, XX 530
 WEDNESDAY, XXI 797—origin of the name, I 458, n 2, VI 75—Ash-Wednesday, XXI 797
 Weed, disease in horses, XXI 574
 Weedon-Beck, village in Northamptonshire, XXI 797.
 Weeds, removal of, from cultivated land, II 289
 Week, VI 75, XIX 560.
 Weevil, insect, IX 141.
 —victualling yard at, VIII 84
 Wegscheider, on theology, XXI 194 et seq.
 Weguelin (Mr), has evidence on deposits in the Bank of England, XV 473.
 Wehrhite, mineral, XV 90
 WEIGHING MACHINE, XXI 797; II 284; XIV 415. See Balance
 Weight, of liquids, XIV 417—of the human body, III 2; of individual organs, 3—gross and nett, 595—of air, XVIII 28—effect of air on, 47. See Gravity, Weights
 —, in phrenology, XVII 568
 WEIGHTON, market, in Yorkshire, XXI 798.
 WEIGHTS AND MEASURES, XXI 798 Belgian, IV 628—modern Egyptian, VIII 517—common standard of, proposed by the French Convention, I 893; IX 561; X 83—tables of, III 554; XXI 805, 806, 808—assay weights, III 767—Beccaria's plan of, IV 559—present French, X 288—Greek, XI 15—of Chile, VI 552—Dr Cumberland on Jewish weights, VII 580.
 Weiher, his attack on the belief in witchcraft and sorcery, XIV 422
 WEIMAR, XXI 814—library at, X 592
 Weirs, fall of water over, XII 121—in rivers, XIX 215, IX 619—waste weirs in canals, XVI 56
 Weishaupt (Adam), XII 863.
 Weiss (Christian Felix), XXI 814.
 —(Prof.), on animalcules, III 209.
 —'s catalogue of stars, IV 95.
 —account of Dr Wolfart's magnetic practice, XX 444.
 Weiss (Prof.), his arrangement of minerals, XV 67—his speculum, XX 811, n.
 Weissenburg, a blind man, IV 780
 WEISSENBURG, in Bavaria, XXI 814
 WEISSENFELS, town in Saxony, XXI 814
 Weissste, mineral, XV 89.
 WEISKITZEN, town in Moravia, XXI 814.
 —, Austrian town, XXI 814.
 Weitzbrecht, his experiments on capillary attraction, XII 91.
 Welbeck, Duke of Portland's plantations at, XXI 271.
 Weld, dyestuff, VIII 295—dyeing wool with, 297; silk, 298; cotton and linen, 299
 Welland canal, VI 136, 154.
 —, English river, XIII 491.
 Welles (Sir Robert), VIII 691.
 WELLESLEY (Richard Colley), Marquis, XXI 814; V 606, 638—his administration in India, XI 501, 503; his foreign policy, 1b.—on European agency in India, 523—on the newspaper censorship in India, XVI 208—his last interview with Pitt, XVII 748.
 Wellesly (Captain G. G.), his north-west voyage, XVIII 171, n.
 WELLINGBOROUGH, in Northamptonshire, XXI 815.
 WELLINGTON (Arthur Wellesley), Duke of, XXI 815—his improvements in the army, III 668—his order of battle, IV 512—his Spanish campaigns and tactics, V 604, 606, 609 et seq.—his conferences with Canning about the formation of a ministry, 648—his opposition to Canning's corn bill, 650—his administration, 1b.; XVII 863—his conduct relative to Catholic emancipation, V 662, 654, 656; XII 501—his declaration

WEL—WER

against Parliamentary reform, V 659; XI 68—his resignation as premier, V 660—member of the Congress of Vienna, 637—expedition to Portugal, 608, X 150. XVIII 887, 888—death of, V 672—his account of the battle of Waterloo, X 173—his estate in Granada, 794—his military convention with Davoust, 174—his recommendation of Fouché, 175—his operations in India, XI 504 et seq.—on Sir John Moore's campaign in Spain, XV 529—his connection with Sir Robert Peel, XVII 863 et seq.—plan of his defence of Portugal, XXI 706—Torres Vedras, 707 (see that article)—his combinations at Salamanca and Waterloo, 712, 718—his friendship with Sir John Malcolm, XIX 108
 Wellington (Duke of), screw steam-ship, 665—comparative size of, 641
 WELLINGTON, town in Shropshire, XXI 831.
 —, in Somersetshire, XXI 831.
 —(Fort), IV 300
 —, town and province in New Zealand, XVI 234
 Wellingtonia gigantea, tree, XVII 626, 627
 Wellmann (Alexr), on the herring market of Stettin, IX 640
 WELLS, town in Somersetshire, XXI 831
 —, in Norfolk, XXI 831
 —(Dr), on dew, VII 770, XI 205; XIV 653; I 954
 Wells cathedral, XIX 865—arches of the nave, XX 733
 Well-smokers, diseases of, XIV 442.
 Wellsted (Lieut.), on Arabia, III 300
 Wellwood (Sir H Moncreiff), on Edward's work on the Freedom of the Will, VIII 416.
 WELS, town in Austria, XXI 832.
 Welsh (Dr), his protest, and withdrawal from Assembly of Established Church of Scotland, XVIII 495.
 —(Mr), his balloon ascents, II 184, n.; XIV 640, 642, 648
 —(Mr), on the thermometer, XXI 223.
 WELSHPOOL, town in N. Wales, XXI 832; XV 518.
 Welter (M), on bleaching, IV 760, 759—his indigo test in bleaching, 763
 WEM, town in Shropshire, XXI 832
 Wemyss, glass first manufactured at, in Scotland, X 659
 Wenck (Dr), on the Theodosian code, VI 745.
 Wendish language, XIII 214.
 WENDOVER, town in Bucks, XXI 832
 WENER, Swedish lake, XXI 832, XX 861
 Wenham (Mr), his method of illuminating microscopic objects, XIV 798—on microscopic photography, 801.
 WENLOCK, town in Shropshire, XXI 832—rocks of, XV 197, 198.
 Wensleydale (Baron), his peerage, XI 834, n.
 —, in Yorkshire, XXI 967.
 Wenile-traps, shells, XV 388.
 WENTWORTH (Thomas), Earl of Strafford, XXI 832; V 308—impeachment and execution of, 396, 397; XVIII 699—his government of Ireland, XII 480, 481.
 Wenzel on chemical combination, I 937.
 Wenzels on cerebral matter, II 818.
 Wepfer's anatomical researches, II 762.
 Werben, battle of, XX 849.
 WERDAU, in Saxony, XXI 833
 WERDEN, in Prussia, XXI 833.
 WERDELAND (H Arnold), Norwegian poet, XXI 834.
 Werk, siege of, V 714.
 Werne (Mr), on the White Nile, XVI 270.
 WERNER (A. Gottlob), XXI 834—on minerals in veins, XV 194—on mineral veins, 220—on the colours of minerals, 59—his doctrines advocated, in Scotland, by Prof. Jameson, XII 684; and Dr John Murray, 1b.
 —(F. L. ZACHARIAS), dramatist, XXI 834.

WER—WES

Werner (John), mathematician, I 552; III 796; X 505
 —(M.), his ornithological atlas, XVI 732
 —(Joan), of Nuremberg, on the longitude, XIII 686
 Wernerian Society of Edinburgh, XII 685
 Wernite, mineral, XV 72
 WERNIGERODE, XXI 834
 Werterling (C U), his work on insects, IX 15.
 Wertheim on the sounds produced by electric currents, XXI 631.
 WESER, in Prussia, XXI 834
 WESER, German river, XXI 834; X 580; XI 211, XVII 647; XVIII 662
 WESLEY (John), XXI 835; XIV 691—his hymns, XII 189—his doctrines, XIV 692.
 Wesleyan Methodists, XIV 691—their places of worship in Scotland, XIX 801
 Weshing (John), the first delineator of the lacteals, II 761.
 Wesmael (C), his works on insects, IX 20
 Wessel (John Herman), Danish author, XIX 698.
 Wessex, VIII 657.
 West (Benjamin), painter, XXI 835—character of his pictures, III 717; XVII 79, 80, 84
 —(GILBERT), XXI 836
 West's melon and cucumber pit, XI 734
 Westbury, in Wiltshire, XXI 836.
 WESTERHAM, in Kent, XXI 837
 West India Docks, London, VIII 75; XII 661
 —Company (Dutch), XI 584; their colony in New York, XVI 217.
 WEST INDIES, XXI 837; II 708—attempts to transplant the bread-fruit to, V 301—British colonies in, VII 147—exports from Britain to, 190—Danish colonies in, 745—blood-hound of, XI 764—Edward's History of, VIII 414—assurance offices in, XII 413—missions among the negroes of, XV 271—condition of, since abolition of slavery, XX 327—sugar, 795—sugar-cane, 792, n—weights and measures, XXI 814—map of, XXI Plate See the names of the different islands.
 Western (the Great), steam-ship, XX 639—comparative size of, 641
 —(the Great), railway, XVIII 763, 754, 755, 758, 761, 794—locomotives on, 780—costs of obtaining the original acts for, 796—station on, at Swindon, XX 881; XXI 879
 Westgarth (Mr), his reports on the colony of Victoria, IV 288, 291—on the yield of gold in, 289, 290—on the commerce of, 292—on South Australia, 295.
 WESTMACOTT (Sir Richard), sculptor, XXI 837—character of his sculpture, XIX 837 et seq.—on Sir Thos. Lawrence, XIII 297.
 WESTMEATH, Irish county, XXI 838; XII 508, 515, 517.
 WESTMINSTER, XXI 841—Domesday Book kept at, VIII 98—Assembly of divines at, III 775; XVIII 493—bridge, XIII 676; foundations of, XX 723, 724.
 —Abbey, III 454, 480; XIII 671—foundation of, 650—library of, 394—arches of the choir, XX 733.
 —Hall, XIII 600—architecture of, III 483, 517—timber of its roof, VIII 213—roof of, VII 324, n. 2.
 —New Palace, XIII 608—iron roofs of, XIX 896—great clock at, VII 16, 22, 23, 24—building stone used for, XX 712; IV 839.
 —School, XIII 667.
 WESTMORELAND, or Westmoreland, XXI 841—population and value of property, VIII 754.
 Weston (Sir Richard) on agriculture, II 257.
 WESTON-SUPER-MARE, XXI 844.
 WESTPHALIA, XXI 844—population

WES—WHE

XVIII 663—religious denominations in, 664—agriculture, 666, 667, 668—lead mines of, 668—marble, 669—paper factories, ib—hams, 666—proportion of insane in, XIV 536—treaty of, IV 303, VI 661, X 579, XI 575, XVIII 650

Westport, Irish town, XXI 844

Westrey and Papa Westrey, Orkney islands, XVI 718, 719

Westwood (W O), his entomological works, IX 20

Wethered's system of mixed steam, XX 650

WETSTEIN (John James), XXI 844—his edition of the New Testament, IV 698

Wette (De), on the Psalms, XVIII 678—on theology, XXI 181 et seq

WETTER, Swedish lake, XXI 845; XX 801

WEXFORD, Irish county, XXI 845; XII 508, 516, 517

—, town, XXI 848

Wey, river, XX 836—Wey and Arun junction canal, 837

WERMOUTH, in Dorsetshire, XXI 848, VIII 111

—, pine, tree, XVII 757, 760

Whale, XIV 231—white, 228—bottlenosed, 231—spermaceti, ib—Greenland, 233, XI 43—ambiguous found in, II 657—eye of, III 95—upper jaw and baleen plates of, XVI 442—lower jaw of a fetal whale, 443—whales of the southern and northern ocean specifically distinct, XVII 635—distribution of, ib—rare in the Baltic, IV 404—on the Lapland coast, XIII 286—skeleton of, found near Stirling, XX 703—fossil whales, XVII 165, 166

Whalebone, III 107; XIV 233; XVI 442

Whale-fishery, IX 650—of Brazil, V 209, England, VIII 728, France, X 265, Holland, XI 583, Hull, 795; Peterhead, XVII 484

Whale-fish, VII 542

Whale-oil, XVI 493

Wharfe, and Wafedale, XXI 957

WHARRON (Philip, Duke of), XXI 840—Dr. Edward Young's connection with, 960

—(Thomas), on the glands, II 762

—salt-mine, XIX 583

Wharves, on tidal rivers, XVI 79

Whately (Archbishop), his Dissertation on the rise, progress, and corruptions of Christianity, I 447—on fallacies, IX 476—on belief in the Christian miracles by Jews and pagans, V 263, n. 2—on rhetoric, XIX 105, 121, 123

WHEAT, XXI 850—varieties of, II 306—red-wheat, ib—steep or bath fur, ib—spring-wheat, 307—average yield of, 310—chemical properties of, 379, 384, 386, 388, 417, 419—wheat flour, 381, IV 879—quantity imported from the Black Sea, in 1852, 745—the spikelet of a wheat plant, V 116—mummy wheat, 164—culture of, in Upper Canada, VI 146, 147—its northern limit in Europe, IX 886—as food, 758—straw, for plaiting, XI 243—mean time of wheat harvest in different latitudes, XVII 628—origin and distribution of, 680—advantage of dibbling, XVIII 338—exports of, from Odessa, XVI 406—Dantzic wheat, VII 652—gluten from, X 684—culture of, in Lombardy, XIII 655—in Chile, VI 540. See Agriculture, under the different kingdoms and counties. Corn-laws.

Wheat-ear, bird, XVI 755

Wheatstone (Prof.), his invention of the stereoscope, I 925—his rheostat, 984; XXI 656—on the velocity of electric conduction, I 985; XVII 548—his electric telegraph, I 986—on the electric telegraph, XXI 100, 101, 108—ink-marker in his telegraphs, 106—descriptive notice of his telegraphs, ib—his automatic telegraph, 106—his step-by-step telegraph, III 112, 115—his type-

WHE—WHI

printing telegraph, 112—his stereoscopic principle explained, 134; XVII 504—his reflecting stereoscope, XX 685—on vision, XIV 573—on the perception of solidity, 574—on the velocity of cannon balls, XI 133, n—his application of electricity to clocks, XXI 644. See Stereoscope

WHEEL, XXI 850, XIV 391—skew-bevel wheels, 392—conical and disc, ib—grooved, 393—spur-wheels, ib—teeth of, ib, 395—pin-wheels, 396—wheel and axle motion, 388—teeth of wheels for clocks and watches, VII 36—water-wheels, XII 163 et seq—Egyptian water-wheels, VIII 428; XII 69—dash-wheel, IV 704—Bramah's patent wheel, V 274—fly-wheels, XIV 412; IX 748, XX 589—in railway carriages, XVIII 782—paddle-wheels, XX 656—spinning-wheel, 508

Wheel-barometer, IV 454; XXI 934, n. 2

Wheel-carriages. See Carriage

Wheeler (Sir Hugh), XVI 306

WHEELING, town in Virginia, XXI 850

Wheel ploughs, II 270

Wheeler, diseased horse, XXI 571

Wheler (Mr) on electrical bells, VIII 537

Whelks, shells, XV 386, 387—egg capsules of, 386—fossil, XVII 109

Wherry, IV 800

Whewell (Prof.), his preface to Sir J. Mackintosh's Dissertation, I 295—his History and Philosophy of the inductive sciences, 803; XVII 527—on the tides, I 818; XVII 581—on philosophy as a branch of inductive science, 539—his cothol hnes, I 818—his Bridge-water Treatise, V 364—on the dependence of morality on law, XIII 259—on the moral sense, XIV 581

Whewellit, mineral, XV 125

Whey, VI 523—whey-cream, VII 620—butter, ib—its nutritive and curative qualities, XV 11

Whicheot (Dr), Shaftesbury's admiration of his sermons, VII 343

Whidby (Mr), his plan for the Plymouth breakwater, V 307; superintendent of that work, 309

Whigs, origin of, V 387—origin of the name, 428

Whinbrel, bird, XVI 802

Whin, See Gorse

Whinchat, bird, XVI 755

Whinstone. See Trap rocks

Whipper-in, XII 47

Whipping, as a punishment, XIV 445; XVIII 575

Whip snake, XIX 57—in India, XI 456

Whirlpool—the Maelstrom, XIII 807

WINDLIND, XXI 850, XIV 684; VIII 422—dust-whirlwinds, XIV 685. See Cyclones

Whiskers, IV 528

Whisky, IX 760—manufacture of, VIII 48—in Scotland, XIX 806—Isla, XII 629. See Spirits

Whist, game of, XXI 850

Whistler, diseased horse, XXI 571

WHISTON (William), XXI 850—on the Canticles, VI 198—on Dr Samuel Clarke, 757, 758—on the Deluge, VII 720

WHITTAKER (John), XXI 850—on the origin of church-bells, IV 628—on Hannibal's passage of the Alps, VI 203, n—his history of Manchester, XIV 350—on the history of King Arthur, III 682—on bulks, V 761

Whitbread (Mr) on the expediency of peace with France in 1800, V 571—his resolutions regarding the navy, 599

Whitby, in Yorkshire, XXI 852, 959

—(DANIEL), divine, XXI 852—on original sin, 202

White, colour, varieties of, XV 59—people with complexions of that colour, VII 222

—(GILBERT), of Selburne, XXI 852—on the harvest bug, III 389—on the

WHI—WIG

parental affection of brutes, V 703—on their sociality, 703, 704

WHITE (HENRY KIRKE), XXI 858

—(JOSEPH BLANCO), XXI 853

—(Richard), on the quadrature of the circle, XX 522

—Surgeon, XX 819

—(Adams), his works on insects, IX 19

—(John), on the sound produced by the fish Pogonias, XII 284

—Brethron, V 317

—iron pyrites, XV 115

—lead, XIII 301; VI 338—deleterious effects of, XIV 434

—mountains, XX 790

—fish, XII 243

—River, XII 374—valley of, 373

—Horse Hill, in Berkshire, IV 666

White-bait, fish, XII 236; IX 764—of China, XII 244

Whiteboys, Irish, XII 492

WHITEFIELD (George), XXI 859—his separation from Wesley, XIV 603

Whitefrans' theatre, XXI 167

Whitehall, in London, XIII 671—Van Dyck's proposal to complete the decoration of, XXI 522

WHITEHAVEN, in Cumberland, XXI 855—coal mines of, VII 577

Whitehorn (P) on gunpowder, XI 151

Whitehurst (Mr) on cohesion, VII 60, 61—on the pendulum, XXI 800

Whitehurst's machine, XII 173

WHITELOCKE (Bulstrode), XXI 855

—(General), failure of his attack on Buenos Ayres, V 602; XVII 731

WHITE SEA, XXI 856; IX 385; XIX 516, 541

White-throat, bird, XVI 756

WHITHORN, in Wigton, XXI 856

Whiting, fish, XII 209, IX 764—fishery of, 648—whiting point, XII 269

Whitling, fish, XII 240

Whitney (Mr), his tabular view of the metallic produce of the world, XV 248; and of its value, 249

—(Mr Eli), his machine for cleansing cotton, VII 447

WHITSTABLE, in Kent, XXI 856

Whitsunday, why so called, IV 424

Whittlesea-mere, XII 48

Whittleworth Forest, XVI 295

Whitworth (Lord), his conversation with Napoleon, V 592, 593; X 127—his account of Napoleon's behaviour at the Tuilleries, ib; V 504

—on mechanics, XIV 415, 416

WHYDRA, sea-port in Guinea, XXI 856

Whytock (Richard), his improvement of carpet manufacture, VI 272

WHYTT (Robert), physician, XXI 856

WIBORO, in Finland, XXI 857

Wicktyne, mineral, XV 86

Wick, in Caithness, XXI 857; VI 62—herring curing at, IX 640, 612—herring fishery, 635; XIX 805

Wicker-work, IV 487

Wick of lamps, XIII 170, 171, 172

Wickham (Mr), V 558

—(Mr), early notice of tea by, XXI 88

—(Mr), on Hannibal's passage of the Alps, VI 203 n

WICKLIFFE (John), XXI 857. See Wycliffe

WICKLOW, Irish county, XXI 857; XII 508, 515, 517

—town, XXI 850

Wide, meanings of the word, VIII 11

WIDIN, Turkish city, XXI 860, VII 653

Wiegnowiecki (M. K.), king of Poland, XVIII 144

Wiedmann (C. R. G.), his works on insects, IX 18

WIELAND (C. Martin), XXI 860, 718—poetry of, XVIII 119—romances of, XIX 290

WIESSBADEN, XXI 860—mineral waters of, XV 39

Wife. See Husband and Wife

WIFFIN (J. Holme), XXI 860

WIGAN, in Lancashire, XXI 861

WIG—WIL

Wigeon, bird, XVI 819; IX 762

WIGART (ISLE OF), XXI 861—needles off the, XVI 128—lighthouse, ib—its remarkable geological phenomena, XVII 587

WIGTOWN, Scotch county, XXI 863—agricultural statistics of, XIX 796, 797, 798—population, 799

—, town in Wigtownshire, XXI 864

Wilbeking (M.), on iron bridges, XII 582

WILBERFORCE (William), XXI 864—his opposition to the slave trade, V 528, 533, 538, 540, XX 321, 322

Wilcke of Stockholm, his experiments on the distribution of heat, I 761—on electricity, VIII 565—his theory of magnetism, XIV 91

Wildbad, springs at, XV 37

WILDE (Thomas), Baron Truro, XXI 865

Wild-fire, a disease of sheep, XXI 578

Wild-fowl shooting, XX 216

Wildman (Mr), his hives, IV 586—his mode of managing bees, 587

WILKES (John), XXI 866—prosecution of, V 467—elected member for Middlesex, 470—Horne Tooke's intimacy with, XXI 308

—(Benjamin), his works on insects, IX 6

—(Lient), his alleged discovery of an antarctic continent, X 173

WILKIE (Sir David), painter, XXI 866; III 717; XVII 80, 85—his opinion of the scenery of Kerry, XIII 73—on Volasquez and Murillo, XV 694—engravings of his pictures by Raimbach, XVIII 799

—(WILLIAM), poet, XXI 867

WILKINS (John), XXI 867, XX 802—on a universal language and real character, I 46, II 611—his intimacy with John Ray, XVIII 813

WILKINSON (Sir J. Gardner) on the use of beer among the ancient Egyptians, V 318—on Egyptian carpet rugs, VI 269—on a change of level in the Nile, VIII 425—on the ancient Egyptians, 434—on the sacred animals of Egypt, 439—on the population of Egypt, 444—on the Egyptian dynasties, 450—on the sun-worshippers, 461—on hieroglyphics, XI 409—his *Ancient Egyptians*, 431—on Egyptian fishes, XII 252, 260—on the vocal Memnon, XIV 492

Wilks, actor, XXI 174

Will, XIV 582—freedom of, 618—St Augustine and Descartes' assertion of its freedom, I 267—Kant and Gallian's arguments for the same view, 106, 107—Aristotle on its freedom, III 565—attributes of God in respect to, XXI 101. See Free Will, Necessity, Volition

Will-o'-the-Wisp, or Ignis fatuus, XII 300; XIII 407; X 409

Williamex (E. B.), Admiral, on the battle of Trafalgar, XXI 724

Willan (Dr Robert) on mortality in London, XV 603

Willie, engraver, VIII 809

Willemite, mineral, XV 100

Willessden farm, XIV 608

Willet, bird, XVI 805

WILLIAM I. of England, XXI 808—his visit to Edward the Confessor, VIII 608—his conquest of England, 605—reign of, 606—death and character, 618—Aldred's influence over, II 458—effect of his conquest on the English language, IX 793, 794—his invasion of Scotland, X 137—his navy, XVI 93; XX 120—forest made by, 200

—II of England, Rufus, XXI 808; VIII 600—Scotland invaded by, XIX 747—disputes between Malcolm and, 748—severity of his forest-laws, XX 209

—III of England, XI 575—steps preliminary to his invasion of England, V 436—his landing, 437—appointed king, 439—his favour to dissenters, ib—his expedition to Ireland, 442; XII 490; VIII 218—alterations with

WIL—WIL

- his subjects, V. 446—death and character, ib
WILLIAM and MARY, proclaimed king and queen, V. 489—reign of, ib—scheme for raising money by a Tontine, III 220—recoining of silver, VII 78—act giving a bounty on the exportation of corn, 377—state of the coin, 378—navy, XX 181; XVI 98—household expenses of, XI 773, 774.
 —IV king of Britain, XXI. 868—accession to the throne, V. 658—history of his reign, ib—death, 665—act regarding the coinage in the reign of, VII 76
 —the Lion, king of Scotland, XIX 752
 —II king of Holland, XI 575
 —IV landgrave of Hesse, a cultivator of astronomy, III 798
 —of MALMESBURY, XXI 868 See Malmesbury.
 —of Nassau, prince of Orange, XI 563 *et seq*
 —OF NEWBURG, XXI 868.
 —OF WARHAM, XXI 868
 —OF WAYNFLETE, XXI 869.
 —OF WYKEHAM, XXI 869
 —(Fort), at Calcutta, VI 69
WILLIAMS (John), missionary, XXI 671; XVIII 278, 279.
 —(John), on the ascending thunder-bolt, VIII 583
 —(Col.), employed in the ordnance survey, XXI 881.
 —(John), archbishop, founder of the first public library in London, XIII 894
 —(Mr), on the population of China, VI 587
 —(Mr), on manufacturing ice in the East Indies, XIV 646
 —(C Wye), his plan for preventing smoke in furnaces, XX. 256, 257—on the combustion of coal, 633
 —(Dr), on the annelides, XI. 291, 292 *et seq*—his experiments on earth-worms, 801—on the organisation of chiton, XV 380.
 —(General), his defence of Kars, XIII 58; XIX 511; XXI 375.
 —(Roger), XIX 146
 —(Messrs), their smoke-consuming furnaces, XI 721.
 —(Mr), on fortified forts, IX 790.
Williamson (Dr), on the electrical eel, VIII 875.
 —(Rev Mr), on the culture of the ranunculus, XI 762
 —(Captain), on tiger-shooting, XX 211.
 —(Messrs), their vertical steam-engines, XX 611
 Williamson's patent for grates, XX 354
 Williamsonstown, in Victoria, XIV 478.
 Willich (A. F. M.), quoted on Kant's philosophy, I 191
 Willing, XIX 111, 112 See Volition.
 Willis (Thomas), XXI 872—his improvements in anatomy, II 762; and medical psychology, XIV 460.
 —on the brain as the seat of the mental faculties, XVII 557, 578.
 —(John), his shorthand alphabet, XX 675.
 —(Prof.), on clocks, VII 16—his Principles of Mechanism, 86—on mechanics, XIV. 384, 385, 391 *et seq*
 —(Mr), his architectural nomenclature of the middle ages, XX 787
 Willoughby (Sir Hugh), his arctic voyage, XVIII 164.
 —(Lord), IV. 429.
 Willow, order of plants, V 207.
 —V 115; XVII 759, 764—used in basket-making, IV 487—cultivation of, 488, 489—its leaves used as a dye-stuff, XVII 297—bark used in tanning, XIII 806—wood of, XXI 278; its strength, XX. 757, 758; specific gravity, XII 89.
WILLS, or Testaments, XXI 872.
 —(General), V. 454.
Willshire (General), his capture of Kelat, IV. 640; XIII 68.

WIL—WIN

- Willisidae, zoophytes, XXI 1001.
WILLUGHBY (Francis), naturalist, XXI 872—his connection with Ray, XVIII 813—on fishes, XII. 205—on birds, XVI 736, 814
 Willying machine, XXI 921
WILMINGTON, in Delaware, XXI 873
WILMOT (John), Earl of Rochester, XXI 873—converted by Bishop Burnet, V 792—on Shadwell XX. 68
 —(Sir J. E. B.), governor of Tasmania, XXI 82
 Wilmot's code of naval signals, XX 25
WILNA, XXI 878. See Vilna
WILSON (Alexr.), ornithologist, XXI 873—on American birds, XVI 730, 742, 746, 752, 762, 805
 —(DANIEL), Bishop, XXI 874
 —(FLORENCE), XXI 874
 —(Dr GEORGE), XXI 874—his life of Cavendish, I 829 n 1, 981—on colour-blindness, VII 154—on the poisonous effects of lead fumes, XIII 360—on the chemical changes of the human body, XIV 617
 —(HORACE HAYMAN), XXI 874
 —(JAMES), financier, XXI 875
 —(JAMES), naturalist, XXI 876—his work on the rod and gun, III 165—his works on insects, IX 20—his article Ichthyology, in the former edition of this work, XII 831, n
 —(JOHN), Prof. of moral philosophy, Edinburgh, XXI 876—his arrangement with Hogg in reference to the *Noctes*, XI 558, n—on the individuality of Homer, 602, n 1—his literary connection with Lockhart, XIII 543—Elleray, his residence in Westmoreland, XXI 843—elected professor of moral philosophy, XI 607—his poetry, XVIII. 127—novels, XIX. 282.
 —(John), on charr-fishing, XII 241.
 —(Dr John), on the sinfulness of taking interest, XII 429
 —(John), of Ainsworth, his improvements in the cotton manufacture, VII 441.
 —(Dr Patrick), on the sun, I. 841—on hoar-frost, VII 769.
 —(Mr), on ship-building, XX 134, 161.
 —(Dr), on Gennesareth, XVII 186—on the animals of Palestine, 192
 —(Thomas), on insurance, XII 395.
 —(Thomas), on iron bridges, XII 578, 579.
 —(RICHARD), English painter, XXI. 878, 888, 889; III 712; XVII 79
 —(G. F.), on the uses of glycerine, X. 685
 —(Christopher), his life-boat, XIII 445.
 —(James), execution of, X. 647.
 —(Benjamin), on electricity, VIII. 529.
 —(Captain), his visit to the Marqueses islands, XVIII. 281.
 —(Dr), on the solar spots, IV 29
 —(George), Sir James Macintosh's character of, VIII 241; I 398, n
WILTON, town in Wiltshire, XXI 878—carpets, VI. 272.
WILTSHIRE, or Wiltonshire, XXI 879—population and value of property, VIII. 754—Stonehenge (see that article)
WIMBORNE MINSTER, town in Dorsetshire, XXI 879.
 Wimpfen, deposit of salt at, XIX 582.
 Winchburgh cutting, Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, XVIII 760
 Winchcombe (John), clothier, XXI 914.
 Winchelsea (Lord), his account of the lava of Ætna, II 106
 —(Lord), his duel with the Duke of Wellington, XXI. 830
WINCHESTER, town in Hampshire, XXI. 880, XI. 203, 204—statute of, XVIII. 191.
 —College, XXI 880
WINCKELMANN (J. Joachim), XXI 880;
 XVII 524—on the Apollo Belvedere, XIII 800—on Egyptian art, XVII 47.

WIN—WIN

- WIND**, XXI 881, XIV. 647—law of rotation of, ib—velocity of, 651, XVIII 64—influence of its direction on the state of the atmosphere, XIV 677—sea and land winds, 649, III 737; XVIII 77—waves caused by, XVII 581—winds in the Mediterranean, XIV 470—trade-winds, XVII 614, 615—their influence on the plague, 751—connection of clouds with, VII 40—effect on the barometer, IV 459—in the polar regions, XVIII 177—effect of, on health, XIX 609—action of, on ships, XX 6, 7, 159—velocity and pressure, 21—winds in England, VIII 718; in Scotland, XIX 795, in Spain, XX 488, among the Himalayas, XI 442—mistral, in France, V 241; XIV 470—Vent de Bise, in France, X 241—hot winds in Australia, IV 291—Harmattan wind, XI 229, XX 271—sirocco, XIV 470—bora, ib—seste of Madeira, XIII 799—skat, in Jutland, VII 747 See Atmosphere, Meteorology, Monsoons, &c
 —, in horses, XI 642.
 Wind-sucking, a disease, XXI 565
WINDERMEER, lake, XXI 881, 842, XIII. 177—fish of, III 157 n, 158, XII 241.
 Windgags See Anemometer
 Windgalls, XXI. 558.
Windham (Mr), his opposition to the Peace of Amiens, V 585, 589—his act for the improvement of the army, 599.
 —(General), XVI 308.
 Windings of rivers, XIX. 208.
 Winding of silk, XX. 231—machine for, ib
 Windischgratz (Prince), IV. 307, 308, XII 24.
 Windlass, XIV 415—differential, 401.
 Windmills, III. 706; XIV. 415—Coulomb on, VII 462
 Windows, III 488; X. 650—first use of glass in, 658—painted glass, 660—stained, 667—lattice or lead windows, 670—sills of, V. 740—sashes, 752—shutters, ib.—glazing, 756; X. 669—in Greek architecture, III. 456—rose, or Catherine wheel, 512—window tracery, in the middle ages, XX. 734—abolition of window-tax, V. 672
 Windpipe. See Trachea
WINDSOR, XXI. 881—railway to, V 722—Castle, IV 606
 —Soap, XX 366
 —Castle, river steam boat, XX. 666.
WINE and WINE MAKING, XXI. 882—cooling of wines, VII 102, 103—carbonic acid in, VI 472—low, distillation of, VIII 49—imports of, into the United Kingdom, 735—specific gravity of, XII. 80—adulteration of, II. 154; XIV 441—three classes of, IX. 759—British, 760—making of, 760—wine from raisins, XVIII. 799—clarification of, VI 755—duties on French wines, XXI 60—effects of the increase of duties on, 72—reduction of duties in 1825, ib.; and in 1800, 73—Champagne, XIV 312—Port, XVI. 519—Tokay, XII 17; XXI 301; IV. 814—wines of Austria, 314—Chile, VI 550—France, X. 247, state of the wine trade of, in 1843, 219—Germany, 589—Georgia, XIX 561—Italy, XII 640—Hungary, 17—Madeira, XIII 798—Spain, XIV. 107; XX 489—Lombardy, XIII 656—Nassau, XV. 801—Portugal, XVIII 397—Marsala, XI. 246—Valdepenas, XXI 510—Greece, XI. 16—Johannisberg, XII 789—Württemberg, XXI. 998—Tuscany, 894—wine measures, 808.
 Winefrid (St) well, at Holywell, XI 593.
 Wingate (E) on logarithms, XIII. 554
 Wingfield, South, manor house, VII 756.
 Wings of insects, IX. 39—of birds, XVI. 735; III 85, 92.
 Wing-shells, XV. 388
 Winkler (Prof.), on electricity, VIII 526.
 Winning of Collieries, VII. 119.
 Winnipistogee, lake, XVI. 173.
 Winnowing Machines, II. 283. See Fan-ners

WIN—WOB

- Winsford, salt at, XIX 582
Winslow (James B.), anatomical labours of, II 764—on the sympathetic nerve, 815—on monsters, XV 508.
 —town in Bucks, V 722
Winstanley (Mr), his lighthouse at Eddystone, XIII 465
 Winter-berry, XVII 762.
 Winter-green, order of plants, V 198
 Winter-palace, Petersburg, XVII. 491
 Winter's-bark, plant, V 180
WINTERTHUR, Swiss town, XXI 892
 Winther (Christian), Danish poet, XIX. 695
WINTON (Andrew), prior of Lochleven, XXI 892—quoted, VI 191.
 Winttingham on venous tissue, II 793.
 Winzes, in mining, XV 224
 Wire, annealing of, III 218—fusion of, by electricity, VIII 592—Wollaston's mode of making fine wire, XIV. 744—zinc wire, flexible and tenacious, III 219—brass wire deprived of tenacity by acid fumes or damp air, ib.—in electric telegraphs, XXI 95, 96—gold wire, X 703—wire-drawing, in the steam engine, XX 590
 Wire cartridges, XX 214.
 Wire fences, II 270
 Wire micrometers, XIV 743, 745
WIRE-ROPE, XXI 892, XIX 414—rigging of, XX 23
 Wire-worm, IX 105, 106
WIRKSWORTH, town in Derbyshire, XXI. 892
WISBEACH, in Cambridgeshire, XXI 892; VI 33, 34
 Wisby, Swedish city, XXI 892; X. 729
WISCONSIN, one of the United States, XXI 892, 419—debt of, 428—wines of, 888—taxation in, 428.
Wiseman (Cardinal), V 672—on drainage of towns, III. 647, n.—on copying in architecture, 505, n
 —(Richard), on surgery, XIV. 461; XX. 818.
 Wishart (George), IV 530
 Wisheart (Robert), bishop, X. 646.
 Wishing, XIX. 111—laws of, 119.
WISMAR, in Germany, XXI., 894.
WISSEMBOURG, in France, XXI 894.
 Wtr, XXI. 894; XVII 503.
 Witchcraft, III. 313, 315—belief in, IV. 402, n.—in Lapland, XIII 299
 Witch-hazel, order of plants, V 195.
WITHAM, river in Lincolnshire, XXI 895; XIII 401
 —Bridge, XII 583.
 —(Mr), on the effect of a trap dyke on coal, XV. 189.
 Withamite, mineral, XV. 85—optical properties of, XVI 607.
WITMER (George), poet, XXI. 895.
 Withering (Dr), on the effects of lightning, VIII 585.
 Witherite, mineral, XV. 85.
 Withers of a horse, fistula in, XXI 558.
 Witness, in the English Courts, VIII. 400—grounds of disqualification in, IX. 418, 419. See Testimony.
WITNEY, in Oxfordshire, XXI. 896.
WITTEUS (Hermann), divine, XXI. 896.
 Witt (John de), Dutch statesman, XXI. 895, 149; VII 770; V. 423; XI 676—on life annuities, XII. 895; III. 220.
Witte (Madame), her model of the moon, IV. 89.
Wittena-gemote, Anglo-Saxon national council, VIII. 665.
WITTENBERG, in Prussian Saxony, XXI. 896—form of worship altered at, XVIII. 821.
 Wittichite, mineral, XV. 121.
 Wittingen, wooden bridge at, VI. 384.
WITTSROCK, in Prussia, XXI. 896.
 Wivelcombe, in Somerset, XX. 411.
 Wivern, heraldic animal, XI 884.
 Wladimir. See Vladimir.
Wladimirsko (Theodore), XXI. 683.
 Wood, culture of, in France, X. 248—used in dyeing, VIII. 801.
WOBBURN, in Bedfordshire, XXI. 896—Abbey, IV. 569—ordf, II 274

WOC—WOL

- Woeke (M.), his work on insects, IX. 23
 Wodankies, mineral, XV. 116
 Woden, XV. 767—Wednesday dedicated to, I. 458, n.
 Wodrow (Robert), XXI. 897—on the character of Robert Bailie, IV. 372—manuscripts of, XIII. 401.
 Wohlerite, mineral, XV. 91
 Wokingham, in Berkshire, XXI. 898
 Wolcott (John), Peter Pindar, XXI. 898
 Wolchite, mineral, XV. 120
 Wolf (F. August), XXI. 898—in Homer, XI. 599 *et seq.*: XVII. 525
 —quadruped XIV. 163, XVII. 632—superstition in Oude regarding wolves, 16
 Wolfart (Dr.), his magnetical practice at Berlin, XX. 445—his works on magnetism, 444.
 WOLFE (Charles), XXI. 898
 —(James), General, XXI. 899—Quebec taken by, V. 464, VI. 159—killed in action, ib.
 WOLFENBUTTEL, in Brunswick, XXI. 899—library of, XIII. 421—palimpsests in, XVII. 209 and n.
 WOLFF (J. Christian Von) or Wolfius, XXI. 899—merits of, as a philosopher and writer, I. 188—his futile attempts to introduce his philosophy into France, ib.—his speculations on heat, 758—his *Monumenta Typographica*, IV. 706—on the Caraites, VI. 228—on hydraulics, XII. 180—on intuition and symbolical cognition, XIV. 585, n. 4; 587, n.; 588, n. 1 and 2—quotation from his *Psychologia Empirica*, 587, 588—contents of his *Psychologia rationalis* and *Cosmia generalis*, 605, n. 1—questions discussed by, ib., n. 2—contents of his *Theologia naturalis*, 606, n. 1—his notion of Cosmology, 605—his construction of telescopes, XXI. 123.
 —J. F., his work on insects, IX. 11
 Wolf-fish. See Anarrhicas and Cat-fish
 Wolfram, XV. 66, 109
 Wolfsbergite, mineral, XV. 119.
 Wolga. See Volga.
 WOLGAST, town in Prussia, XXI. 900.
 WOLLASTON (William), XXI. 900—his theory on the foundation of moral rectitude, XV. 555.
 —(T. V.), his work on the insects of Madeira, IX. 24; XIII. 800.
 —(Rev. Dr.), on the solar spots, IV. 29—his micrometer, XIV. 758.
 —(Rev. F.), his apparatus for determining heights by the ebullition of water, XI. 271.
 —(WILLIAM HYDE), XXI. 900—Huygen's law of double refraction confirmed by, I. 901—on polarization in calcareous spar, 913—his reception of the atomic theory, 938—his contributions to electricity, 973; and other sciences, ib.—compared with Sir H. Davy, ib.—his death, 973—his blow-pipe, IV. 790—his camera lucida, VI. 117—on the spectrum, I. 915, 922; XIII. 482; XVI. 587, 589, n.; 594—his cryophorus, VII. 644—his mode of hardening steel, 600—on electrical light, VIII. 546—on the oxidating and de-oxidating powers of electricity, 593—apparatus for the decomposition of water, 595, 596, 597—on inaudible sharp sounds, IX. 45—his mode of making fine wire, XIV. 744—his micrometers, 744, 761—his periscopic doublet and sphere, 772—another doublet, 774—on the illumination of microscopic objects, 796—on optics, XVI. 588, 589, 581, 583, 584 *et seq.*—his method of centering the lenses of an object glass, XXI. 125—his elementary galvanic battery, 611—his small galvanic battery, 636—on revolving magnetism, 638—on weights and measures, 799, 800 *et seq.*
 Wollastonite, mineral, XV. 82.
 WOLAST (Thomas), Cardinal, XXI. 901; VIII. 698—his disgrace and death, 700—his efforts to revive Greek literature at Oxford, XXI. 454.

WOL—WOO

- Woltmann's mill, XII. 143.
 WOLVERHAMPTON, XXI. 901; XX. 530, 581—cheap clocks made at, VII. 16—gunlocks made at, XI. 100
 Wolverine, quadruped, XIV. 156—fur of, X. 349
 Womb, or Uterus, III. 71
 Wombat, quadruped, XIV. 177; XXI. 81—dentation of, XVI. 440, 450
 Women, of Afghanistan, II. 206, of Albania, 444; Arabia, III. 358—of ancient Athens, XX. 371—of New Caledonia, IV. 268; New Zealand, 267; Austria, 319; Beloochistan, 642; Bogota, 811; Bolivia, 880; China, VI. 595, Cuccassia, 731—Cochin-China, VII. 49; Congo, 246; Crete, 495; Dahomey, 620, ancient Egypt, VIII. 484, 440; modern, 444, 445; England, 781, 782; ancient Germany, VI. 606; X. 573—ancient Greece, VIII. 188; modern Greece, XI. 14, Hindustan, 478; the Ionian Islands, XII. 449, Japan, 690; Madeira, XIII. 796; New Holland, IV. 259, Sindhu, XX. 306; Sparta, 503; North American Indians, II. 681; Bazeegurs, IV. 525; Loo-choo islands, XIII. 691—introduction of women on the stage, II. 120; VIII. 161, 162; XXI. 170—their polvis larger than in males, III. 13—their organs of generation, 70—breasts, 72—mortality less than of males, 280—castration of, VI. 329—milk of, XV. 11—baneful effects of indiscriminate intercourse in early youth, VI. 606—considered in relation to chivalry, 605 *et seq.*: XIII. 110, XVIII. 107—their character in the Greek drama, VIII. 134; as exhibited in the drama, 86, 87—dress of, XIV. 441—condition of, in factories, 280—condition of, in Mohammedan countries, XV. 304—respect paid to, in England and France, XX. 79, n.—suicides of, 799, 800—enactments regulating their labour in factories, XXI. 790—peculiarity in the physical conformation of Hottentot women, II. 222—dancing-girls, VII. 646, of Egypt, VIII. 435, 443, 448—the Amazons, II. 650—size of heads, in new born females, III. 2—weight of female infants, ib.—bearded women, IV. 520—punishment of soldiers, V. 276; VI. 392—concubinage, VII. 239—Shakespeare's female characters, XX. 86. See Bride, Chastity, Female, Marriage, Midwifery, Nursing, Polygamy, Pregnancy, Prostitution, Rape, Seduction, Sex
 Wonder, sentiment of, XVII. 563.
 Wonder-turner, optical instrument, XVI. 607.
 Wood, or a Wood (Anthony), XXI. 902—on M. Needham's newspapers, XVI. 181—on Selden, XX. 37—on the University of Oxford, XXI. 453, 455.
 —(Lieut.), on the Indus, XII. 378
 —(Mr.), on the rate of speed on railways, I. 885.
 —(W.), his work on insects, IX. 14.
 —(Dr. Alexr.), his proposal for testing the common sense of surgeons, XX. 821, n.
 —(Andrew), of Largo, XIX. 704.
 —(Robert), on the ruins of Baalbec, IV. 340
 —, XXI. 902; V. 81—woody tissue, 69—strength of, VI. 249, XX. 170, 171, 172, 757, 779—diseases of, and modes of preserving, V. 178 (See Dry Rot)—bridges of, VI. 382—charcoal of different kinds of, 431—various senses in which the word is used, VIII. 12—engraving on, 799 (See Wood Engraving)—shrinkage of, XII. 816—curving of, ib.—effects of the weather on, ib.—kinds most used in joinery, 817—as fuel, X. 817—in landscape gardening, XVII. 771—turning of, XXI. 890. See Carpentry, Joinery, Planting, Shipbuilding, Timber, Trees.
 Woodward (Captain), his account of a case of severe abstinence, VIII. 22.

WOO—WOO

- WOODBRIDGE, town and river in Suffolk, XXI. 902.
 Wood-bugs, IX. 161.
 Wood-cuts, printing from, XVIII. 548—stereotyping of, 551.
 Wood-cutters of Canada, VI. 142. See Lumbering.
 Wood-cock, IX. 763, XVI. 802—shooting of, XX. 224
 Woodcroft (Prof. B.), on steam navigation, XX. 636, n.—his screw propeller, 658
 WOOD-ENGRAVING, XXI. 902; VIII. 799
 Wooden pavement, XIX. 227
 Woodhead railway tunnel, XVIII. 761.
 Woodhouseles (Lord) See Tytler (A. F.)
 Woodley (Mr.), his ascent of Mont Blanc, II. 627.
 Wood-lice, VII. 543
 Woodpecker, XVI. 774.
 Wood-pigeon shooting, XX. 216
 Wood's comage in Ireland, XII. 493, 527.
 Woods (Dr.), his photographic process, XVII. 551.
 Wood-sorrel, order of plants, V. 187.
 —plant, V. 188.
 Woodsrook, in Oxfordshire, XXI. 904—groves manufactured at, X. 682
 Woodville (Dr.) on small-pox and cow-pox, XXI. 600.
 Woodward (John), XXI. 904.
 —(Mr.), his manual of mollusca, XV. 328—on the Veneridae, 350—on the Hippuritidae, 349—on Gastrochoena modiolina, 350—on sea-hares, 372—on the Lamneridae, 374—on operculated land snails, 375—on limpets, 579.
 Woodworth (J. C.), his works on insects, IX. 24
 Woe-e-shan, Bolica tea hills in China, XXI. 84, 85.
 Wool, XXI. 780. See Warp
 WOOL AND WOOL TRADE, XXI. 905; II. 358, 354; XIV. 183, 212—wool of Australia, IV. 288, 292, 299; Cashmere, VI. 309; Canada, 147; Spain, XX. 439; Saxony, XIX. 684, 685—Tibet, XXI. 247—Russia, XIX. 542—wool manufactures of Hawick, XI. 246; Galashiels, X. 308—probable cause of wool curling, XI. 182—its exportation prohibited, II. 269; V. 527—law of Henry V. regarding foreigners buying wool in England for exportation, VII. 77—bleaching of, IV. 769—Dr. Young's instrument for measuring the fineness of, VI. 651—dyes better than cotton and linen, VIII. 274, 277—structure of, 274—felting of, 275—falling of, ib.—importance of, ib.—scouring of, ib.—dyeing of, ib.—method of dyeing it red, 288; yellow, 297; blue, 302, black, 305, brown, 308, 313; green, 209; violet, purple, &c., 311; orange, 313; grey, &c., ib.—value of imports of into Great Britain and Ireland, 735—imports from Cape of Good Hope, X. 715. See Sheep.
 Wool-hats, XI. 240, 241.
 WOOLLEN AND WORSTED MANUFACTURES, XXI. 918—of Ayrshire, IV. 838—Donmark, VII. 747—Devonshire, 764—Derbyshire, 755—England, VIII. 728—France, X. 251—Germany, 590—Gloucestershire, 681—Holland, XI. 683—Illinois, XII. 362—Ireland, 492, 519—Scotland, XIX. 805—Pennsylvania, XVII. 396—Philadelphia, 510—Persia, 424—Spain, XX. 490—Somersetshire, 410—Yorkshire, XIV. 287; XXI. 958—Tipperrary, 287—Tyronne, 408—Wiltshire, 879—Wisconsin, 894—value of imports of into United Kingdom, VIII. 735; of exports, 736—salubrious nature of woolen manufacture, X. 868—calendar of woolen goods, VI. 91, 92—card, 281.
 Wooler, town in Northumberland, XXI. 926.
 Woolhope limestone, XV. 198.
 Woolhouse on the satellites of Jupiter, IV. 91—on comets, 94.
 Wool (Dr.), his Life of Warton, XXI. 788.
 Woollet, his engravings, VIII. 608.
 Woolley (Rev. Joseph), his rule for cal-

WOO—WOT

- culations in shipbuilding, XX. 145—rule for determining the time of oscillation, 157—his descriptive geometry, 184
 WOOLSTON (Thomas), XXI. 926
 Woolwich, XXI. 926, XIII. 67—Royal Military Academy at, II. 71—testing of cannon at, VI. 180—dockyard, VIII. 80—ropery, 81
 Woorali or Woorari, poison, XIV. 438; XVII. 702.
 Wootz of India, VII. 601—its value in cutlery, 600, 601.
 WORCESTER, XXI. 926—battle of, V. 415—early newspapers of, XVI. 186—porcelain works, XVIII. 487
 —College, Oxford, XXI. 459.
 —(Marquis of), steam-engine invented by, XX. 574, 577—his experiment of heating water in a close vessel, 557
 —(FLORENCE OF), historian, XXI. 929
 —(WILLIAM OF), chronicler, XXI. 929
 WORCESTERSHIRE, XXI. 927—additions to the county of, VIII. 719—population and value of property, 754—salt produced in, XV. 247—woollen manufactures of, XXI. 914
 Worde (Wynkyn de), printer, XVIII. 534, 536—his types, XXI. 401—on the dislike of spirits to bells, IV. 629.
 Words, the signs of ideas, X. 745. See Language, Speech.
 WORDSWORTH (William), XXI. 929—on fancy, XVIII. 93—character of his poetry, 128—recalled our poetry to truth and nature, XV. 23—on Ossian, XVII. 7—his connection with Coleridge, VII. 109—Jeffrey's criticism on, XII. 717.
 —(CHRISTOPHER), XXI. 929.
 Work, in mechanics, XIV. 409.
 Workhouses, XVIII. 311, 314—first provided in Paris, 185.
 Working machines, classified, XIV. 415.
 WORKINGTON, in Cumberland, XXI. 928—coal-mines of, VII. 577.
 Workmen and their employers, laws relating to, XIV. 346
 Works of God, XXI. 195.
 WORKSOP, in Nottingham, XXI. 932.
 World, map of, X. Plates—on Mercator's projection, Plates—chart of, showing magnetic curves, XIV. 60—produce of gold and silver in different parts of the, XVIII. 463. See Earth, Geography.
 Worm (Olaf), physician, XXI. 932.
 —of a still, VIII. 47, 49.
 —of the dog, III. 100.
 Wormian bones, III. 21.
 Worm-like serpents, XIX. 55.
 Worm-shells, XV. 688.
 Worms, red-blooded, XI. 290—earth-worms, 301—ship-worm. See Teredo.
 —(intestinal), XXI. 974—obscure of their origin, 975, 976 *et seq.*: III. 175—diseases produced by, XXI. 977; XVII. 691—reproduction of, 688—in the domestic animals, XXI. 569, 578—worm powder recommended by Dr. Alston, II. 680.
 Worms, German city, XXI. 932—diet at, in 1521, XIII. 727
 Wormwood, plant, V. 107.
 Worship, public, XIX. 569—due to God, XXI. 196; to Christ, 209—as a means of grace, 219—places of worship of every religious body in England and Wales, VIII. 745; in Scotland, XIX. 801. See Devotion.
 Worsley, canal from, to Manchester, V. 387.
 Worsted manufacture. See Woolen and Worsted Manufacture.
 Wort, in brewing, V. 825, 337—distillation of, VIII. 43, 49.
 Worthies of Surrey, XX. 887—of Sussex, 840.
 WORTHING, in Sussex, XXI. 938.
 Worthite, mineral, XV. 86.
 WORTON (Sir Henry), XXI. 938—on angling, III. 147—the first who used the

WOT—WUT

- erroneous phrase, "Gothic architecture," 447—his conditions of building well, 490, *n*—Walton's Life of, XXI 696
- Wotton (William), divine, XXI 938—his work on ancient and modern learning, IV 658
- Wounds, death from, XIV 431—surgical treatment of, XX 822—pensions for, XVI 120
- Wouwerman (Philip), Dutch painter, XXI 988, XI 591
- Wrangel (General), XX 848, 852
- (Baron), XVII 515, 588—on the winds of the polar regions, XVIII 177
- Wrangel's volcano, XVII 590, 645
- Wrath (Cape), XX 841
- Wray (Leonard), on the supply of timber, XX 178, 174—on teak timber, XXI 277, green-heart timber, *ib*—on the sugar-bearing plant, impee, XX 798—his estimate of the supply of wool, XXI 907.
- Wreath, in heraldry, XI 337.
- Wreck-chart of the British Islands, XIII 446—wrecks of British merchant vessels, XX 28 See Shipwreck
- Wreckers, in the Bahama islands, IV 367.
- Wrede (Baron Von), on optics, XVI 666—his visit to Hadramaut, III 856
- Wren (Sir Christopher), XXI 938—his knowledge of the balance of arches, III 406, 408—his dome vaulting in St Paul's, 414—character as an architect, and works of, 454, 455—his scheme for rebuilding London after the great fire, 496—centres employed by, VI 373—his roof of the theatre, Oxford University, XIX 386—school of masonry formed by, XX 711—St Paul's designed by, XIII 670—his monument, *ib* See Paul's (St)
- bird, XVI 756
- Wrestling, XI 170
- Wrexham, town in Denbighshire, XXI 987—church of, VII 736
- Wright (Edward), X 495, 505—on logarithms, XIII 558—on navigation, XVI 4.
- (Mr), his apparatus for estimating (Thomas), on the milky way, I 844 and *n*. 2
- the calorific value of coal, XX 631.
- Wrist, bones of the, III 82—joints, 34—muscles, 88.
- Warr, in Law, XXI 987.
- Writers to the Signet, VI 764—in Edinburgh, VIII 395—their library, *ib*; XIII 402
- Writing, art of, XXI 987—origin of alphabetic, II 606—phonetic system, 607—was it known in Homer's time? III 598—hieroglyphic, hieratic, and demotic systems of, 369—Astile on the origin and progress of, II 612; IV 706—writing in cypher, VI 728—among the Hebrews, XVII 401—short-hand, XX 675; II 551 (See Stenography)—remarks on written characters, I 66, 67. See Alphabet, Characters
- Wrongs, private, English law regarding, VIII 783
- Wry-neck, bird, XVI 777.
- Wulfenite, mineral, XV 106
- Wulff (C R), his work on insects, IX 22
- Wunch (Prof.) on the spectrum, XVI 588.
- Wurmser (General) X 81 *et seq.*; XV 787 *et seq.*
- Wurno, African town, XI 778; XIX 564, 565.
- WURTEMBERG, XXI 987—army of, III 652—its obligations to Bülfinger, IV 722—coins of, XV 442, 445—monarchy of, 414—postal system, XVIII 424—weights and measures, XXI 814
- Wurtz on animal magnetism, XX 424
- WURZBURG, Bavarian city, XXI 940; IV 518—university of, XXI 492.
- WURZEN, town in Saxony, XXI 940.
- Wutzer, on nervous ganglions, II 806, 811, 812.

WYA—XEN

- Wyandotte cave, in Indiana, XII 375
- Wyatt, family so named, XXI 940
- (BENJAMIN), architects, XXI 940
- (Charles), on the invention of the spinning machine, XX 509
- (JAMES), architect, XXI 940.
- (John), on roller spinning, XX 509, 510
- (L. WILLIAM), architects, XXI 941
- (M COATES), sculptor, XXI 941
- (MATTHEW DIGBY), XXI 941.
- (RICHARD JAMES), sculptor, XXI 941.
- (SAMUEL), architect, XXI 940
- (Sir Thomas), insurrection of, VIII 708.
- (Sir T.), poetry of, XVIII 121—sonnet on, VIII 796
- (THOS HENRY), architect, XXI 941
- Wyatt's patent slating, V 745—improvements in joinery, XII 805
- WYATVILLE (Sir Jeffrey), XXI 941
- WYCHERLEY (William), XXI 941, 171—dramatic works of, VIII 103
- Wychwood forest, XVII 86
- WYCLIFFE (John), XXI 944; VIII 686—his translation of the Scriptures, IV 702, specimen of that work, VIII 795—the English language improved by, VI 434—at Oxford, XXI 454—Tytler's Life of, 414
- WYCOMBE (Chipping or High), town in Bucks, XXI 947
- Wye, river, XXI 948; V 813; XI 349; XV 498, XVIII 748
- river in Derbyshire, VII 754
- Wyley (Andrew), on dolomite rocks, XV 162.
- Wyman (Prof.), on fossil reptiles, XVII 186
- WYMONDEHAM, town in Norfolk, XXI 948—medieval roof at, XIX 392.
- WYNDHAM (Sir William), XXI 948
- (Right Hon. William), his administration, V 546—his alien bill, *ib*—his Act for the preservation of the person of George III, 558—his reply to the French ambassador, 546; and to Bonaparte's letter to George III, 569. See Grenville (Lord)
- Wynkyn de Worde See Worde (Wynkyn de)
- WYTTENBACH (Daniel), philologist, XXI 948
- Wyvis (Ben), Scottish mountain, XIX 426.

X

- X, letter of the alphabet, XXI 949—in abbreviations, II 21
- XALAPA, town in Mexico, XXI 949; XII 671.
- Xanthichthys, genus of fishes, XII 813.
- Xanthin, VIII 282
- XALISCO, in Mexico, XXI 949.
- Xanthippe, XX 376, 377.
- Xanthippus, Lacedemonian, VI 289.
- Xanthite, mineral, XV 85.
- Xanthokon, mineral, XV 122.
- Xanthornus, genus of birds, XVI 762.
- Xanthoxylaceae, nat. order of plants, V 189.
- XANTHUS, city in Lycia, XXI 949.
- river, XXI 949; XIX 688
- XAVIER (Francis), missionary, XXI 949—introduced Christianity into Ceylon, VI 397—an associate of Loyola, XII 751—his appearance in Japan, 697.
- de Malistre (Count), on water-spouts, VIII 586.
- (Silva), his conspiracy in Brazil, V 285.
- Xenagoras, geometer, X 467.
- XENOCRATES, philosopher, XXI 949
- Xenodon, genus of serpents, XIX 55.
- Xenolite, mineral, XV 86.
- Xenopeltis, genus of serpents, XIX 53.
- XENOPHANES, XXI 950—philosophy of, VIII 522, XVII 232.

XEN—YAR

- XENOPHON, XXI 950—his Anabasis, II 743—his account of Cyrus, VII 612; XV 807—his retreat with the 10,000, VII 613—on field sports, XII 31—not mentioned by Plato, XVII 791—his notice of the ruins of Nineveh, XVI 273—his commendation of agriculture, XVIII 235, *n*. 2—his account of Socrates' manner of teaching, XX 374—his admiration of that philosopher, 379—his Memorabilia of Socrates, 396, 401, 402
- of Ephesus, XXI 950
- Greek surgeon, XX 811.
- Xenops, genus of birds, XVI 768.
- Xenos, genus of insects, IX 220.
- Xenotime, mineral, XV 94.
- XERES, or JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA, Spanish city, XXI 950—battle of, XX 460—wine of, XXI 884 See Sherry
- Xerxes, king of Persia, XVII 434—his invasion of Greece, IV 199; XX 500—effects of that invasion on Athens, IV 160—subdues Egypt, VIII 465
- Xestorhynchus, fossil reptiles, XVII 139
- XIMENES DE CENZEROS (Francisco), cardinal, XXI 951; XX 468—his polyglott Bible, IV 497
- on hydraulics, XII 144, 145
- Xingu, river, V 292.
- Xiphias, genus of fishes, XII 205, 207.
- Xiphodon, genus of fossil mammals, XVII 165.
- Xiphoidae, family of fossil fishes, XII 346.
- Xiphophorus, genus of fishes, XII 252
- Xiphostoma, genus of fossil fishes, XII 346
- Xiphostoma, genus of fishes, XII 247
- Xiphynchus, genus of fishes, XII 247.
- Xiphidrya, genus of insects, IX 184.
- Xolotl, Mexican king, XIV 699.
- Xorides, insects, IX 188.
- Xyla, genus of insects, IX 184.
- Xylobalsamm, IV 401
- Xylochor, mineral, XV 76.
- Xylocopa, genus of insects, IX 190.
- Xylophaga, genus of mollusks, X. 352.
- Xylophagi, insects, IX 142, 230.
- Xylophagus, genus of insects, IX 230.
- Xylophil, insects, IX 121.
- Xylophilus, genus of insects, IX 138.
- Xyloza, genus of insects, IX 239
- Xylocopa, family of insects, IX 232.
- Xylotragi, family of insects, IX 112
- Xyrichthys, genus of fishes, XII 267.
- Xyridaceae, nat. order of plants, V 213.
- Xysta, genus of insects, IX 147.

Y

- Y, letter of the alphabet, XXI 952.
- Yablono Mountains, XX 537.
- Yacht clubs, benefits resulting to ship-building from, XX 139—the Titania and America yachts, 164.
- Yack, or Yak, in zoology, XIV 215; III 740—in India, XI 455—Tibet, XXI 247.
- Yacous, birds, XVI 785
- Yafa (El), in Arabia, III 356.
- YAKUTSK, in Asiatic Russia, XXI 952—temperature at, XVIII 178—climate, XIX 519—population, 521.
- Yale College, VII 295; XVI 175—library of, XIII 429.
- Yale's lock, XIII 546.
- Yam order of plants, V 210.
- YANG-TSE-KIANG, Chinese river, XXI 952; XVII 647.
- Yani, XX 51.
- YANINA, XXI 952; II 443.
- Yapura, river, V 292.
- YARD of a ship, XXI 952.
- standard measure, XXI 799, 803.
- Yare, river in Norfolk, XVI 289; XX 790; XXI 953.
- YARKAND, XXI 952.
- YARMOUTH, in Norfolk, XXI 952; XVI 290—herring fishery at, IX 642 and *n*. 1—bloaters, 648.

YAR—YOR

- Yarmouth, in Isle of Wight, XXI 861
- Yarn, cotton, prices of, VII 446—linen, XIII 495 See Cotton Manufacture, Linen, &c
- Yaropolk, XIX 470
- YAROSLAV, XXI 953; XIX 471. See Yaroslav
- Yarra-Yarra, Australian river, XIV 477, 478
- YARRELL (William), XXI 953—on fishes, XII 230, 253, 269, 271, 281, 290—on mackerel, IX 645—on British birds, XVI 733.
- YARROW, river, XXI 953, XX 41.
- YASSY, XXI 953 See Jassy
- Yates (Mr), his vindication of Socinianism, XXI 208.
- (Thomas P.), his work on insects, IX 6.
- Yawl, IV 800
- Yeadell (Thomas), on moles, XXI 547, *n* 1, 2, 3, 4
- Year, astronomical and civil, VI 76—solar, *ib*—leap, 77—Roman, *ib*, 666—lunar, 79—Greecian, *ib*—Mahommedan, *ib*, 673—Hindu, 353, 676—Olympic, 665—Jewish, 669—Egyptian, III 783; VI 670; VIII 449, 450—Chinese, III 784; VI 665—Druidical, VIII 186—new-year festival, in China, VI 570—new-year's gifts, X 622—confusion of civil with ecclesiastical, XVIII 320, *n* 2. See Astronomy, Chronology
- YEAST, XXI 953; VI 441—its use in baking, IV 380; in brewing, V 328; in distillation, VIII 49—nature of, V 328—yeast plant figured, 68.
- YEDDO, or Yedo, Japanese town, XXI 953. See Jeddo
- YELL, Shetland island, XXI 953, XX 113.
- Yellow, colour, varieties of, XV 59—dyeing of, VIII 295, 318—for printing, XVIII 556.
- fibrous system, in anatomy, II 824.
- River, in China, XXI 953
- SEA, XXI 953; XVII 574, 577.
- Yellow-earth, XV 83.
- Yellow-fever, Dr Rush's treatment of, XIX 466
- Yellowly (Dr), on the gastric mucous membrane, II 837.
- YEMEN, XXI 953; III 341 *et seq.*
- Yemikale, IV 744; VII 605—Strait of, IV 335.
- Yenisei, or Yenisyay river, XIX 548; XVII 605, 647; XXI 951.
- YENISEISK, in Asiatic Russia, XXI 953; XIX 521.
- Yemite, mineral, XV 90.
- Yeomen of the Guard, XI 775—institution of, VIII 694
- Yeu, river, V 51.
- Yezovil, in Somersetshire, XXI 954—glove-making at, XX 410; VIII 731.
- Yezo, Japanese island, XXI 954; XII 688.
- Yew order of plants, V 209.
- Yew-tree, XVII 757, V 209—use of its wood, XXI 278—specific gravity of, XII 89—age of, II 235—large trees, XXI 278—Irish yew, IX 616.
- Yezn, Persian city, XXI 954.
- Yezdijird, king of Persia, XVII 436.
- era of, VI 674
- Yoldia, fossil mollusks, XVII 106.
- Yolofs, or Yolofs, African tribes, II 221, XX 50, 51.
- YONNE, in France, XXI 954.
- YORK, XXI 955—archbishop of, III 423—archbishopric of, VIII 743—a county of itself, 721—lodge of free-masons at, XIV 337.
- (Duke of), Lord High Admiral, under Charles II. VIII 85.
- (Frederick, Duke of), his marriage, V 540—his campaign of 1794, 564—his expedition to Holland, 608, 572, 578—his connection with Mary Ann Clarke, 606—vested with the custody of the king's person, 628—his declaration against the Catholic claims, 642.

YOR—YOU

York Minster, XXI. 955; III. 447, 481, 482, 517—great bell of, IV. 629—stained-glass windows, X. 608—library of, XIII. 395.
—in Upper Canada, VI. 145.
—(New) See New York.
—paving stone, XX. 711.
—and Lancaster, wars of, VIII. 690.
YORKSHIRE, XXI. 956—woollen and worsted manufactures of, VIII. 728; XIV. 287; XXI. 916, 917 *et seq.*—wages of woollen manufacturers in, 919—flax trade of, XIV. 288—great oak in, XXI. 270—population and value of property in, VIII. 754.
Youatt (Mr.), his microscopic examination of wools, XXI. 905—on veterinary science, 674, 675.
Youghal, Irish town, XXI. 900.
Young (Adam), his fire-escape, XIII. 438.
—(Andrew), on the time when parr become smolts, IX. 592—on the salmon of the river falling into Dornoch Firth, 598—on the conversion of smolts into grilse, 596 and n. 1; and of grilse into salmon, 597.
—(Arthur), XXI. 960—on small farms, VII. 428—on small estates, 432—on the war against cottages in England, 434—on the excise, IX. 449, XXI. 59—on the population of Ireland, XII. 508; on the climate of, 504—his description of Coalbrook Dale, XX. 280—on the soil of Tipperary, XXI. 33.
—(Brigham), Mormonist, XV. 591—troops sent against, XXI. 498.
—(Charles), actor, XXI. 176.
—(Edward), XXI. 960—his dramatic works, VIII. 164—his poetry, XVIII. 125.
—(Sir Henry), governor of Tasmania, XXI. 33.
—(Sh. H. E. F.), his reports on South Australia, IV. 207.
—(James), surgeon, XX. 818.
—(James), his galvanic battery, XXI. 613.
—(Dr. Matthew), on capillary attraction, XII. 91, 95, 97—his experiments in hydraulics, 147.
—(Thomas), XXI. 961—his early education and attainments, I. 898—residence at Edinburgh, 894—character of his investigations, *ib.*—his lectures on Natural Philosophy, *ib.*—on the undulatory theory of light, 895—his erometer, 897; table of substances measured by, XIV. 760—on interference of light, I. 897; diffractive bands of, *ib.*—opposition to his views, 898—on the rainbow, *ib.*; XIV. 679—his anonymous researches, I. 900—his articles in the Quarterly Review, *ib.*; and in the Encyclopedia Britannica, *ib.*—connection of his optical discoveries with those of Fresnel, *ib.*—on the physiology of vision, *ib.*—on hieroglyphics, *ib.*; II. 607—his method of interpreting the ancient Egyptian characters, XI. 377—on the inscriptions of the Rosetta stone, 378—on the character of Egyptian monuments, 404—his character, personal and philosophical, I. 732, 901, XI. 408—his death, I. 901—Bunsen's criticism on, XI. 408—his theory of the tides, I. 818—on the tides, XXI. 250—article on tides in this work, I. 819; XXI. 249, n.—his Life by Dr. Peacock, I. 818—his solution of the principle of capillary attraction, 732—on the Egyptian language, XIII. 218—on the affinities of language, 197—misled by a table in Morgans on Life Assurance, III. 223—on aurora borealis, IV. 249—on bathing, 501, 502—his introductory observations to the article Carpentry in this work, VI. 249 and n.—on chromatics, 648 *et seq.*; his article Chromatics in this work, XVI. 586—on cohesion, VII. 57 *et seq.*—on dew, 768—lectures of, 688—on light, XIII. 450, 453; XVI. 598—on optics, 538, 546, 547, 607, 623 *et seq.*—on the spectrum, 692—on the eye, 694—his formula representing the law of the pressure and tempe-

YOU—ZAN

rature of steam, XX. 565—on the strength of iron pillars, 178—on the pendulum, XXI. 800—on the laws relating to weights and measures, 801, his article on, in former editions of this work, 807.
Younger (John), on salmon fishing in the Tweed, IX. 614, 615.
Youth, XIV. 425—as a bar to capital punishment, 445.
Youze, in zoology, XIV. 169.
Ypanema, in Brazil, iron-works at, V. 299.
YPRES, in Belgium, XXI. 966—lace of, XIII. 143—poor-law of, XVIII. 300, n.
Ystwith, river, VI. 234.
Yssel, river, bridge over, XII. 598.
Yttria, XV. 65.
Yttrium, XV. 488.
Ytrocrite, mineral, XV. 93.
Ytrotantalite, mineral, XV. 110.
Ytrotantite, mineral, XV. 91.
Yttroumenite, mineral, XV. 109.
YRIARTE (Thomas de), XXI. 966.
YRIEUX (St), town in France, XXI. 966.
YSSINGEAUX, town in France, XXI. 968.
YSTAD, town in Sweden, XXI. 966.
YUCATAN, XXI. 966; XIV. 726, 718—ruined cities in, II. 697—architectural remains, III. 502.
Yugs, Hindu cras, XII. 788.
Yuma language, XIII. 221.
YUNNAN, in China, XXI. 966.
Yunx, genus of birds, XVI. 777.
Yupanqui, Inca, VI. 552.
YVEDUN, in Switzerland, XXI. 966.
Yveror, in France, XXI. 966.
Yzer, river, IV. 611.

Z

Z, letter of the alphabet, XXI. 967.
ZAANDAM, town in Holland, XXI. 967.
Zabrus, genus of insects, IX. 90.
Zabulun, tribe of, XVII. 192.
ZACATECAS, Mexican state and city, XXI. 967; XIV. 726, 718.
Zacatlula, in Mexico, XIV. 723.
Zacchia (Paulo), on medical jurisprudence, XIV. 423.
ZACHARIE (K. Salomon), German jurist, XXI. 967.
ZACH (Baron Von), XXI. 967; I. 835, 834, n. 3—his laughable mistake about Schellen, 834 n. 2—his astronomical publications, III. 813, 814—his catalogue of stars, IV. 80—on the motion of the stars, 81—on the number of, 82, 83—his interview with Mezzofanti, XIV. 732.
Zagrab, or Agram, II. 244.
Zahara. See Sahara.
Zainer (Ginther), early printer, XVIII. 532.
Zaire, river, VII. 247. See Congo.
ZALUSKUS, Locrian legislator, XXI. 967.
Zalusk library, XIII. 425.
Zama, battle of, VI. 299; XIX. 811.
Zambecari's balloon, II. 178.
ZAMBESI, African river, XXI. 967; II. 214; XV. 669; XVII. 608—falls of, 601, 608.
Zamboni (Prof.), his dry pile, XXI. 619.
Zambos, XIV. 719.
Zamfra, African country, XI. 778.
Zamorano (Rodrigo), on navigation, XVI. 4.
Zandrus, genus of fishes, XII. 300, 302—fossil, 344.
ZANESVILLE, in Ohio, XXI. 967; XVI. 490—canal, *ib.*
Zanfira, in Houssa, XI. 776, 728. See Zamfra.
Zangula, in Houssa, XI. 779.
Zannona, island, XVIII. 298.
Zanotti (M.), electrical experiments of, XXI. 635.
Zansz (Zacharias), inventor of the compound microscope, XIV. 763.
ZANTZ, XXI. 968; XII. 453.
Zantedeschi (Prof.), on solar magnetism,

ZAN—ZIN

XIV. 13; XVI. 596—on the lines in the spectrum, 592.
ZANZIBAR, XXI. 968, II. 228.
Zaphrentis, fossil corals, XVII. 97.
Zapolya (John), king of Hungary, XII. 20.
ZARA, Austrian city, XXI. 968.
Zaragoza. See Saragossa.
Zaria, XI. 778.
ZARSKOE-SELO, Prussian town, XXI. 968.
Zastrow on fortification, IX. 887.
ZEA, XXI. 968. See Ceos.
Zeagonite, mineral, XV. 77.
ZEEALAND, Danish island, XXI. 968; VII. 745, 346—manufacture of linen in, 747—province, XXI. 968.
—(New), XXI. 968. See New Zealand.
ZEBID, Arabian city, XXI. 968.
Zebra, XIV. 202; II. 217.
Zebria-wood, V. 190.
ZACHARIAH, the prophet, XXI. 968.
Zechstein formation in geology, fossil fishes of, XII. 348–350, 352.
Zegzeg, XI. 776, 778, 779.
Zeude, family of fishes, XII. 299.
Zehers' burning mirrors, VI. 11, 12.
Zeitun, town in Greece, XIII. 303.
Zeritz, Prussian town, XXI. 969.
Zell (Ulrich), printer, XVIII. 526—*in Styria*, XIV. 303.
ZELLE, town in Hanover, XXI. 969.
Zeller (P. C.), his work on insects, IX. 23.
Zelus, genus of insects, IX. 163.
ZEMBIA (Nova), XXI. 968. See Nova Zembla.
Zemindars, IV. 649; XI. 513, 518.
Zemlin, Austrian town, XX. 43.
Zendavesta, III. 259; XIII. 208.
Zend language, III. 747; XIII. 208—study of, XVII. 529—Rask's dissertation on, XVIII. 808.
Zenith, IV. 1.
Zenith-sector, by Ramsden, XXI. 331, 335; by Alry, *ib.*
ZENO of Eila, XXI. 669.
—the Stoic, XXI. 970—character of his philosophy, I. 319. See Stoics.
—Roman emperor, VII. 311.
ZENOBIA, queen of Palmyra, XXI. 970; XVII. 221; XIX. 340—her invasion of Egypt, VIII. 473—insulted by Longinus, XIII. 686—defeated by Aurelian, XI. 318.
Zenta, battle of, XXI. 370.
Zeolites, XV. 75—of Glen Farg, XVII. 467.
ZEPHANIAH, the prophet, XXI. 970.
Zephyritis, genus of insects, IX. 208.
ZEPHYRUS, XXI. 971.
Zerbis (Gabriel de), II. 756.
ZERBST, German town, XXI. 971.
Zernanaya, river, VII. 627.
Zerubbabel, XII. 732, 767—temple of, 742.
ZETLAND, XXI. 971. See Shetland.
Zetterstedt (J. W.), his works on insects, IX. 16.
Zeuglodon, genus of fossil whales, XVII. 166—teeth of, XVI. 445.
Zens, genus of fishes, XII. 299—fossil, 345.
Zeuss (J. C.), on the Celtic, XVII. 630.
Zeuxia, genus of insects, IX. 249.
ZEUXIS, Greek painter, XXI. 971—paintings of, XVII. 54.
Zeuxite, mineral, XV. 89.
Zeuxera, genus of insects, IX. 212.
ZHUKOVSKI (V. Andreevich), Russian poet, XXI. 971.
Zibelline, in zoology, XIV. 157.
Ziegler (Jo. Henrico), his experiments on the force of steam, XX. 557.
Ziezza, Spanish town, IV. 722.
Zimisce (John), XIX. 470.
ZIMMERMAN (J. George), XXI. 971—on the compressibility of water, II. 102; XII. 77—on the diversity of the human complexion, VII. 225.
—(C.), his work on insects, IX. 17.
ZINC, XXI. 971; XV. 66—mines, 246—imports of, *ib.*—in chemistry, VI. 491, 488—changes in its texture produced by wire-drawing, &c. III. 218—sulphuret of, IV. 772—its compounds with copper, V. 277; VI. 497—crystallisation of sulphuret of,

ZIN—ZUM

VII. 563—specific gravity of, XII. 88—poisonous quality of, XIV. 434—distribution of, XVII. 622—in Pensia, XVIII. 668—as a covering for roofs, XIX. 374—cohesion of, XX. 757—diamagnetism of, XIV. 31.
Zinc red, XV. 112.
Zinc-blende, XV. 121.
Zinc-bloom, XV. 100.
Zincate, mineral, XV. 112.
Zinckenite, mineral, XV. 119.
Zincography, XIII. 512, XXI. 336.
Zinghis-Khan. See Genghis-Khan.
Zingiberaceae, nat. order of plants, V. 211—region of, 228; XVII. 628.
Zinn (J. G.), anatomist, II. 765.
ZINZENBERG (N. L.), Count of, XXI. 971; IV. 813—Wesley's visit to, XXI. 635.
Zion, or Slon, XII. 737—Episcopal church on, 735.
Ziphias, in zoology, XIV. 231.
Zircon, XV. 87, XVII. 623—system of rings formed in, XVI. 652.
Zirconia, XV. 65.
Zirconium, VI. 488.
Zirmle, XI. 778.
ZISKA (John), XXI. 972.
ZITTAU, in Saxony, XXI. 972.
ZNAIM, town in Austria, XXI. 972.
Zoarcus, genus of fishes, XII. 310.
Zoba'ah, Egyptian whirlwind, VIII. 422.
ZODIAC, XXI. 972—signs of the, IV. 12, 80.
Zodiacal light, IV. 31.
Zodion, genus of insects, IX. 244.
Zoisite, mineral, XV. 85.
ZOLLVEREIN, XXI. 972; IX. 401; XI. 212; XVIII. 658.
ZOMBOR, town in Hungary, XXI. 972. See Sombor.
ZONARAS (Joannes), XXI. 972—on the burning glasses of Archimedes, VI. 4.
Zones of the earth, X. 483—of terrestrial vegetation, V. 225, 226; XVII. 628—of marine vegetation, V. 229; XVII. 636.
Zonitis, genus of insects, IX. 136.
Zoocarpus, III. 200, 204.
ZOOLOGY, XXI. 672, III. 168—its subjects immensely increased by palaeontology, XVII. 91—of Egypt, VIII. 431—Canary Islands, VI. 164—Scotland, XIX. 798. See the different countries, and the articles referred to in vol. III. 193; also Physical Geography, Animals, Comparative Anatomy, Palaeontology, &c., &c.
Zoonomy, II. 748.
Zooophaga, bones of the, III. 75 *et seq.*—teeth, 105, 106.
Zoopterus, in architecture, III. 514.
ZOOPTERYX, XXI. 973; II. 772; III. 169—characteristics of, 184—of Africa, II. 218.
Zoosperma, animalcules, III. 203 n.
Zoopores, V. 143, 147.
Zootomy, II. 748.
Zophosis, genus of insects, IX. 129.
Zorn (J. H.), on birds, XVI. 728.
Zorndorf, battle of, XVIII. 653.
ZOROSTER, XXI. 1009; XIII. 810; XVII. 433, 435—Anquetil's publication of fragments ascribed to, III. 250.
Zoromania, African people, XI. 778.
Zosimus, historian, XXI. 1009.
Zouaves, XIX. 503—at the battle of Alma, *ib.*
Zonga, African river, II. 211.
Zoutman (Admiral), V. 496.
ZSCHOKKE (J. H. Daniel), German writer, XXI. 1009.
Zuboff (Plato), XIX. 489 *et seq.*
Zuechi (Father), not the inventor of the reflecting telescope, XVI. 533.
Zuela, town in Pezzan, IX. 530.
Zug, Swiss canton, XXI. 1010; XX. 882.
ZUIDER ZEE, XXI. 1010; XI. 581.
ZULICHAU, Prussian town, XXI. 1010.
Zulu Kafra, XIII. 32, 36; XV. 808, 804.
Zumalacarregui (Don Thomas), XX. 478, 479.
Zumpango, lake, XIV. 722.
ZUMMER (Carl Gottlob), XXI. 1010.

ZUN—ZUR	ZUT—ZWI	ZWO—ZYG	ZYG—ZYG
Zundererz, mineral, XV. 122.	ZÜTPEEN, in Holland, XXI. 1011.	ence between Luther and, ib.; XVIII	Zygænidæ, family of insects, IX. 210.
Zurbano (General), XX. 482.	ZVOERNICK, town in Turkey, XXI. 1011.	822—his share in effecting the Refor-	Zygænidæ, family of fishes, XII. 325.
ZURBARAN (Francisco), Spanish painter,	ZWEIBRUCKEN, XXI. 1012. See Deux	mation, 821 <i>et seq</i>	Zygobates, genus of fossil fishes, XII. 342;
XXI. 1010.	Ponts.	Zwolle, town in Holland, XXI. 1012	XVII. 719.
ZURICH, in Switzerland, XXI. 1011; XX.	ZWICKAU, town in Saxony, XXI. 1012.	Zygadite, mineral, XV. 72.	Zygophyllacæ, nat. order of plants, V.
882—Lake of, 889—silk manufacture,	Zwieselte, mineral, XV. 101.	Zygæna, genus of fishes, XII. 325—fossil,	188
278—libraries, XIII. 424—university of,	ZWINGLI (Ulrich), XXI. 1012; XIII. 726—	341.	Zygops, genus of insects, IX. 140.
XXI. 492—water machine, XII. 182.	Luther's controversy with, 736—confer-	— genus of insects, IX. 210.	Zygosaur, fossil reptile, XVII. 139.

THE END.

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